

## Paper Topics

ENGL 3000; Spring 2018

### Paper Due:

To LANG 408K during your scheduled  
final (5/10/18 by 12:30pm) No email  
essays

**\*\*no extensions\*\***



Always consider  
challenges to  
your argument!

#### CHECKLIST:

- ☐ 1500 words; include full name and date
- ☐ Create a TITLE for your paper
- ☐ Respond to a prepared topic, or “design your own”
- ☐ Avoid summary; offer your own **interpretations** and **syntheses of information**
- ☐ 1” margins, 12 pt Times New Roman font
- ☐ Double-spacing and left-justification required
- ☐ Quotes from the text to support your thesis
- ☐ Works Cited page required (MLA style)
- ☐ Numbered pages
- ☐ Use 2-3 sources from your annotated bibliography
- ☐ You can choose to use gender neutral or gendered pronouns in this assignment. I will not base any portion of your grade on the pronouns or gender choices you make in your writing.

This writing assignment gives you the opportunity to develop an in-depth argument about the novel *Under the Feet of Jesus*. The successful paper will actively engage with a distinct question and elaborate a concise, creative, and well-organized argument that integrates scholarly research.

1. It seems that Alejo and Estrella have different orientations toward education in this novel. How do their disparate views on education create a commentary on social mobility in the United States in the late twentieth century? How does gender play a role in this dynamic?
2. This novel often describes moments when the characters take part in herbal remedies and traditional spirituality. What does the presence of these marginal medical and religious practices signify in the novel? What kind of argument about health and caring does this forward in the novel?
3. The rural agricultural setting and the significance of oil and gasoline to this novel’s plot combine to put environmental justice at the center of this narrative. What argument does this novel make about the environment and human relations to the environment?
4. Create your own topic. If you choose to create your own topic, please meet with me or email me to discuss your thesis.