**Unit 3 Assignment Sheet: Close Reading & Literary Analysis**

How do we understand and discuss literature? In this unit, we’ll be learning the basics of reading & responding to literary works. Beyond the real-life application of any literature courses you’ll take, the skills you’ll learn in this unit will also familiarize you with conferences, “calls for papers” (or CFPs), and roundtable discussions.

For your final project, you will wear the hat of a literary scholar in order to closely read and analyze a short work of fiction. Your objective will be to select and analyze one image, theme, or motif from a literary work and create an insightful, creative, and/or unique response to the call for papers issued by the literary journal *Diálogo*. You will create a compelling thesis, and will work to express your particular ‘reading’ of a story in an interesting and exciting format.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Role** | **Audience** | **Purpose** | **Genre** | **Rhetorical Situation** |
| Literary scholar interested in publishing an essay in a scholarly journal | Web users, scholars, students, people interested in the literary piece and/or the angle of your argument | Offer a unique reading of a work of fiction to the readers of the literary journal *Diálogo,* in line with the parameters set by the journal’s call for papers.  | Journal Article | You’ve just read a really interesting and compelling call for papers, and want to cater your analysis of a work of literature to this CFP, in the hopes of sharing your work with fellow literary scholars and readers.  |

Link to *Diálogo* [HERE](https://via.library.depaul.edu/dialogo/). You are able to view a number of essays from past issues for free.

Check out the CFP we’ll be working from [online](https://las.depaul.edu/centers-and-institutes/center-for-latino-research/publications/Pages/Call-for-Articles.aspx), or in [PDF](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Cm05jLLc8j2cvx1CL6CFJOmqFYsxDY5D/view?usp=sharing) form. Below is a brief outline of the CFP’s major themes and interrogations:

**Focus**: Latinx Detective Fiction (including detective, noir, hardboiled, and mystery narratives).

**Aim**: analyze works that challenge, rewrite, and sometimes ignore completely the popular scripts of white, heteromasculine anti/heroism in which these genres are often grounded

**Operative Questions**:

* Why do writers and filmmakers continue to produce works in these genres and why do they remain so popular with audiences? How do these genres change (or do they change?) to accommodate Latinx narratives?
* What is at stake when Latinx narratives of alienation move from focusing on “private eyes/I’s” to imagining “collective we’s”?
* When and to what extent do Latinx detective narratives offer audiences a glimpse through “collective eyes” (or from “collectivized” perspectives)?
* Do representations of power and violence in these genres resonate differently in the hands of Latinx characters, authors, directors, etc.? If so, why?
* What do we gain and what might we lose when we read Latinx authors as disruptive voices within these genres?

**Feeder 3.1: Selecting a Story**

For this feeder, I would like for you to select a short story on which you’d like to write. Writing projects are always easier when you are interested in the content, so I am giving you the freedom to choose between the four short stories by Daniel José Older in our Course Reserves tab on Sakai. You can even write about two short stories, if you find a comparative analysis between two stories to be more generative than focusing on one short story.

An effective feeder should consist of a 1-2 paragraph response, including:

* + The title of the story(ies) you intend to analyze.
	+ A statement of what literary devices/themes you want to analyze
	+ Tentative thesis statement
	+ Description of how your argument relates to / answers the questions and themes outlined in the CFP

Due: 10/22

**Feeder 3.2: Secondary Research & Abstract**

* Secondary Research:

For this feeder, you will find at least two secondary sources to support your reading of the selected short story. This will likely take the form of a scholarly journal article or a book, and can be found through a keyword search in the UNC library database. Create a works cited list in [MLA format](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html) of your two secondary sources.

* Abstract:

For many CFPs, the coordinators/editors will ask writers to submit an abstract prior to submitting their full essay. This is a way for them to narrow down the pool of applicants more efficiently. Since our essays are within the humanities discipline, you will be writing an informative abstract rather than a descriptive one. A successful abstract includes:

* A point about the relevance of the work
* The thesis of the work
* Brief description of the background
* Mention of the methods used (in this case, the angle or the approach you take in your analysis)
* Conclusion of the essay
* Clear, concise, and powerful language
* Text not exceeding 250 words

Due: 10/29

**Unit Project: *Diálogo* Journal Article**

For this assignment, you will create a fully polished essay suitable for inclusion in a literary journal such as *Diálogo*, in accordance with the themes set by the journal’s call for papers.

An effective essay should:

* Incorporate at least two scholarly secondary sources
* Include an abstract
* Convey a unique, well-supported thesis that contributes to or illuminates an interesting point about your selected short story.
* Fit with the theme established by the call for papers
* Have a logical organization and clear sentences
* Cite sources using MLA style citation

In the final week of classes (11/10 & 11/12) we will be holding a virtual conference, where we will have a virtual roundtable discussion and you will have the opportunity to share your findings with your peers, and hear more about their work. **Please expect to be in our Zoom class for BOTH dates--Tuesday, November 10th and Thursday, November 12th--to accommodate this virtual conference.**

Due: 11/10