

**University of Puerto Rico
Río Piedras Campus
College of Humanities
Department of English
Undergraduate Program**

Course Title: The Puerto Rican Experience: Puerto Rican Writers in the US

Code: English 3285

Credit Hours: 45 hours/ 3 credits

Dr. Carmen Haydée Rivera Vega

Office Hours: MW 8:00-8:30 am; 11:30 am -1:00 pm; 2:30-4:00 pm on email and by appointment on Google Meets

E-mail: ch.rivera@upr.edu

Course Description

A study of contemporary literature by Puerto Rican writers in English from the United States with special emphasis on the development of themes, techniques, and language.

Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. critically scrutinize the writings of diasporic Puerto Rican authors living in the United States who maintain cultural and familial ties to the island
2. analyze contemporary literary trends used by the writers (mixing of genres, code-switching, temporal/spatial fragmentation, free indirect discourse, among others)
3. examine the influences and effects of migration, bilingualism, and biculturalism on the authors' works
4. appreciate the aesthetics and the rich array of literary voices and concerns of a cultural community with deep roots in a literary tradition often ignored under hegemonic studies of American literature
5. deliver structured and critically informed oral presentations based on the authors' works
6. write coherent, analytical/theoretical responses to quizzes, essay questions and/or research papers based on relevant course topics.

Course Outline

Weeks 1-2	6 hrs.
Introduction and contextual readings; translation exercise and/or readings on Spanglish; historical, cultural, and statistical background of the Puerto Rican diaspora	
Weeks 3-4	6 hrs.
Examination of Puerto Rican migration to the US; voices and images of the diaspora; literary history of Puerto Rican writers in the US	
Weeks 5-8	12 hrs.
Memoirs, autobiographies, essays; critical analyses of writing techniques and thematic concerns (history, politics, migration, identity, race, gender, etc.) in the works of José de Diego, Pedro Albizu Campos, Luis Muñoz Marín, Bernardo Vega, Luisa Capetillo, Jesús Colón, Piri Thomas, Abraham Rodríguez, and Esmeralda Santiago, among others.	
Weeks 9-12	12 hrs.

Fiction (essays and short stories); critical examination of narrative elements, thematic concerns, and aesthetic/stylistic approaches in the works of Aurora Levins Morales, Judith Ortiz Cofer, Rodney Morales, Clara Rodriguez, Nicholasa Mohr, Giannina Braschi, among others.

Weeks 13-14 6 hrs.
Poetry, drama, and other artistic forms; critical analysis of poetic and dramatic works by Pedro Pietri, Tato Laviera, Sandra Maria Esteves, Martin Espada, Mariposa, Aya de Leon, Miguel Piñero; examination of Miguel Luciano's plastic arts installations and global community art projects; selections from Lin Manuel Miranda's plays, among others.

Week 15 3 hrs.
Conclusive remarks on the literature of the Puerto Rican diaspora; review for final exam and/or final research project.

Total credit hours 45 hrs.

Teaching Techniques

This course will include lectures by the professor, group discussion, oral presentations, writing exercises, exams, and/or research projects. It also includes assignments on the Moodle Platform as well as films/documentaries to supplement and contextualize class readings.

Required Resources

Students should have access to all online UPR library facilities (including Moodle platform), chriviera-upr.com website, electronic search and on-line databases, online resources of the English Department Richardson Seminar Room, online resources of the Seminario Multidisciplinario José Emilio González, among others.

Evaluation Techniques

The final grade includes the following course requirements:

Exam I	20%
Exam II	20%
Article Analysis and Oral/Video Presentations	20%
Final Exam or Research Project	20%
Class Grade*	20%
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Final Grade	100%

***Important evaluation factors that make up class grade:**

1. Attendance and Punctuality – determined by your log-in to class sessions during class time (synchronic) or when instructed by the professor (asynchronic). Each absence will deduct **3 points** from your **class grade**. A sequence of late arrivals will also affect your **class grade with points deducted**. Please make sure to be ready to log on **5-10 minutes** prior to any synchronic session and to complete your work during the established date and time of any asynchronic session.
2. Participation – determined by your oral contributions to discussions in synchronic classes (Google Meets) and to your written contributions in assignments and forums in asynchronic class sessions. Participation is an important part of your class grade since it demonstrates knowledge and analysis of reading assignments prior to and during the class session as well as your

commitment to interactive discussions (both synchronic and asynchronic) with classmates and the professor.

***Both attendance and participation make up 20% of your class grade.**

3. Responsibility. NO MAKE UP WORK will be accepted. You are responsible for completing and handing in all your work on time following the instructions provided by the professor. If you do not comply with the instructions provided, this will result in an automatic 0 in the assignment and a deduction of points from your grade.

The Final Grade will be determined by all three of these evaluation factors (attendance, participation, responsibility) and the other four components listed in the Evaluation Techniques.

Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Special Needs

Students who receive Vocational Rehabilitation services should contact the professor **at the beginning of the semester** to plan any reasonable accommodations or necessary equipment stipulated by the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs and its *Oficina de Servicios Para Estudiantes con Impedimentos* (OSEI, formerly known as OAPI). Students with special needs of any kind that require any type of assistance or accommodations should contact the professor **at the beginning of the semester** (Law 51).

Academic Integrity

The University of Puerto Rico promotes the highest standards of academic and scientific integrity. Article 6.2 of the UPR Students General Bylaws (Board of Trustees Certification Num. 13, 2009-2010) states that academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: fraudulent actions; obtaining grades or academic degrees by false or fraudulent simulations; copying whole or part of the academic work of another person; plagiarizing totally or partially the work of another person; copying all or part of another person's answers to questions of an oral or written exam by taking or getting someone else to take the exam on his/her behalf; as well as enabling or facilitating another person to perform the aforementioned behavior. All of these behaviors will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the disciplinary procedure laid down in the UPR Students General Bylaws.

Policy Against Discrimination

The University of Puerto Rico prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in any of its forms, including that of sexual harassment. According to the Institutional Policy Against Sexual Harassment at the University of Puerto Rico, Certification Num. 130, 2014-2015 from the Board of Governors, any student subjected to acts constituting sexual harassment must resort to the Office of the Student Ombudsperson (*Procuraduría Estudiantil*) of the Office of Compliance with Title IX (*Hostigamiento Sexual y la Normativa Institucional*) for an orientation and/or a formal complaint.

Grading System: A, B, C, D, or F

Differentiated evaluation for students with special needs. *Evaluación diferenciada para estudiantes con necesidades especiales.*

Selected Bibliography

Required Texts (for use in class)

-- *Boricuas: Influential Puerto Rican Writers – An Anthology* (1995) edited by Roberto Santiago

-- Course Readings on the chrivera-upr.com website

Electronic Reference:

Pew Research Center – <http://www.pewhispanic.org>

*Statistical Portrait of Hispanics in the United States

*Hispanic Trends

*Hispanic Latino Demographics

*Key Findings About Puerto Rico

Electronic Websites (to complement and contextualize class reading and discussion):

<http://www.nyaspira.org>

<http://centropr.org>

<http://elmuseo.org>

<http://www.comitenoviembre.org>

Secondary References

Acosta-Belen, Edna and Carlos E. Santiago. **Puerto Ricans in the United States: A Contemporary Portrait**. Boulder/London: Lynne Rienner, 2018.

Aranda, Elizabeth M. **Emotional Bridges to Puerto Rico: Migration, Return, Migration, and the Struggles of Incorporation**. Lanham, Md: Rowman & Littlefield, 2006.

Algarín, Miguel and Lois Griffith, eds. **The Nuyorican Poets Café Theater Festival**. New York: Touchstone, 1997.

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Denis, Nelson A. **War Against All Puerto Ricans: Revolution and Terror in America's Colony**. New York: Nation Books, 2016.

Duany, Jorge. **Puerto Rico: What Everyone Needs to Know**. New York: Oxford UP, 2017.
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Flores, Juan. **The Diaspora Strikes Back: Caribeo Tales of Learning and Turning**. New York: Routledge, 2008.

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Garcia, Elizabeth. **Healing Memories: Puerto Rican Women's Literature in the United States**. Pittsburg: U of Pittsburg P, 2018.

González, Juan. **Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America**. New York: Random House: 2000.

- Grosfoguel, Ramón. **Colonial Subjects: Puerto Ricans in a Global Context.** Berkeley: U of California P, 2003.
- Hernández Cruz, Victor. **Maraca: New and Selected Poems, 1965-2000.** Minneapolis: Coffee House P, 2001.
- Janer, Silkia. **Puerto Rican Nation-Building Literature.** Gainesville: UP of Florida, 2005.
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- Mickelson, Nate. **City Poems and American Urban Crisis: 1945 to the Present.** New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2019.
- Negrón-Mutaner, Frances. **Boricua Pop: Puerto Ricans and the Latinization of American Culture.** New York: New York UP, 2004.
- Noel, Urayoan. **In Visible Movement: Nuyorican Poetry from the Sixties to Slam.** U of Iowa P, 2014.
- Perez Rosario, Vanessa. **Julia de Burgos: The Making of a Puerto Rican Icon.** U of Illinois P, 2014.
- Picó, Fernando. **History of Puerto Rico: A Panorama of Its People.** New York: Markus Wiener, 2014.
- Sánchez González, Lisa. **The Stories I Read to the Children: The Life and Writing of Pura Belpré, the Legendary Storyteller, Children's Author and NY Public Librarian.** New York: Centro P, 2013
- , **Boricua Literature: A Literary History of the Puerto Rican Diaspora.** New York: New York UP, 2001.
- Sanchez-Korrol, Virginia. **Pioneros II: Puerto Ricans in New York City, 1948-1998.** Arcadia Publishing, 2010.
- Torres-Padilla, Jose and Carmen Haydee Rivera, Eds. **Writing Off the Hyphen: New Critical Perspectives on the Literature of the Puerto Rican Diaspora.** Seattle: U of Washington P, 2008.
- Wagenheim, Kal, and Olga Jimenez De Wagenheim, Eds. **The Puerto Ricans: A Documentary History.** Princeton, NJ: Markus Wiener, 2013.