**Name of the Course:** Non-Hegemonic Literature of the United States

**Number of classrooms:** 1 (Letras 164)

**Period of the course:** February – July 2018

**Objectives:**

1. To familiarize Brazilian and American students with the cultural dynamics of the American Southwest, from a literary standpoint.
2. To invite parallels between indigeneity in Brazil and in the United States.
3. To present American literature from a critical regionalist perspective.
4. To present not only literary texts in print but oral texts, as interpreted by the authors themselves via radio documentaries.
5. To familiarize literature students with issues involved in presenting oral literature on radio and podcasts.

**Program:**

# WRITING THE SOUTHWEST

English 411

This course explores issues of identity and cultural relevancy/appropriations in contemporary southwestern literature. We will read primary works by major authors of Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico, including Rudolfo Anaya, Barbara Kingsolver, Tony Hillerman, Terry McMillan, Simon Ortiz, and Edward Abbey, among others. This will include poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. Most readings are scanned and excerpts; Anaya’s Bless Me Ultima is read entirely.

In addition, students will audition radio documentaries on these writers and read Writing the Southwest, third (kindle) edition, a volume of biography and critical reception on these same authors. Competency in English reading and writing required. Prerequisite: a previous course in American literature, or permission of instructor.

**Course Schedule:**

Week 1 (Feb 26) Introduction, Writing the Southwest

Week 2 (March 5) Stan Steiner, La Raza, Prologue pp. 1-39

Week 3 (March 12) Joy Harjo, How We Became Human, pp. 93-112.

Reinventing the Enemy’s Language, pp. 19-31.

Week 4 (March 19) Denise Chavez, Loving Pedro Infante, pp. 3-36

Week 5 (March 26) No class: Semana Santa

Week 6 (April 3) Alberto Rios, Five Indiscretions

Week 7 (April 9) Rudolfo Anaya, Focus on Criticism, pp. 1-12; Bless Me Ultima **Essay# 1 due**

Week 8 (April 16) Luci Tapahonso, “A Breeze Swept Through,” pp. 1-9, 24-35

Paula Allen, The Sacred Hoop, pp. 1-7, 262-266

**MIDTERM EXAM**

Week 9 (April 23) Edward Abbey, The Brave Cowboy, pp. 7-27, 269-285

Week 10 (April 30) no class/Mayday

Week 11 (May 7) Terry McMillan, Mama, pp. 23-78, **Essay #1, Draft #2 Due**

Week 12 (May 14) Barbara Kingsolver, Another America, pp. 2-5, 33-45, 81-89.

Great Writers: Barbara Kingsolver, pp. ix-xiv

Week 13 (May 21) Tony Hillerman, The Ghost Way, pp. 1-45

The Tony Hillerman Companion, pp. ix-xi, 38-43

**Class Presentations, Essay #2 Due**

**Reading Schedule**

**Week 2:**  Prefaces and Introduction to Writing the Southwest;

Stan Steiner: La Raza

**Week 3:** Joy Harjo: How We Became Human; Reinventing the Enemy’s Language

**Week 4:** Denise Chavez: Loving Pedro Infante

**Week 5:** No class: Semana Santa

**Week 6:** Alberto Rios, Five Indiscretions; Anaya, Bless Me Ultima

**Week 7:** Rudolfo Anaya, Focus on Criticism; Bless Me Ultima

**Week 8:** Luci Tapahonso, A Breeze Swept Through; Allen, The Sacred Hoop

**Week 9:** Edward Abbey, The Brave Cowboy

**Week 10:** No class: May Day

**Week 11:** Terry McMillan, Mama

**Week 12:** Barbara Kingsolver, Another America

Great Writers: Barbara Kingsolver

**Week 13:** Tony HIllerman, The Ghostway

The Tony HIllerman Companion

**How students will be evaluated:**

Students will be evaluated by the following instruments: 1) A mid-term examination; 2) A critical essay, written twice, following the instructor’s edits and suggestions; 3) A second essay comparing indigeneity in Brazil and the United States; 4) class participation in discussions and on readings.

**Bibliography:**

Abbey, Edward. *The Brave Cowboy: An Old Tale in a New Time*. Dodd, Mead & Co., 1956.

Anaya, Rudolfo. *Bless Me, Ultima.* Berkeley, CA: Quinto Sol Publications, 1972.

Chavez, Denise. *Loving Pedro Infante.* New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2001*.*

Dunaway and Spurgeon. *Writing the Southwest,* 3rd ed. London: The Odyssey Press, 2017.

Harjo, Joy. *How We Became Human.* New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2002.

Harjo, Joy, and Bird, Gloria. *Reinventing the Enemy’s Language*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1997.

Hillerman, Tony. *The Ghostway.* New York: HarperTorch, 1984, 2002.

Kingsolver, Barbara. *Animal Dreams*. New York: HarperPerennial, 1990, 1991.

McMillan, Terry. *Mama*. New York: Viking, 1992.

Nichols, John. *Elegy for September.* New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1992.

* *The Sky’s the Limit.* New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1990.

Rios, Alberto. *Five Indiscretions*. New York: Sheep Meadow Press, 1985.

Steiner, Stan. *La Raza: The Mexican Americans.* New York: G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 1970.

Tapahonso, Luci*. A Breeze Swept Through.* Los Angeles: West End Press, 1991.