

## Literature of the Americas

Fall 2007

Instructor: Professor Kyung Cho

E-mail: kcho@bhsec.bard.edu

Course Meetings: Third Period, MTWTh; Fourth Period, MWThF

### **Course Description:**

Why do we read literature? What exactly is Literature of the Americas? What are the connections between literature and national identity? How does literature affirm or challenge our notions of morality, ethics, politics, language, gender, sexuality, race and class? What kind of relationship do we, as readers, writers and thinkers, want with literature, in particular, and with other cultural products (i.e. film, music, art), in general? By engaging in a variety of texts, films and music through in-depth class discussions and writing activities, we will explore some of these questions over the course of the semester.

### **Course Material:**

Reading assignments will be handed out every two to three weeks.

### **Course Requirements:**

#### **Class Participation: 30%**

You are expected to come to class on time, prepared to discuss the text at hand in an active manner. Please bring the text that we are discussing to class with you. We will continue to use Writing and Thinking routines to help us think deeper and stronger about our texts. Each of you will also be asked to lead class discussions at least once over the semester.

#### **Four Essays: 40%**

There will be four papers, each one longer as the semester progresses. Paper assignments will be given at least one week before the due date.

#### **Response papers: 10%**

Throughout the semester you will be asked to write short (500 words/ 2 pages) responses to the pieces that we are reading in class. I will collect the papers, look them over and distill questions and insights that we will consider during our class. The tone and pace of our discussions will depend largely on the quality and depth of the thinking in these responses. Responses must be typed. Late responses will not be accepted. No make-ups – that was high-school.

#### **Final Examination: 20%**

There will be a final exam during the exam period set up for the semester. I will announce the date when it becomes available. The exam will consist of identifying texts and concepts discussed over the semester.

### **Plagiarism:**

Like so many things in life that might make things seem easier – cheating, lying, stealing – plagiarism may be tempting but don't do it. I will not think twice before failing you. Internet plagiarism, in particular, is rampant and very easy to catch. Don't copy anything from the internet without citing the source.

### **Disabilities:**

Some of the best students I've had have been diagnosed with learning disabilities. Please speak to me or someone at school as soon as you can so that we can provide you with the support to make your time at BHSEC productive.

### **Writing Center:**

If you would like additional help with your writing or studying beyond what I can provide, please take advantage of the Writing Center, which is located in the Library.