

Conference: COFLT, spring 2009

Title: “Teaching Literary Texts to Latino Immigrants; or, Why Literature Should Stay in the Spanish Curriculum”

Presenter: Nancy Christoph, Assoc. Prof. of Spanish, Pacific University

Abstract: In this presentation I argue that, despite the national trend to make Spanish curricula more pragmatic and less focused on literature, literary texts should stay central to the Spanish curriculum at the university level. I describe the literature class that I teach to Latina immigrants and their deep engagement with the texts. Finally, I explain what Latino and Anglo college students can gain by being exposed to literature in their Spanish classes. Listed below is a sample of literary texts that can be incorporated into “pre-professional” Spanish courses—all texts are in Spanish unless marked with an “*”.

Business Spanish

"Entró y se sentó" by Rosaura Sánchez; "Garage Sale" de Juan Armando Epple; "Mexicans Begin Jogging" by Gary Soto*

Medical Spanish

"Brujas and Curanderas" by Ana Castillo*; "La curandera" by Gloria Anzaldúa; *Under the Feet of Jesus* by Helena María Viramontes*

Spanish for School Teachers

Cajas de cartón by Francisco Jiménez; "Es que duele" by Tomás Rivera; "All the Things I Learned in School Weren't Necessarily True" by José Antonio Burciaga*; *Hambre de memoria: la educación de Richard Rodríguez* by R. Rodríguez

Immigration and Migration

"Cariboo Café" by Helena María Viramontes*; "Zoo Island" by Tomás Rivera; "Cajas de cartón" by Francisco Jiménez; "Cruzando la frontera" de Rubén Martínez

General Bibliography

Burciaga, José Antonio. *Drink Cultura: Chicanismo*. Santa Barbara: Joshua Odell Editions, 1993.*

García, Cristina. *Voces sin fronteras*. New York: Vintage Español, 2007.

Jiménez, Francisco. *Cajas de cartón: relatos de la vida peregrina de un niño campesino*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2000.

Olivares, Julián. Ed. *Cuentos hispanos de los Estados Unidos*. Houston: Arte Público Press, 1992.

Rivera, Tomás. *...y no se lo tragó la tierra*. Houston: Arte Público Press, 1992.

Rodríguez, Richard. *Hambre de memoria: la educación de Richard Rodríguez*. Madrid: Megazul, 1994 (original text published in English as *Hunger of Memory*)