



**SPAN322 “North of the Río Grande:
Latin American Civilization and Culture”**

Timetable: MWF, 2pm-3pm, Swing 205

provisional syllabus

week 1:	introduction
week 2:	Ruiz de Burton
week 3:	Ruiz de Burton
week 4:	Martí
week 5:	Rivera
week 6:	Rivera
week 7 (no class M):	mid-term revision and examination
week 8:	Cisneros
week 9:	Cisneros
week 10:	Alvarez
November 10:	<i>Wikipedia good article nomination due</i>
week 11:	Alvarez
week 12:	Rodriguez
week 13 (no class WF):	conclusion
November 26:	<i>Wikipedia featured article candidacy due</i>
December 1:	<i>final paper due</i>



**SPAN322 “North of the Río Grande:
Latin American Civilization and Culture”**

Timetable: MWF, 2pm-3pm, Swing 205

URL: <http://blogs.ubc.ca/span322/>

Description: This course will focus on the literatures and cultures of Chicanos and Latinos who reside north of the Río Grande: in the United States and Canada.

Please note that this course will be taught in both English and Spanish: it will be taught in Spanish when the texts discussed are written in Spanish; and in English otherwise.

Set texts: The set texts below are available at the UBC bookstore or (in the case of Martí) will be provided in photocopied form. You *must* do the reading in advance of the relevant classes and bring a copy of the text to class.

Maria Amparo Ruiz de Burton, *Who Would Have Thought It?*

José Martí, *selections*

Tomás Rivera, *...y no se lo tragó la tierra*

Sandra Cisneros, *Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories*

Julia Alvarez, *How the García Girls Lost their Accents*

Carmen Rodríguez, *and a body to remember with*

Blog: You will write c. 400 word weekly responses to the reading on a blog (either one you already maintain, or one you set up specifically for the class); your entries are to be tagged “span322.” You will also comment on at least two other students’ blogs each week.

Wikipedia: You will establish a Wikipedia account and, in groups, write and/or revise a Wikipedia article on a relevant topic, and submit it for Wikipedia peer review and Good Article Nomination.

Assessment: One mid-term examination (25%) and one 4-6 page paper near the end of the semester (25%). Your Wikipedia article will count for 35%, and blog entries and comments, plus attendance and participation, will constitute the final 15% of your grade.

Course convenor: Jon Beasley-Murray (jon.beasley-murray@ubc.ca). *His office hours are Mondays, 3:30pm-5:30pm, BuTo 808, or by appointment.* Be in touch if you have queries or problems. Deal with problems when they arise; don't keep quiet and hope they go away!

My expectations:

Above all, what you are expected to do in this class is to engage with (that is to think critically and creatively about, and be prepared to discuss) the texts. The main aim of all the various forms of assessment is to test the extent of your engagement, and to encourage you to articulate the results of that engagement in a variety of formats.

The more effort you put in to reading the texts closely and critically, and formulating your individual responses and arguments in a manner that can be presented persuasively, the better your final grade is likely to be.

All I want you to do is *read the set texts carefully, think about your reading, and take your own position as a result.*

Here, therefore, are my golden rules:

1. To engage, you must be present. So *attend, attend, attend.* And turn up *on time.*
2. You must also have covered the material. So *read the texts.*
3. You must also be prepared to articulate your thoughts, questions, uncertainties, opinions, likes, dislikes etc. So *write your weekly blog entries.* These should be between 300 and 500 words. Spend no more than half an hour on each response: but be sure to spend that half an hour. Forcing yourself to reflect on your reading will prepare you for class and kick-start revision.
4. Finally, you must keep at it. But do not expect to grasp everything immediately. (If you did, there would be no point to the class.) So *communicate any questions or problems you may have, either in class discussion, or via email, or in my office hours.*

The golden rules again: 1) attend, 2) read, 3) write, and 4) communicate.

The *timetable* for each week will ordinarily be as follows:

Mondays: general discussion of the week's reading

Wednesdays: examination of specific passages

Fridays: conclusion to the week's discussion; preparation for the following week

Some Fridays will be Wikipedia days, when you are asked to bring in a laptop if you have one.

You must have completed the week's reading and written your blog post by the end of Sunday.

You must have written your comments on two classmates' blogs by the end of Tuesday.

You must log in and edit your Wikipedia article at least twice a week.

Good luck. And just do it.