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English 44, Las Positas College

Final Exam Panel Presentation on Lone Star

For this panel presentation, you will pretend you are an academic, specializing in a particular area of literary or ethnic studies, who is participating in a conference panel on the multicultural west. The main texts under consideration will be Rudolfo Anaya's Bless Me, Ultima and John Sayles' film Lone Star, but you are welcome to refer to any other of the texts or films we've discussed over the course of the semester to make your point.

You will be given an area of specialization and participate on one of two panels:

Panel 1: Synthesis on the Border

Border Culture ("menudo" culture, as Lone Star's white bartender puts it)
The Indigenous Strand in the Tapestry of Latino Culture

Panel 2: Competing Cultures in the Southwest Contact Zone

Heroes and Outlaws in the American West
Latinos and the American West, "El Norte"
African Americans and the American West

When you are not sitting on a panel, you will be in the audience, listening, preparing questions, and asking questions. You will be given credit for participating on the panel and for asking at least one thoughtful question.

Preparing for the panel:

- Write your reading log on Bless Me, Ultima, according to our reading log guidelines. Do not forget the importance of unity, support, and synthesis of attention to the text with attention to course themes and more personal connections to your life and/or learning. You should choose a theme rather than one passage to focus on, and that theme should relate to the panel you will be participating in.
- Write your film review of Lone Star, according to the assignment guidelines and New Yorker model. (See previous handout.) This review and the reading log will constitute 50% of your final grade.
- Pretending you are an academic, make some notes on your subject area as it relates to Lone Star and/or Bless Me, Ultima. You already have the novel, and you may review the film in the library or review any past class notes to aid in the preparation of your notes. I recommend listing your various observations as bullet points, so they are easily distinguished from each other when you refer to your notes during the panel presentation. You should be prepared to speak for three minutes, but have some extra commentary on hand in case the panelist ahead of you mentions your idea.

- Write down at least 3 questions for the panel you are not sitting on. Your instructor will provide index cards on which to write the questions.

Sitting on the panel:

- You will quickly introduce yourself—feel free to make up whatever name, academic affiliation, and accomplishments you like (have fun—you can't do this in real life!).
- You will speak for three minutes, making some introductory comments on your subject area as it relates to Bless Me, Ultima and/or Lone Star. Think of these comments as intended to jump start discussion. If the panelist ahead of you makes a comment that you had planned to make, only mention it again if you elaborate on it somewhat. Review your notes for another comment.
- You will answer the questions of the moderator and of the audience in as much depth as you can.
- Your participation on the panel will constitute 25% of your grade.

Sitting in the audience:

- As you listen to each panelist and to their responses to the moderator's questions, use your index cards to write down any additional questions you would like to ask.
- When the question and answer period begins, raise your hand and wait to be called on by the moderator.
- Pay polite attention to the panelists as they are talking and do not interrupt the panelists or the moderator. Applaud when the panel has concluded.
- Your participation as an audience member will constitute 25% of your grade.

Sum up:

Anaya reading log: 25% of final grade

Lone Star film review: 25% of final grade

Panel presentation: 25% of final grade

Audience participation: 25% of final grade

I look forward to hearing your expert input on the multicultural west!