

**PALOMAR COLLEGE**  
**COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD FOR**  
**DEGREE CREDIT COURSE**

Transfer course     A.A. degree applicable course

(check all that apply)

**COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:**        CS 110 Contemporary Mexican Literature

**UNIT VALUE:** 3

**MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS:** 48

**BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS:** Appropriate language skills

**ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

**PREREQUISITE:** None

**COREQUISITE:** None

**RECOMMENDED PREPARATION:** None

**SCOPE OF COURSE:**

A survey of Mexican novels, prose and poetry from the Mexican Revolution to the present. Major landmark novels of Mexico will be examined in their social and historical context. Designed to acquaint non-Spanish major students with Mexican thought, values, and literary heritage relative to world literature.

**SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

By the conclusion of this course students will be able to:

1. Analyze major literary traditions which focus on the area of Mexican literature.
2. Appreciate different genres in Mexican literature; such as drama, poetry, short stories, novels, essays, and historical writings.
3. Evaluate the value and level of landmark novels through critical reading and analysis.
4. Identify key universal themes common to all world literatures and compare these themes to the themes found in Mexican literature.
5. Expand their world view through examination of Mexican literary works which are unique to the world.
6. Understand many significant Mexican symbols of thought and culture that are part of the famous literary works and gain a greater insight into Mexican culture.
7. Write their own creative writings with both personal and universal themes.
8. Display comprehensive knowledge of the origin and transitional eras of modern Mexico.
9. Identify the language, philosophy, style, etc. of a variety of Mexican authors.

10. Display a comparative general knowledge of the differences and similarities among Mexican authors.
11. Recognize the rich literary heritage as an exciting active intellectual exercise for enjoyment.
12. Recognize the existence of a variety of cultures with different sets of values.

**CONTENT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC BODY OF KNOWLEDGE:**

- I. Early Historical-literary Mexican Traditions. Historical developments (1519-1521). The invasion and conquest of the Aztec Empire by Hernando Cortes.
  - A. Francisco Bernadino de Shagun (1532-1580). Research and preservation work of indigenous histories, cultures, and rites compiled in a 12 volume collection from 1570-1580.
  - B. Preserved works from original Nahuatl language remained unpublished for two hundred years.
    1. The "Popol Vuh," "The Chilam Balam," the Mayan sacred Texts.
    2. The poetry of Nezahualcoatl (1402-1472), famous prince of Texcoco known as the king-poet.
- II. The First Voice. First Mestizo writer to document the dual forces of the indigenous and European cultures, their realities and religions. "The Inca," Garcilaso de La Vega, born in 1539 of an Incan mother and Spanish father.
- III. Seventeenth Century Mexican Intellectuals.
  - A. Carlos Siguenza y Gongora, (1645-1700). A gifted writer and mathematician who wrote on the condition of the Indian, the post-conquest.
  - B. Sor Juna Inez de La Cruz, (1651-1695). Known as the tenth muse "Decima musa," and as the world's first feminist. Excerpts of her poetry will be covered.
- IV. Independence and Literary Emancipation. Becoming masters in their own house. The first Mexican novelists of Mexico and Mexican nationalism.
  - A. Jose Joaquin Fernandez de Lizardi (1776-1827).
  - B. Ignacio Altamirano (1834-1893).
- V. Liberalism and Positivism. Practical knowledge, technical skills, and industrial progress led by Porfirio Diaz and his supporters known as "cientificos." Ignacio Ramirez (1818-1879) stressed these values in his literature.
- VI. Modernism and Literary Influence.
  - A. Manuel Guitierrez Najera (1859-1895) attacked materialism in his works.
  - B. Ramon Lopez Velarde (1888-1921). Collection of poems published during the Mexican Revolution.
- VII. Regionalism in the Novel - Realism and its Influence. Students will gain major understanding of Mexican realism through the study of the novel The Underdogs. Mexican literary realism originates with the famous author Mariano Azuela, who wrote The Underdogs in the beginning of the 20th Century. From that point on, Mexican novels became models for the rest of Latin America because of their portrayal of the Mexican Revolution and its revolutionaries.
  - A. Mexican Revolution and literature. Jose Vasconcelos (1882-1959) essayist of "La raza cosmica."
  - B. Mariano Azuela (1873-1952). His dramatic novel Los de Abajo (The Underdogs) is the prototype novel of all novels on the Mexican Revolution.
  - C. Martin Luis Guzman (1887-). El Aguila y la Serpiente (The Eagle and The Serpent).
- VIII. Realism and The Novel-Social Protest and Indianist Writing.
  - A. Gregorio Lopez y Fuentes. Author of El Indio (1937).

IX. The Contemporary Novel.

- A. Juan Rulfo (1918-). Author of Pedro Paramo (1955). A landmark novel of international prominence which examines the supernatural beliefs in Mexican culture.
- B. Carlos Fuentes (1928-). La Muerte de Artemio Cruz (The Death of Artemio Cruz). The theme of the Mexican Revolution betrayed by the opportunist Artemio.

X. Feminist writers of Mexico today.

- A. Recognize key feminist writers influential in 20<sup>th</sup> Century literature.

**REQUIRED READING:**

Azuela, Mariano. The Underdogs. New York and Toronto: The New American Library, 1962.

Fuentes, Carlos. The Death of Artemio Cruz. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1964.

Lopez y Fuentes, Gregorio, Trans. Anita Brenner . El Indio. New York: The Continuum Publishing Company, 1989.

Rulfo, Juan, Trans. Lysander Kemp. Pedro Paramo. New York: Grove Press, Inc. 1959.

**SUGGESTED READING:**

Brushwood, John S. Mexico In Its Novel. Austin and London: University of Texas Press, 1966.

Langford, Walter M. The Mexican Novel Comes of Age. Indiana: University of Notre Dame Press, 1971.

Paz, Octavio. The Labrinth of Solitude. New York: Grove Press, Inc., 1961.

Sommers, Joseph. After The Storm. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1968.

**REQUIRED WRITING:**

1. Reaction paper on novel El Indio (1 to 2 pages).
2. Reaction paper on The Underdogs (1 to 2 pages).
3. Mid-term exam (A comparative essay exam on novels).
4. Reaction paper on the novel Pedro Paramo (1 to 2 pages).
5. Reaction paper on the novel The Death of Artemio Cruz (1 to 2 pages).
6. Final essay examination (2 pages – A comprehensive essay exam on major Mexican authors).

**OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours per unit per week in class and on outside assignments, prorated for short term classes.**

1. Students are required to read the assigned novels outside the classroom for specific classroom discussion and literary analysis.
2. Students may be asked to prepare an oral response on specific themes to be presented in class for examination.

3. Students are given directions to analyze character, theme, and structural aspects of novels for understanding.
4. Assign a comparative analysis to find common aspects and universal world views among the different novels and authors.

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:**

**Check all that apply:**

- lecture  
 laboratory  
 lecture-laboratory combination  
 directed study

**This course may be offered as a distance education course and meets Title 5 regulations 55370, 55372, 55376, 55378, and 55380.**

Yes  No

**If yes, check all that apply.** (See guidelines for preparation for definitions.)

- telecourse  
 mediated instruction  
 computer assisted instruction

**GRADING POLICY AND STANDARDS** (include methods of determining whether the stated objectives have been met by students):

1. Students will be given credit for participation in classroom discussion on assigned topics, readings, making comments, asking questions, and offering critiques. (10%)
2. Students will receive credit for reading passages from novels and poetry and working in response groups to strengthen their writing skills. (10%)
3. Student papers on all written assignments will be graded on complete responses and organization to questions and topic themes related to the readings. Student papers will be evaluated for clarity in sentence and paragraph writing. Spelling, punctuation, and grammar usage will be evaluated on all papers. Students will be required to write four essays, topic to be assigned. (50%)
4. Midterm Exam. (10%)
5. Final Exam. (20%)

**IS COURSE REPEATABLE FOR REASON(S) OTHER THAN DEFICIENT GRADE?**

Yes  No  Number of times course may be taken for credit: 1.

If yes, identify specific provision of Title 5 Division 2 section(s) 55761-55763 and 58161 which qualifies course as repeatable:

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