

Unit Three: Close Reading ChicanX Short Stories

Role	Audience	Purpose	Genre	Rhetorical Situation
English student	Other students and scholars interested in American literature and the short story form	To advance an argument about the text of a short story. To establish the text's unique position on ecological or environmental concerns, identity, or other interests (TBD based on the exigencies of the text itself).	Short Academic Paper	You are an undergraduate student in UNC's department of English and Comparative Literature who is going to give a paper at a conference focused on American short stories.

Objective: In this assignment, each group will be given a list of potential short stories (students can use one of these texts or introduce a new text after discussing it with me). Each member will choose a different story, but group members will help each other to craft their annotated bibs, find resources, and peer review their work. Reporting out on ideas to each other will help to enhance the ideas in the paper and will allow each of you to develop an interesting idea about your text to present in the paper.

We will discuss major critical and fictional works by ChicanX thinkers and writers throughout the unit including Arnulfo Trejo, Rudolfo Anaya, Gloria Anzaldúa, Helena Maria Viramontes, and Américo Paredes, amongst others.

This unit is an extension of the instructor's interest in a course taught in the Spring 2023 by Dr. María DeGuzmán, "ENGL 687.001: Queer LatinX Environmentalisms," which "examines queer LatinX literature from the 1990s to the present as it intersects with ecological and environmentalist concerns." The unit will be sponsored by the UNC Latina/o Studies Program (LSP) who will drop in occasionally to provide resources; opportunities for more engagement through speaker series and events; and to gauge student involvement and interest.

Feeder 1: Annotated Bibliography (2-3 pages)

Once you'd identified a text you would like to write about (I will prepare a list of possible stories and am open to student suggestions as well), prepare a list of 3-4 sources that you will use for your literature review. Your sources should be peer-reviewed journal articles. For each source, write a brief annotation: What is the main finding of the article? What methods were used in this study? What are the potential limitations of this study? Why will this source be useful for your literature review (i.e. how does it relate to your topic)? Use MLA to cite sources. Also include a short rationale at the beginning of the paper considering what elements of the story most interest you and where you might go with the paper.

Unit Project: Humanities Literature Review (2-3 pages)

Your literature review will examine the research on the story you have selected. Then, you will synthesize and evaluate that research: What arguments do they make about the text? Are they missing anything pertinent in their analyses that limits the validity of their interpretations or readings? What are they not considering that you might consider in your own paper? What The selection committee for a conference will want to see is that you have done your homework: Do you know what scholars have already said about this topic? What scholarly or professional conversation are you trying to enter? Aim for a little under a page for each source and include intro and concluding paragraphs.

Unit Project: Short Academic Research Paper (6-7 pages)

Your final paper will incorporate the literature review as its second section. The introduction should be about two paragraphs long and introduce the text briefly as well as the direction the paper will take and the steps the reader will encounter along the way. After the literature review, you should include a section of about 2 pages of your own analysis of the short story. What is your argument? Can you cite specific passages to make your points clear? Is your argument a new one or does it do some novel scholarly work? Finally, end with a conclusion section that reintroduces your thesis, your argument, and summarizes with some style or flair (though done in an academic manner).

*All rubrics available on the Canvas site under each assignment.