



ENG 194/LAS 100

Queerness & Queer
Identities



Wrapping up *Bodega Dreams*

Final thoughts?

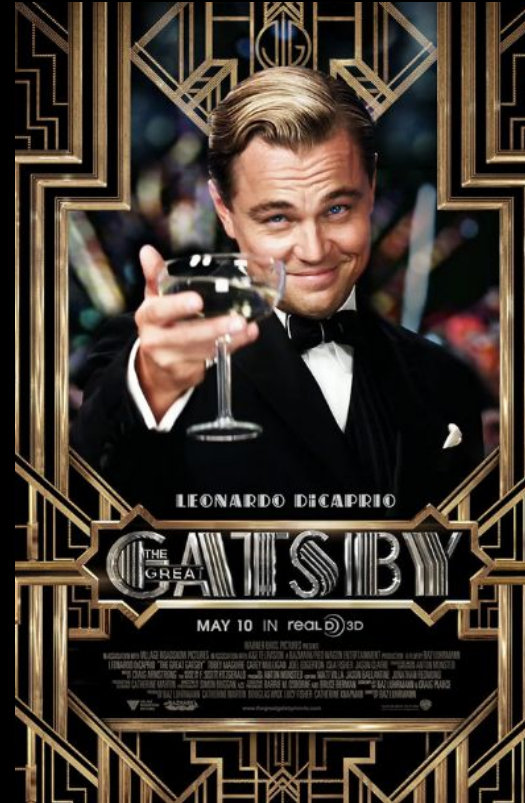
POPULAR COMPARISONS

"Quinonez knows this 'hood. . . His prose, detailed and passionate, brings the tale to life." —*Time*

BODEGA DREAMS

ERNESTO
QUINONEZ

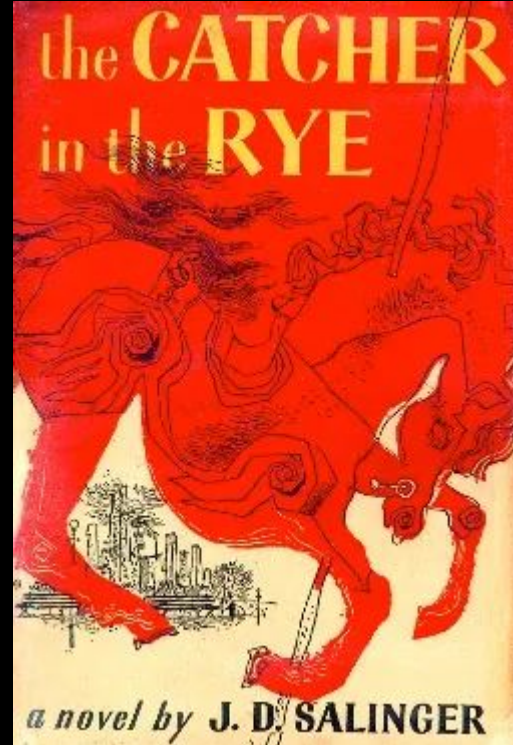
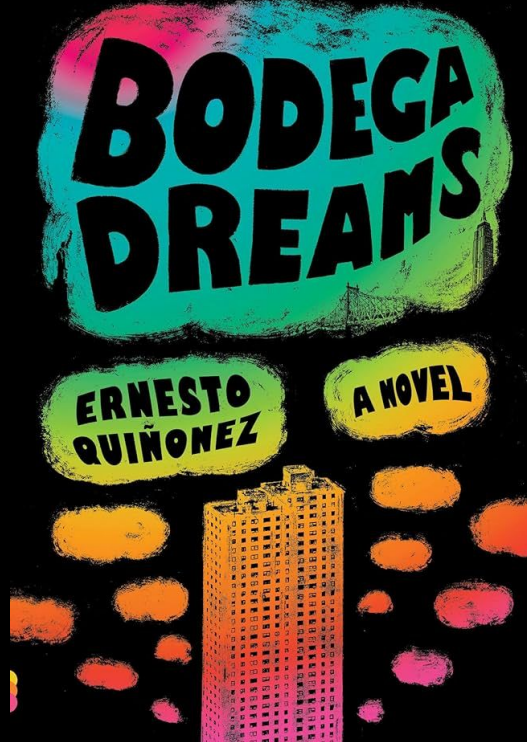
A NOVEL



Disillusion with
the American
Dream

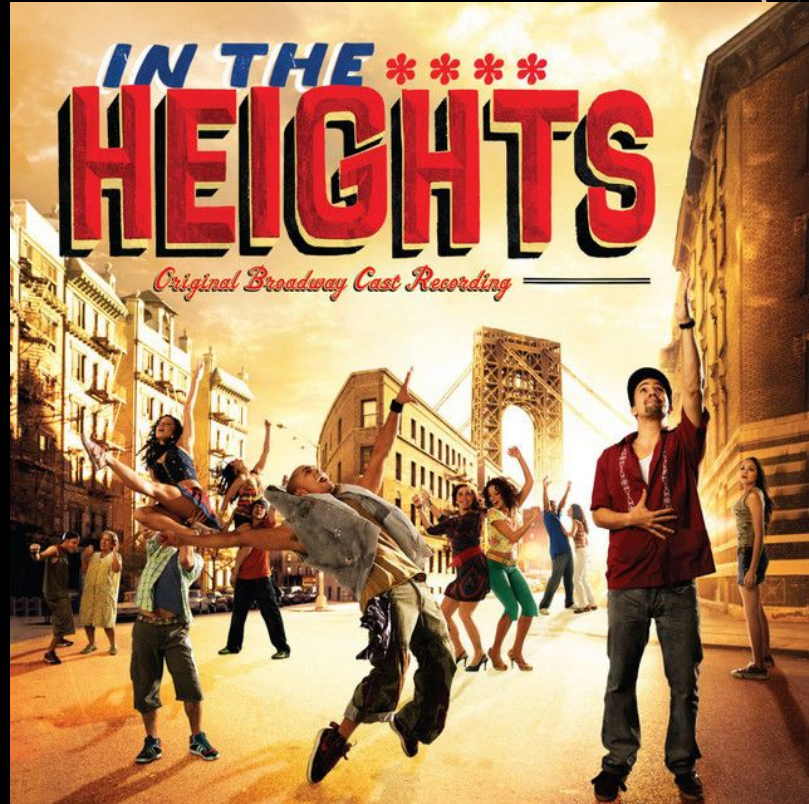
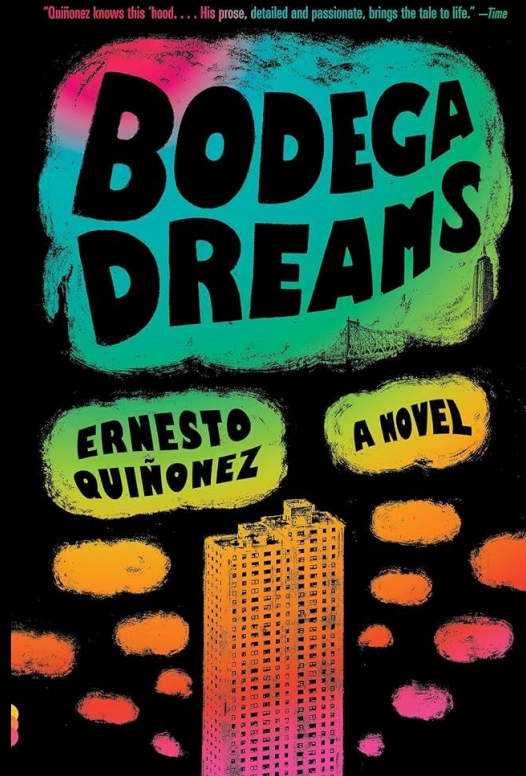
POPULAR COMPARISONS

"Quinonez knows this 'hood. . . . His prose, detailed and passionate, brings the tale to life." —*Time*



Social critique
/ Coming of
Age

POPULAR COMPARISONS





**What are some of the
things *Bodega Dreams* does
as a “Latinx Novel”?**

#1. FIGHTS ASSIMILATION & THE CELEBRATION OF MULTICULTURALISM

So often Latin American writers feel the pressure to end their novels by presenting a sort of utopian way of life where people across cultures embrace each other harmoniously.

Bodega Dreams ends with death, specifically murder by one of your own.

It also refuses to flat out denounce criminal activity (drug-dealing).



#2. CHALLENGES WHAT HOPE LOOKS LIKE / BEING SAVED THROUGH EDUCATION

By the end of the novel, it is clear that no one is going to come in to save el barrio. The people of the community must create the changes they want to see.

The most positive changes come from **helping one another**, like Chino helps the grandfather and his grandson, **rather than from the youth all going to college** and achieving the American Dream.



#3. REFUSES FLATTENING PORTRAYALS OF ALL LATINX CHARACTERS AS WANTING TO ESCAPE

For both Sapo and Chino, the dream is not to leave the community. It is to see a better community that is self-empowered and self-governed.

“Go back to your home country if you’re not happy here” is often told to Latinx peoples. The novel responds: some people see this place as home.



#4. RESISTS ANTHROPOLOGICAL ADDRESS

Bodega Dreams is not specifically addressing non-Latinx readers to teach them about Latinx peoples (as many other LatAm novels do).

We see this through the frequent use of Spanglish, the intimate cultural references, and the ending. **This book is not written for you to learn about the Other.** That writing is a kind of anthropologizing that can be dangerous.

COMING UP

01 DUE FRIDAY at midnight

Blog Post #4

The Low Low Woods or
Bodega Dreams

QUIZ on Monday

Topics: Poetry, Urban Fiction,
Queer Identities

02 DUE ON MONDAY

Read Coteria essay
“Feminisms”

Watch Feminist Freedom
Warriors two interviews:
Helen Maria Viramontes and
Linda Martin Alcoff



FOR MONDAY, COME PREPARED WITH ...

Why did these self-identified Latinas turn to feminism?



01. WHAT IS “QUEERNESS”



QUEERNESS

Not just about sexuality or sexual
orientation or identification
(although yes),

But also about a way of being in the
world that is disruptive.

FRAMING QUESTIONS

- #1 How can **queerness** provide language for a group of people who are frequently made to feel **different** from the norm? (unbelonging)
- #2 How can **queerness** challenge the framing of how **Latinx** histories are told?

Latinx Studies and Queer Studies



**Gloria
Anzaldúa**

Queerness intervenes in
social hierarchies and
queer identities are
political



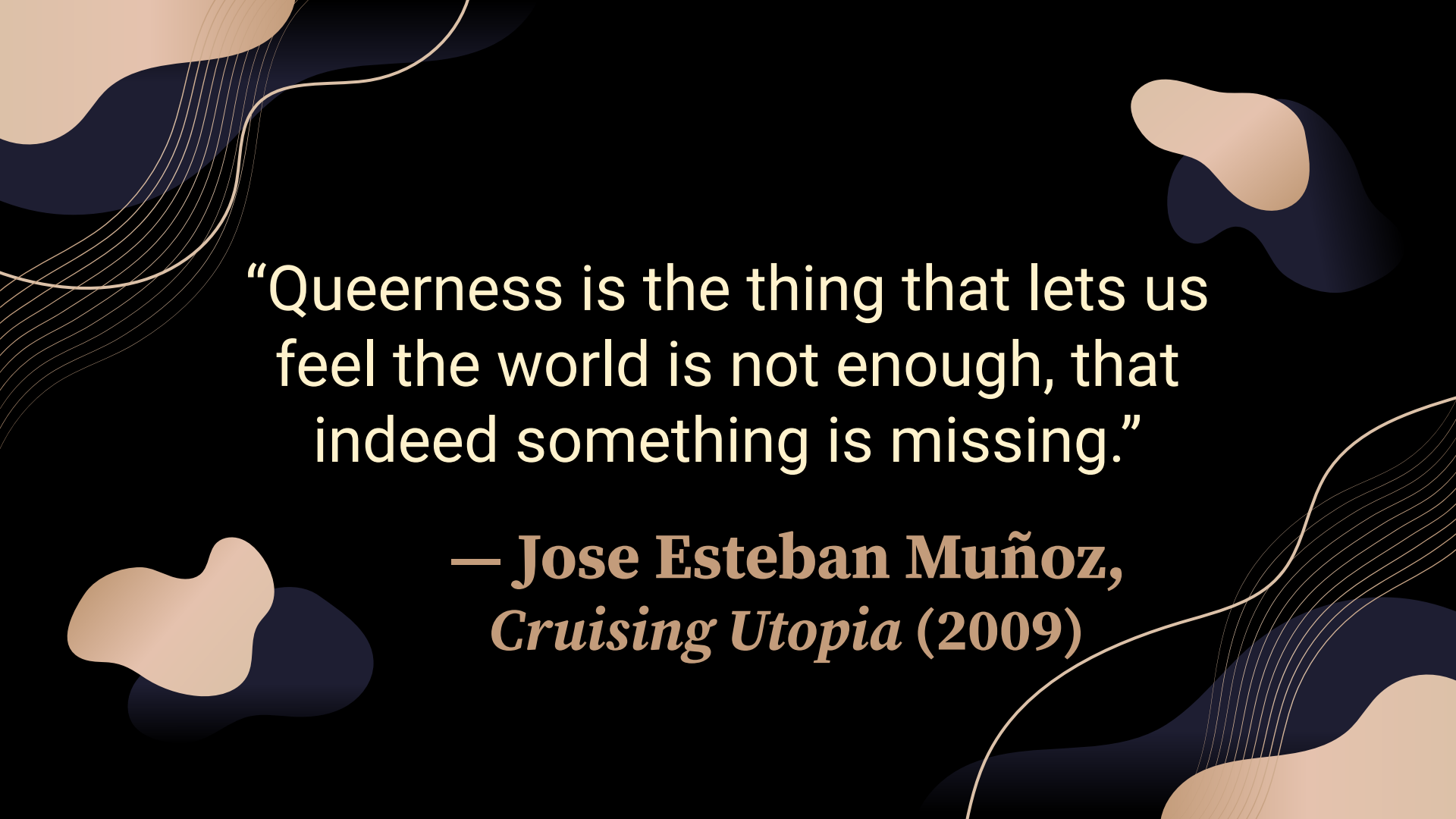
**Cherrie
Moraga**

Queerness is a lens
we can use to
redefine culture



**Jose Esteban
Muñoz**

Queerness allows us
to imagine a future
for Latinx people



“Queerness is the thing that lets us
feel the world is not enough, that
indeed something is missing.”

— **Jose Esteban Muñoz,**
Cruising Utopia (2009)



Facilitation



With Your Group

#1. What happened in this book? How does it end?

#2. What is one scene our group would like to focus on?

DON'T FORGET!



01 DUE FRIDAY at midnight

Blog Post #4

The Low Low Woods or
Bodega Dreams

QUIZ on Monday

Topics: Poetry, Urban
Fiction, Queer Identities

02 DUE ON MONDAY

Read Coteria essay “Feminisms”

Watch Feminist Freedom Warriors two
interviews: Helen María Viramontes and
Linda Martin Alcoff (50 min + 65 min)

Pay particular attention to “What
brought you to feminism?”