Using Art, Film, and Literature to explore the Hispanic identity

Curriculum Unit 01.04.02
by Elsa M. Calderón

This unit explores the themes of race and ethnicity as portrayed by artists, filmmakers, and authors in Spain and Latin America. What is a Hispanic person and what shapes the Hispanic identity? What races and ethnicities comprise the Hispanic identity? These are key questions that I present to my students. This unit attempts to make sense out of the answers provided by such diverse artists and authors as Fernando Botero, Julia de Burgos, Gabriel García Márquez, Wifredo Lam, and Diego Rivera. (See chart for complete list.)

The unit is limited to the Hispanic identity in Spain and in Latin America, and does not include Hispanics in the United States, which is beyond the scope of this unit. Included in the unit are some traditional artists as well as some artists "whose work questions or engages in a dialogue with mainstream traditions", as stated by Yale Professor Bryan J. Wolf. The goal of this unit is to prepare advanced Spanish students for the Advanced Placement Exam in Spanish via carefully sequenced activities that combine art and film to supplement the traditional AP Spanish curricula. The unit is interdisciplinary and may be taught with the art teacher. The unit is divided into two sections: pre-AP and AP. The unit may be introduced in a pre-AP class and continued during the AP class the following year. Pre-AP classes are those Spanish classes which precede or feed into the AP class; in my school Spanish 4 Honors and Native Speakers 2 are pre-AP. The unit is not meant to cover the full two years, but rather is an attempt to infuse art and film into the AP curriculum. The objectives are to expose students to AP authors, selected artists and filmmakers; to equip students with the strategies needed to analyze works of art and films; to guide students to make connections between the art, the film, and the literature; and to encourage students to be creative by designing culminating activities that show a clear understanding of the themes studied in this unit.

The art component includes visual art and film. Art and film are essential components of this unit and are covered in several ways: using specific artists to introduce literature, using specific artists and films to present the themes covered in literature in a different way, and using art and film to highlight the themes of race and ethnicity. The artists themselves are of diverse racial backgrounds and their works reflect in different ways the Hispanic identity. A schematic chart is provided to enable Spanish teachers to adapt the sequence to the needs of their particular students. The sequence tracks the recommended authors for AP literature, includes background information of the authors' countries and cultures, and connects these authors to artists who reflect the three ethnicities that make up the Hispanic identity: Spanish, African, and Native American.
Advanced Placement Curriculum at James Hillhouse High School

During the last two years, James Hillhouse High School has revisited its AP program. The administration and faculty have encouraged the expansion of the AP courses and have expanded the AP offerings to include: Studio Art, Biology, Calculus, English Literature, French, History, Psychology, and Spanish Language. The enrollment has risen dramatically from approximately 20 students in 1999-2000 to approximately 64 students in 2000-2001. As the Spanish AP teacher, it has fallen upon me the task of developing an AP curriculum, after attending two workshops at the Taft Academy Summer Program. Rather than developing a city-wide AP curriculum, it is the nature of the Spanish AP course that each teacher design his or her AP course to meet the needs of the AP students. The guidelines are: develop the proficiency of the students in the four levels of listening, speaking, reading, and writing; familiarize students with the general goals, objectives, and rubrics of the AP program; expose students to culture; and expose students to literature by the recommended AP authors. The AP Spanish Literature Exam has recently undergone a transformation from a short list of 5 AP authors to a longer list of selected authors, which list is still in the process of being refined by the College Board. The revised format for the AP Spanish literature exam is contemplated for the year 2003. This unit may be used for preparing students for both exams: AP Spanish Language and AP Spanish Literature. As the AP Spanish teacher at Hillhouse, it has become increasingly evident to me that students have difficulty reaching the stated goals for these two exams unless they have a structured program of at least two years of preparation. Too often, AP students present with deficits in September, even though they have taken Spanish 4 or Spanish 4 Honors. Perhaps they are not familiar with the AP rubrics, their editing skills and writing skills are poor, they are not used to analyzing themes, or their listening and speaking skills need improvement. Often, they are reluctant to speak in class. The Native Speakers have different issues, but they still benefit from reading and writing activities. They also add an immeasurable amount to the central theme of this unit, which is the question of Hispanic identity.

In order for all students to succeed in the AP course, the pre-AP course must be rigorous and preparatory. It must build on the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, so that the students enter the AP class with a high level of proficiency in all four skills. It must enrich the students’ view of Hispanic culture. Culture is an intrinsic part of the AP course and culturally authentic materials must be presented throughout the year. This unit does not address all these needs, since that would be an ambitious and lengthy publication. Rather, this unit provides the AP teacher with ideas for motivating students to continue the study of Spanish and to increase mastery of the four skills via a unit that encompasses art, film, and literature. It is my hope that new AP teachers may find this unit useful and that veteran AP teachers may find renewed energy by incorporating some of the ideas in this unit into their lesson plans.

The Hispanic Identity: themes of inclusion and ethnicities

An underlying premise is that the Hispanic identity is not homogeneous, but rather a combination of three ethnicities: the Spanish, the African, and the Native American. However, even the Spanish identity is not homogenous, since the Spanish culture includes the Arabs or Moors, the Jews, the gypsies, the Greeks and Romans, and the Visigoths. Therefore, the Hispanic identity is inherently one of inclusion. As Carlos Fuentes has stated in his essay on the Hispanic identity, the Hispanics are a mixed and diverse people, so much so that if they exclude, they betray themselves, whereas if they include they find themselves. (1) One Spanish
author who wrote with much sensitivity about the oppressed was Federico García Lorca. He understood the angst of the marginal person or group, such as the gypsy, the African-American in New York City, the women in Spain. He celebrated the gypsy and the flamenco music they contributed, by turning flamenco music into poetry, as one flamenco dancer stated, and by immortalizing the people of Andalucía. His good friend, Salvador Dalí, was an artistic genius who developed a unique art style of the surrealism movement. I tell my students that these two geniuses were at time collaborators but always brilliant in their chosen fields. Selected paintings by Dalí form a good introduction to the study of Federico García Lorca.

The Hispanic identity: the metaphors of the buried mirror, the buried city, and the aleph

These metaphors are not original and are in fact presented and developed by Carlos Fuentes and Jorge Luis Borges. They are expanded and adapted in this unit in two ways: the original list of three artists and three painting is expanded to a much longer list, and the art is connected to films and literature. The glue to this unit is the overall theme of race and ethnicity in Latin America, which encompasses these varied metaphors. Fuentes includes Botero’s painting, *La familia presidencial*, Rufino Tamayo’s painting, *El jaguar y la serpiente*, and Lam’s painting, *Umbral*. I have included the other artists and authors because in some way they deal with the themes of race and ethnicities in Latin America. Fuentes includes Wifredo Lam to show the African influence in his paintings, and I expanded that section by developing the theme of santería and connecting Lam to Nicolás Guillén, a celebrated Afro-Antillean poet who examined in poetry the themes of African music, religion, and ancestry. Fuentes includes Botero to show Colombian preoccupation with military and religious symbols and to show his ubiquitous fat people as an example of the ability of Latin Americans to laugh at themselves and their foibles. I expanded that section by showing more of his artwork to my students than just the one: *La Familia Presidencial*, and I challenged my students to connect his artistic message and political commentary with the magical realism and political commentary of another Colombian, Gabriel García Márquez, who is on the list of recommended AP authors. Fuentes includes Rufino Tamayo to show the indigenous culture of Mexico in his painting *El jaguar y la serpiente*. I expanded that by introducing two other Mexican painters who draw heavily on the indigenous presence of Mexico: Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo. I chose them in order to introduce the muralists of Mexico and to include a woman artist. Although the emphasis is on Latin America, I have included some Spanish artists and authors because Spain is part of the Latin American mix, and because the AP students are expected to read intensively about Federico García Lorca. Spanish teachers may create different lists for their classes, as suggested by student needs and interests.

The central metaphor is the one offered by Carlos Fuentes in his book and films of the same title: *The Buried Mirror*. He states that the connection between Latin America, Spain, and Latinos in the United States is similar to a series of mirrors that reflect back and forth across the ocean. He notes the importance of mirrors in history, art, and literature. He mentions the mirrors of Don Quixote, the mirror of Velázquez, the mirror of Quetzalcóatl, and the buried mirror of the indigenous populations of Mexico. He proposes that the Hispanic culture in general has several levels and compares that multiplicity or complexity to a mirror that lies partly concealed, partly buried. It is the challenge of all students of Spanish culture and literature to examine this conceit and develop their own buried mirror after careful examination of their own ethnic background.

A related theme to that of the buried mirror is that of the buried city. Throughout the conquest of Latin America, it was the custom of Spanish conquistadores to raze the indigenous cities and build their cities on
top, effectively burying the ancient city in an effort to eradicate the older culture. Mexico City is an example of this burial, in that the Aztec city of Tenochtitlán lies buried under the modern Mexico City. The painting by Antonio Ruiz of La Malinche illustrates this buried identity (4). It shows a sleeping Aztec woman, La Malinche, under a blanket that is weighed down by an intricate system of buildings, a city in effect. Beneath the reality of one culture or city is the physical reality of an older culture which may lie dormant but will never be forgotten by its people.

Some authors have commented on this brutal custom of the Spanish conquistadores to destroy a sacred site or vibrant city and construct a Spanish building. Luis Recalde writes in his Curriculum Unit 99.02.10 that the Spanish tried to "destroy and bury the cultures of the Natives, as in the classic case of Tenochtitlan." He notes that the Spanish gained control of the conquered population as they physically destroyed symbols of their past and their present, including religious centers and religious buildings. (5). For purposes of this unit, students may benefit by reading about the conquistadores in Mexico, in order to understand the message of Ruiz' painting. A recommended source for teachers and students is the book by Luis Rivera Pagán, entitled Evangelización y Violencia: La Conquista de América, cited by Recalde in his 1999 unit: Art Images of Tenochtitlan-Past and Present: The Case of the Virgin of Guadalupe. (6)

In literature, this buried background may be found in the poem of Nicolás Guillén, in his poem entitled The Ballad of My Two Grandfathers. One of the grandfathers is a white Spanish conquistador, whereas the other grandfather is an African slave. They had never met, but the author is the grandson of these two men and he joins them in his poem, that they may finally dialogue and discover what they have in common. After reading this poem, students could write their own poems about their grandparents and their backgrounds.

The metaphor of the mirror itself, without being a buried mirror, may be examined in the legends of Quetzalcóatl, and the figure of Don Quijote by Cervantes. Don Quijote, for instance, has as one of his names the lord of the mirrors. He saw life through mirrors and not clearly, as did others. Rather than windmills, he sees monsters about to attack him. Rather than an innkeepers’ daughter, he sees a lovely damsel in distress. The legend of Quetzalcóatl tells that this Aztec god was thrown into turmoil after viewing himself in a mirror, and fled his country in disgrace, promising to return to this people on a certain year. That prophesied year, the Aztecs were not surprised to see their god returning, and mistook Hernán Cortés for their departed god. Students may read these stories and legends as literature, reflections of a culture, and as points of departure for discussion and writing.

Another metaphor I will use in this unit is the aleph. In the Hebrew alphabet, the aleph is the first letter of the alphabet, the alpha. The aleph is described by the noted author, Jorge Luis Borges, as a point in time and space where you can clearly see all your past, present, and future, and it is all revealed to you at the same time. Carlos Fuentes sees in the Aleph the answer to his question of who are the Spanish-speaking people. Fuentes describes Hispanics as a Spanish-speaking people, a people of Hispanic background, from Spain, yet combined or mixed with African, Moorish, and Jewish blood. When the Spanish came to the Americas, the diversity continued with the Africans and the Native Americans. His message is that the Hispanic people are the past and present at the same time, and are of many cultures at the same time. Thus, the Hispanic culture may be viewed as an Aleph, where all may be seen at the same time, without confusion.

These ideas and metaphors of Carlos Fuentes and Jorge Luis Borges are very deep and challenge the students to use their imaginations and higher thinking skills to comprehend them and to apply them to Latin America today. I have found my students respond well to these intellectual challenges and it is my challenge as a teacher to facilitate discussions, help students analyze and apply the concepts and metaphors, and suggest
artistic and writing activities so that students may show evidence of their grasp of these themes.

As compared to the mirror, which reflects and at times distorts, but nevertheless reveals much to you, especially if you look at the buried mirror, the aleph discloses all to you in one blinding moment. Students will study the aleph as a metaphor, read Borges’ story entitled The Aleph, as well as other stories in the book of the same title, and design their own alephs, in written form as well as in original illustrations.

Note on the metaphor of the mirror: The authors and artists who explicitly use the metaphor of the mirror, buried mirror or buried city are so indicated. However, the author of this unit has used the metaphor of the mirror in a broader way, to include reflections, distortions, and omissions. The other authors and artists have been included because the way they handle the discussion of race and ethnic identity suggests an understanding of the multiple ethnic layering that inherently includes the concept of more than one, as in more than one ethnicity, with the likelihood that one is viewed and one is kept hidden or buried. What is perhaps buried in the Americas is the history of the native americans, the precolombian civilizations, and the ensuing African presence. What is perhaps buried in Spain is the history of oppression of the gypsies and the persecution and expulsion of the Moors and Jews.

The Art Component: an interdisciplinary unit

This leads me to the art component of this unit. As already stated, the art component is an integral part of the unit and is presented several ways, whether to introduce the literature, to view parallel to the literature, or to view separately as another way of studying the Hispanic and Latina American cultures. This unit is interdisciplinary in that it will be taught with the art teacher, Mrs. Val Jean Belton. For examples, the students will view the art, go to museums such as the MET or El Museo del Barrio, and paint original works that illustrate various themes and metaphors. The art forms, including visual arts, sculpture, and film, will be studied in order to deepen the students’ appreciation of the richness of Spanish and Latin American cultures and in order to better understand the themes of race and ethnicity. The three artists that I will use as a point of departure are Fernando Botero, Wifredo Lam, and Rufino Tamayo. The paintings to introduce these three artists are La Familia Presidencial, by Fernando Botero, Umbral by Wifredo Lam, and El jaguar y la serpiente, by Rufino Tamayo. Fernando Botero is a sculptor as well as a visual artist, and his sculpture will be viewed as well. These three paintings may be found in the textbook Pasaporte al Mundo 21, on page 17. Further information on this text is included in the bibliography to this unit. The three paintings are also shown in the video accompanying the textbook and are an excerpt from the fifth video of the five volume video series entitled Espejo Enterrado, by Carlos Fuentes. The textbook includes questions to discuss before viewing, as well as comprehension questions after the viewing.

The reasons I chose these three paintings, besides being readily available in both text and video formats, are that they introduce the themes of racial and ethnic identitites in Latin America, they reflect the ethnic heritage and cultural reality of Colombia, Cuba, and Mexico, and they have stimulated wonderful student discussions with my students as art per se. Each painting embraces a relevant theme in Latin America. La Familia Presidencial depicts extremely fat people who are archetypes found in Latin America: the family, the priest, and the military man. Umbral depicts three figures of African origin. El jaguar y la serpiente is rooted in the indigenous cultures of Mexico by its use of animals that have a strong symbolic value for the native Mexicans. After viewing the three paintings and discussing their connection to the three cultures, students are encouraged to research the three artists and bring to class further examples of their art.
The art component includes, besides these three introductory artists, the following artists: Salvador Dalí and Pablo Picasso, from Spain, Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo, from Mexico. To a lesser degree, Diego Velázquez, from Spain, Antonio Martorell, from Puerto Rico, are also part of this unit. Works of art of the Mexican artists, Antonio Ruiz, and the Puerto Rican artist, Edda W. Santiago, are also briefly noted. Some of these are included in the textbook *Pasaporte* but teachers are encouraged to go to art books, museums, and even the Internet for selected art pieces of these artists. The sole example of Antonio Ruiz, entitled *La Malinche*, is a cover for a book of poems by Federico García Lorca, and the drawings of Edda W. Santiago are taken from a 1993 calendar entitled *Yo Soy Boricua*, dedicated to Puerto Rican women. I have also used a poster for 1999 Hispanic Heritage Month, which depicts three women of different races, wrapped in all the flags of Spanish-speaking countries. The chart in this unit suggests one way that these pieces of art may be connected to the literature component, but teachers are free to use them in a different sequence or to make substitutions. The art component is not intended to be the central part of this unit, but is rather intended to highlight, explore, and at times dissent from, the literature, which is the main component. Students, however, seem to delight in the art discussions because they are more direct and less complicated than reading a novel or even a short story, and the themes to be subsequently elaborated in the literature may be more easily discussed when viewing the art.

In the seminar by Professor Bryan Wolf, we learned techniques for examining not only mainstream artists, but also artists of color who have developed a dialogue with the mainstream traditions. Professor Wolf elicited lively discussions by carefully presenting questions to the class about the art itself, the intent of the artist, and how the particular work grappled with issues of gender, race, and ethnicity. These insights and strategies were helpful to me as a teacher of Spanish and I intend to use them in my classroom and in this unit.

**Literature Component**

The literature component is the most important part of this unit, since the students are being prepared for written tests that show their language proficiency and their familiarity with the recommended AP authors. By AP authors, I mean the traditional five, to be found in the AP Literature test, which are Jorge Luis Borges, Federico García Lorca, Ana María Matute, Gabriel García Márquez, and Miguel de Unamuno. This list has been expanded, as noted in the Appendix, and this unit includes some of the authors in the expanded list for the Spanish AP Literature test: Julia de Burgos, Nicolás Guillén, and Carlos Fuentes. In the 2000 Spanish AP Literature test, the essay question was to discuss the theme of violence in some of the works of Jorge Luis Borges. The AP Spanish Language test does not test familiarity with any particular author, but students are expected to read excerpts which may include AP authors, and answer multiple choice questions, and students are expected to study the AP authors in their development of language proficiency. In this unit, students are expected to read selected authors, dissect the literature, analyze the themes and styles and connect the literature to the art viewed. The authors have included in this unit are Jorge Luis Borges, Julia de Burgos, Julio Cortázar, Miguel Cervantes, Carlos Fuentes, Federico García Lorca, Gabriel García Márquez, and Nicolás Guillén. They share an interest in depicting different ethnic origins in their works, and in one way or another reveal the Spanish and Latin American culture. The three Hispanic races or ethnicities are the Spanish, the Native American, and the African. Some authors, such as Julia de Burgos, Federico García Lorca, Nicolás Guillén and Carlos Fuentes, markedly refer to their ethnic origins, whereas others, such as Jorge Luis Borges, are not known for their ethnic statements but nevertheless depict variants of the Argentinean culture, such as the gaucho, the exotic immigrant or outsider, and the citified European Argentinean. Gabriel García Márquez
uses magical realism to create a world teeming with different colors, sounds, and customs, and derives his inspiration from the Colombian perspective which by definition is a mixture of ethnic identities. The last component is the film component, which supports and deepens the student's understanding of the literature.

### The Film Component

I have included films in this unit because students enjoy watching them and because they provide another method for understanding the themes of race and ethnic identity. Students have different learning styles, and some students derive a finer appreciation of the literature if they also view the films that accompany them. The films are carefully selected and are meant to be educational and not merely entertainment. Furthermore, in the seminar by Yale Professor Bryan Wolf, we learned methods for analyzing films, via questions posed by Professor Wolf before, during, and after each film. Each film we saw was examined by the class with an eye to identifying themes of the American West, myths of the American West, rites of passage, and the metaphor of the border. In my unit, I will use some of these techniques to help my student view the films critically. The most important videos are the 5 video set written and narrated by Carlos Fuentes, entitled *The Buried Mirror*, or *Espejo Enterrado*. I have shown some of the videos to my students and they were very successful for initiating discussions, making connections, and pulling together various concepts, themes, metaphors, and large amounts of historical information that would otherwise be almost impossible to do in a Spanish class. I show the videos in Spanish and prepare question before and after the video segments, to facilitate class discussions.

Chart of countries, artists, authors, and films:

*(chart available in print form)*

Thematic chart of authors and artists:

*(chart available in print form)*

Note to teachers on the metaphor of the mirror: The authors and artists who explicitly use the metaphor of the mirror, buried mirror or buried city are so indicated. However, the author of this unit has used the metaphor of the mirror in a broader way, to include reflections, distortions, and omissions. The other authors and artists have been included because the way they handle the discussion of race and ethnic identity suggests an understanding of the multiple ethnic layering that inherently includes the concept of more than one, as in more than one ethnicity, with the likelihood that one is viewed and one is kept hidden or buried. What is perhaps buried in the Americas is the history of the native americans, the precolombian civilizations, and the ensuing African presence. What is perhaps buried in Spain is the history of oppression of the gypsies and the persecution and expulsion of the Moors and Jews.

### Lesson Plans

**Introductory Lesson:** Read *El encuentro con el Otro* by Carlos Fuentes and watch Tres Hispanidades in order to discuss diversity, inclusion, the Aleph, and the buried mirror.

1. Write your personal Aleph poem.
2. Relect upon the artwork of Isaías Mata that illustrates the essay by Carlos Fuentes and draw
your own collage.
3. Write an essay, 250 words minimum, about Carlos Fuentes' message of diversity and inclusion. Use the AP rubrics for assessment on a scale of 1-9.

Cluster of Lessons: Art and Literature

1. View the art of Wifredo Lam, Fernando Botero, and Rufino Tamayo and connect to the words of Carlos Fuentes. Choose one example of art and describe it to the class.
2. View the art of Wifredo Lam and identify the African presence. Research santería and how it shaped the art of Wifredo Lam.
3a View the art of Fernando Botero and identify his political commentary and perspective on appearance, humor, and Colombian archetypes.
3b View the art of Salvador Dalí and connect to poems by Federico García Lorca.
4. View the art of Rufino Tamayo, Diego Rivera, and Frida Kahlo and identify the indigenous presence. Research printed material and Internet.
5. Connect the art of Wifredo Lam to the poetry of Nicolás Guillén: La Balada de los dos Abuelos, Búcate Plata, and El Apellido by writing a lengthy essay about the thematic style, language, and symbols that evoke an African presence.
6. Connect the art of Fernando Botero to the short stories of Gabriel García Márquez: Un día de Estos and Crónica and write a comparative essay about two symbols in Latin America: the priest and the soldier as developed in the art and literature of these two famous Colombians.
7. View Dreams of Malinche by Antonio Ruiz and connect to the history of Tenochtitlán. Write a descriptive essay that shows you understand the readings on Tenochtitlán and the Mexico-Spanish encounter, and the image of the buried city.
8. Recite one of the poems by Nicolás Guillén and analyze it for the class in a way that shows understanding of his language, tone, style, and symbols. Use the poetry guide sheet provided by the teacher.
Cluster of Lessons: Film and Literature

1. Watch the first five minutes of Cristina Saralegui and describe to the class what you observed. After viewing the entire segment of the show of Cristina, react to the poem by the Chicano author. As follow-through, read the poem by Langston Hughes, translated into Spanish, of I, Too, Sing America, and write your own poem about your feelings of inclusion or exclusion into mainstream America.

2. Watch the film La Casa de Bernarda Alba for 5 minutes only, and comment on the following: symbols, images, stereotypes of women, stereotypes and myths of Spanish women. Comment on the stage setting and what message it communicates.

3. Watch the entire film of Casa de Bernarda Alba and compare the film to the play. For your first draft, compare the first act in the movie with the first act in the play. For your final draft, write a 300 word comparison essay.

4. Watch the video A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings, by Gabriel García Márquez, and compare to the short story.

5. Watch the video A Miracle in Rome, by Gabriel García Márquez, and compare to the video A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings, also by García Márquez. Write a comparative essay of 300 words, using the rubrics for a comparative essay and the AP rubrics for writing an essay.

6. Write a script for an imaginative and modern interpretation of La Casa de Bernarda Alba, set in New Haven, and videotape it.

7. Watch the 5 videos of Carlos Fuentes, entitled El Espejo Enterrado, or Buried Mirror, and complete the pre-viewing questionnaires and the post-viewing questionnaires for each one. After each video, do one writing project and one artistic project, as assessment. The 5 videos are: La virgen y el toro, La batalla de los dioses, La edad de oro, El precio de la libertad, and Las tres hispanidades.

8. Read the Pablo Neruda poems Los Conquistadores and Macchu Picchu and view the video The Conquistadors, about Francisco Pizarro’s conquest of Peru. Write an expository essay about the facts and the myths of Macchu Picchu in the form of a report. Then, write a poem about a clash between any two cultures, in ancient times or modern times, that resulted in a new culture or community.
Notes


3. Ibid.


5. Luis Recalde. *Art Images of Tenochtitlán- Past and Present: The Case of the Virgin of Guadalupe*, a curriculum unit of the Yale New Haven Teachers Institute, # 99.02.10, p. 2.


Teacher Bibliography and Student Bibliography


Anderson Imbert, Enrique, and Eugenio Florit. *Literatura Hispánica* . Chicago: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., 1970. Recommended for Spanish 4 Honors and Spanish AP. Has a useful glossary of literary terms in the back. I found it useful for this unit because it includes excerpts from Jorge Luis Borges; Gabriel García Márquez; especially Un hombre muy viejo con unas alas enormes; and Pablo Neruda.


- Borges, Jorge Luis. *Aleph*. Madrid: Alianza Editorial, S.A., 1995. Recommended for this unit. Borges is one of the five AP authors. I find some of the easier stories appropriate for Spanish 4 Honors: *La casa de Asterión* and *Los dos reyes y los dos laberintos*, and that way students are familiar with Borges as they enter the Spanish AP class. I like to save Emma Zunz for Spanish AP.


of brief passages about Cuba, teachers should use discretion since some chapters have violence and explicit language.


Fletcher, Valerie. *Crosscurrents of Modernism: Four Latin American Pioneers*. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Press, 1992. I found this to be the best source of biographical information on Wifredo Lam and includes a solid explanation of santería and the african influences on his art. The section on Diego Rivera is also highly informative. The other two artists are Joaquín Torres-García and Matta.


• García Lorca, Federico. *Bodas de Sangre*; *Yerma*. México: Editorial Porrúa, 1999. One of the three plays by García Lorca that students should read, whether in Spanish 4 Honors or AP Spanish.


• García Márquez, Gabriel. *Crónica de una muerte anunciada*. White Plains: Longman, 1996. This book makes García Márquez more accessible for high school students, with its biographical information, chapter by chapter student exercises and glossaries, and an AP section.

• Guillén, Nicolás. *Sóngoro Cosongo*. Buenos Aires: Editorial Losada, 1992. This and the following two books comprise a collection of poems by Guillén which are recommended for student reading.


Lindsay, Arturo. *Santería Aesthetics in contemporary Latin American Art*. Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1996. An exciting and informative book for those teachers who want to read about the basics of Santería and how it has inspired artists of
Latin America.

- Marqués, Sarah. *La lengua que heredamos*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1996. A very useful book for native speakers who need to refine their writing skills. It is organized by country and includes culture and literature as well as grammar exercises.


- Neruda, Pablo. *Selected Poems, A Bilingual Edition*. New York: Dell Publishing Co., Inc., 1970. A wonderful collection of Neruda’s poems, with several chosen for the themes of race and ethnicities of Latin America: Vienen por las islas, Amor América, y Alturas de Macchu Picchu. Another poem that my students read which is not found in this collection is Oda a la Papa, which extolls the potato, an american crop.


- Samaniego, Fabián et al. *Dime: Pasaporte al mundo 21*. Lexington.: D.C. Heath, 1995. This textbook is one of the central textbooks for this unit and is referred to as Pasaporte. The textbook used at James Hillhouse High School for Spanish 4 Honors and for Native Speakers classes, as well as used as a reference for AP classes. Teachers may follow the sequence of the book, pick and choose chapters of interest, and use the excellent ancillary materials: listening audiocassettes and cultural videocassettes. The video includes a segment of Carlos Fuentes explaining the metaphor of the buried mirror, a central metaphor for unit.


Varona-Lacey, Gladys. *Introducción a la literatura Hispanoamericana: de la conquista al siglo XX*. Lincolnswood: National Textbook Compny, 1997. Another exemplary anthology of Hispanic literature for teachers who want the overview. For this unit, it is useful in that it includes five selections of Borges and two selections of Carlos Fuentes and Gabriel García Márquez.


Films and Videos

Borges, Jorge Luis: *The Inner World of Jorge Luis Borges* (English, 28 minutes)

*El Super* (a film about a Cuban’s dream of returning to Cuba) (Spanish with English subtitles)(90 minutes)


Fuentes, Carlos: *Espejo Enterrado*, set of 5 videos (Spanish)

García Lorca, Federico: *The House of Bernarda Alba*, (English)

García Lorca, Federico: *Blood Wedding* (Flamenco dance, 82 minutes)

García Márquez, Gabriel: *A Miracle in Rome* (76 minutes) *A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings* (90 minutes)

García Márquez, Gabriel: *An Interview with Gabriel García Márquez*. (59 minutes)

*I am Cuba/ Soy Cuba* (Spanish with English subtitles, 141 minutes)


*Mundo 21* Video Program, ancillary to *Dime: Pasaporte al mundo 21*.

Rivera, Diego: *Portrait of an Artist* (Home Vision Videos)

Rivera, Diego: *The Frescoes of Diego Rivera*

Recommended Artists

Arroyo, Imna
Botero, Fernando
Dalí, Salvador
Kahlo, Frida
Lam, Wifredo
Martorell, Antonio
Picasso, Pablo
Rivera, Diego
Ruiz, Antonio
What is a Hispanic person and what shapes the Hispanic identity? What races and ethnicities comprise the Hispanic identity? These are key questions that I present to my students. Art and film are essential components of this unit and are covered in several ways: using specific artists to introduce literature, using specific artists and films to present the themes covered in literature in a different way, and using art and film to highlight the themes of race and ethnicity. The artists themselves are of diverse racial backgrounds and their works reflect in different ways the Hispanic identity. A schematic chart is provided to enable Spanish teachers to adapt the sequence to the needs of their particular students. Hispanic Literatures and Culture Concentration Requirements. Spanish is the second most widely spoken language in the world and the second language of the United States. In our society, knowing Spanish is not just an asset; it is increasingly a necessity. The Hispanic Literatures and Culture concentration enables students to develop advanced Spanish skills while acquiring a solid background in the complex history, literature, cultures, and intellectual traditions of Spain, Latin America, and the Latinx-U.S. The department offers a variety of courses on topics related to literary history and theory; multicultural contact; linguistics and the history of the language; visual culture, film, and performance studies. Advanced Spanish Through Literature & Film 1. While students watch the film, they can take notes using our Film Club Double-Entry Journal (PDF) to help remember specific moments. Teaching Idea #2: Offer Students Choice. Video. Identity Charts graphic tools that help students consider the many factors that shape who we are as individuals and as communities (from Facing History and Ourselves). Write a biopoem or a "Where I'm From" poem poetic formats that emphasize how personal experiences shape identities. (from Facing History and Ourselves) Checking on Stereotypes an activity in which students identify stereotypes they've experienced.