# LTAM 110GS: Latin American Literature in Translation

## Course Description

In LTAM 110GS, we examine the development of Latin American Literature from the indigenous societies that pre-dated the arrival of European settlers up to the present day. In doing so, the course provides a broad exploration of the origins of Latin American literature, and it highlights some of the ways that colonization has impacted and shaped Latin American society and culture. Through this course, students will engage with some of the most influential Latin American texts and authors within a larger framework that puts those texts into context and conversation with one another.

Along with the texts that we read, being in Chile will help the students to understand some of the fundamental factors that have shaped the development of Latin American literature. In particular, being able to engage with the city of Santiago and its culture will allow them to see some of the real-world connections between literature, culture, and history. For instance, combining reading Pablo Neruda with visits to his houses in Santiago and Valparaíso will allows students to more fully engage with the individual and the place that shaped his point of view. This is true not only of the Chilean writers, but for all the Latin American authors who we will study.

## Instructor

Name: Bretton Rodriguez, Ph.D.

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## Course Schedule

Date and Time: Monday – Thursday, 2pm – 4pm

In-class Seminars: Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays

Santiago Excursions: Thursdays

## Required Texts

1. The Popol Vuh

2. Gabriel García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*

## Course Requirements

Participation (30%)

Reading Quizzes (10%)

In-Class Presentations (30%)

Final Exam (30%)

## Course Outline

**Week 1: Indigenous Literature**

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| **Day** | **Topic | Excursion** |
| Monday | Introduction |
| Tuesday | The Popol Vuh |
| Wednesday | The Popol Vuh |
| Thursday (Santiago Excursion) | Museo Chileno de Arte Precolumbino (Chilean Museum of Pre-Columbian Art) |

**Week 2: Colonial Americas**

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| **Day** | **Topic | Excursion** |
| Monday | Alonso de Ercilla, Selections from *The Araucana* |
| Tuesday | Catalina de Erauso, *The Lieutenant Nun* |
| Wednesday | Domingo Faustino Sarmiento, Selections from *Facundo: Civilization and Barbarism* |
| Thursday (Santiago Excursion) | La Chascona (Pablo Neruda House and Museum in Santiago) and Cerro San Cristóbal |

**Week 3: Independence and Identity**

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| **Day** | **Topic | Excursion** |
| Monday | Jorge Luis Borges, “Pierre Menard, Author of the Quixote,” “The Circular Ruins” |
| Tuesday | Gabriela Mistral, Select Poems |
| Wednesday | Pablo Neruda, Selections from *Canto General* |
| Thursday (Santiago Excursion) | Iglesia y convento de San Francisco |
| Friday – Saturday | Overnight excursion to Valparaíso and Viña de Mar |

**Week 4: Twentieth Century Chile**

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| **Day** | **Topic | Excursion** |
| Monday | Gabriela Mistral, Select Poems |
| Tuesday | Pablo Neruda, Selections from *Twenty Love Poems and a Poem of Despair* |
| Wednesday | Isabelle Allende, “Letters of a Love Betrayed” |
| Thursday (Santiago Excursion) | Museo de la Memoria y los Derechos Humanos (Museum of Memory & Human Rights) |

**Week 5: Writing Latin America**

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| **Day** | **Topic | Excursion** |
| Monday | Gabriel García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* |
| Tuesday | Gabriel García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* |
| Wednesday | Gabriel García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* |
| Thursday (Santiago Excursion) | Feria Artesanal Santa Lucía |