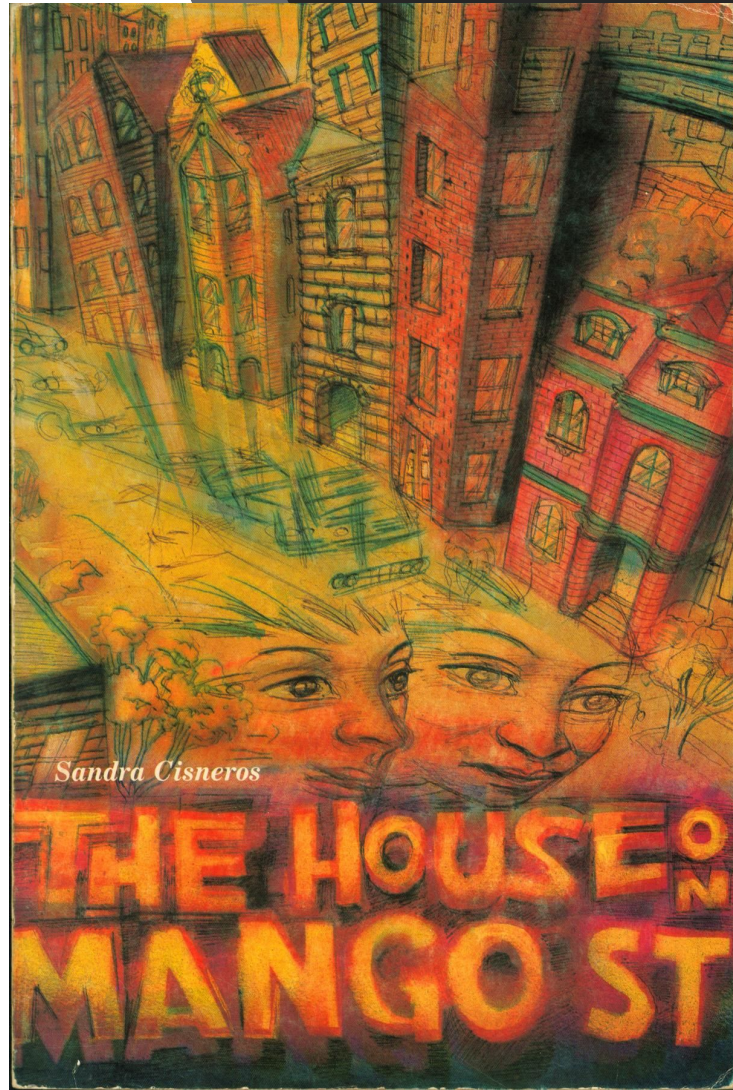




# SPAN322: “North of the Río Grande” US Latino/Chicano Literature

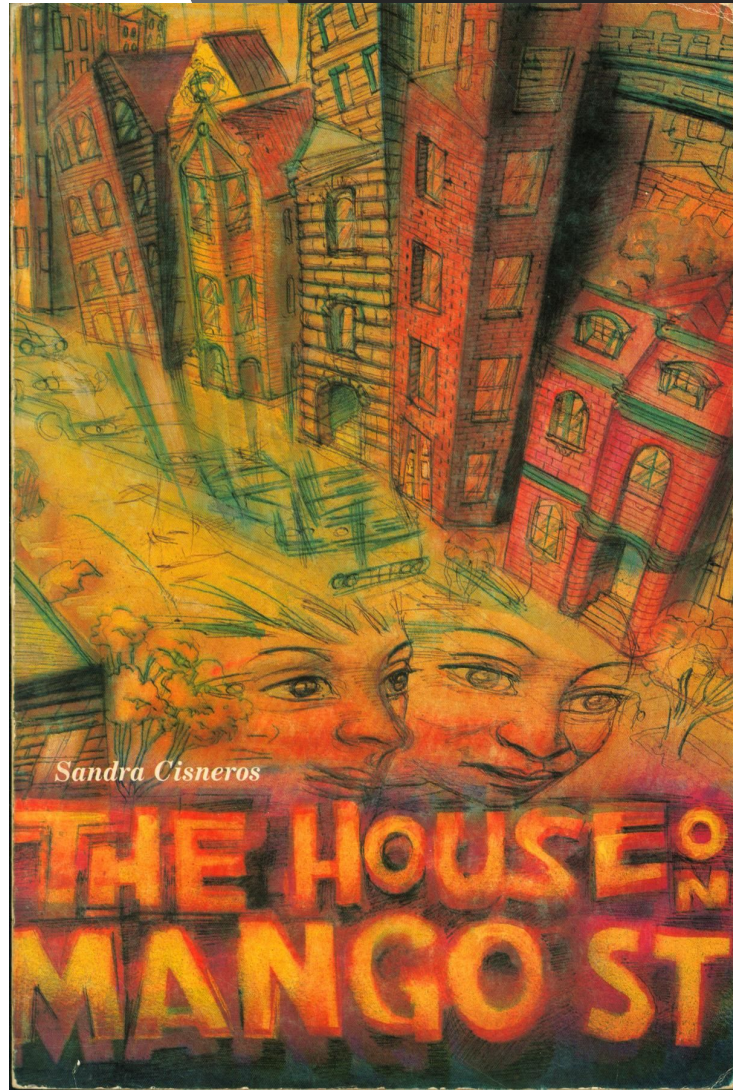
*The House on Mango Street II*  
March 26, 2020

# THE HOUSE ON MANGO STREET



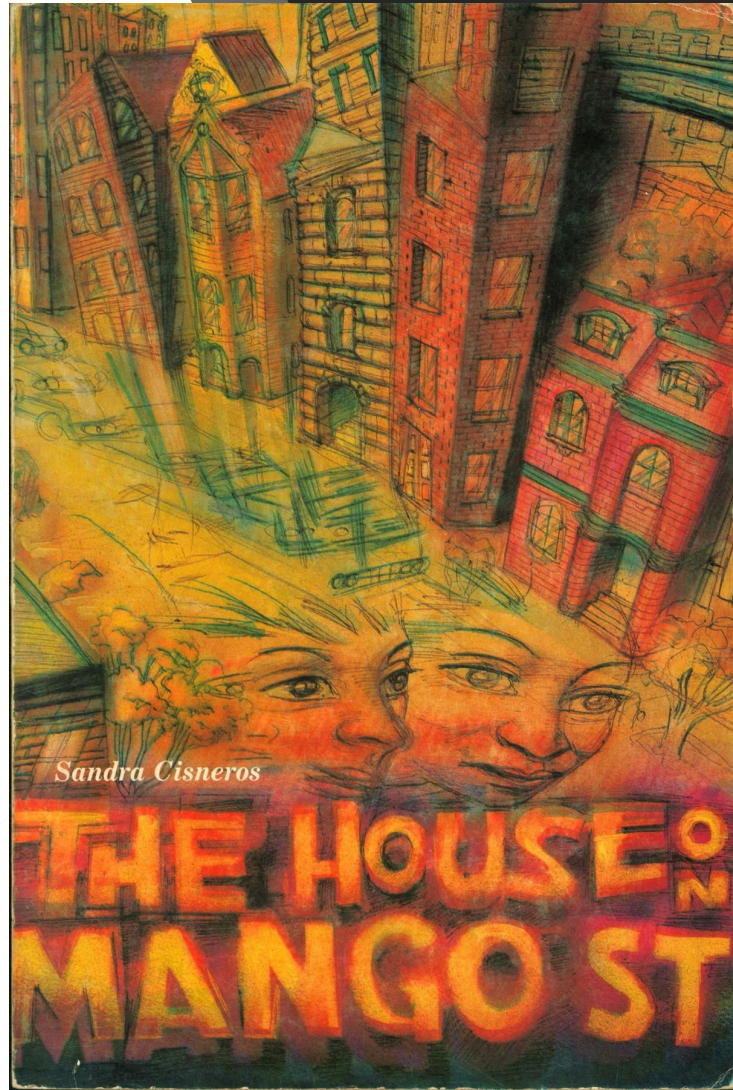
# *The House on Mango Street*

- By Sandra Cisneros (1954-),
- A(nother) autobiographical coming-of-age novel, but from a girl's perspective and set in Chicago; published 1983
- Structured as a loosely-connected series of vignettes
- “A classic story of childhood and self-discovery”



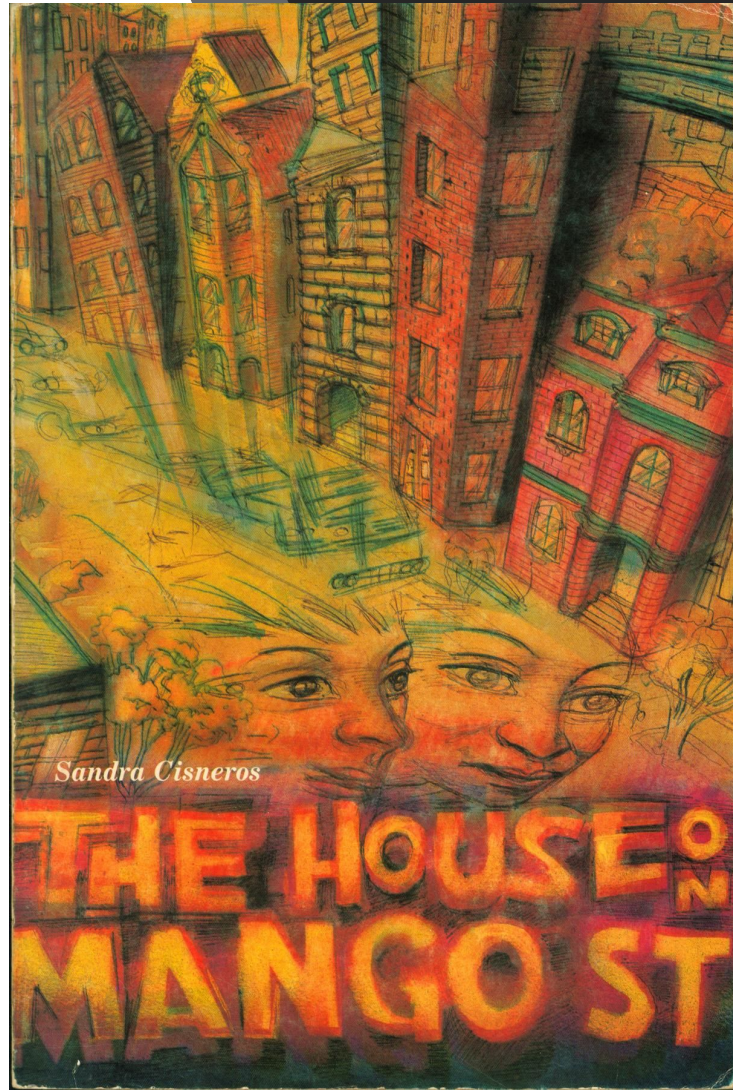
# *The House on Mango Street*

- How does the book's style (or form) affect our understanding of it?
- What is the book's *tone*? Is it at odds with its content?
- What is the book's temporality? How does it structure or approach time?
- What is its spatiality? How does it present a sense of space?



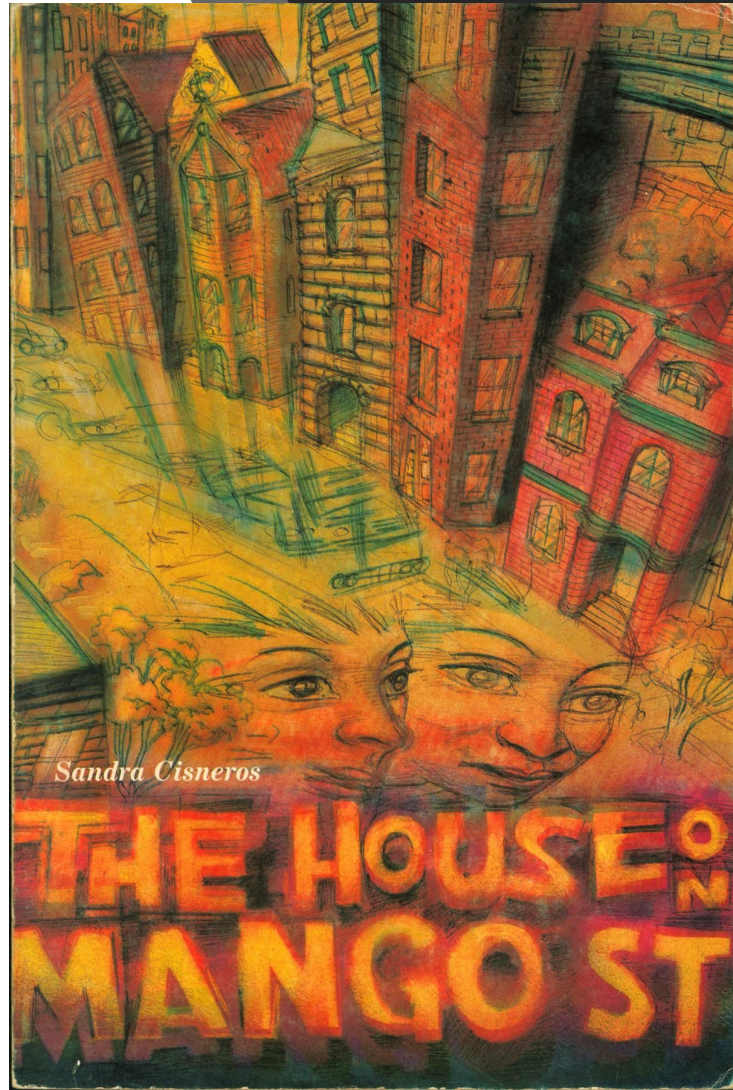
# *The House on Mango Street*

- Why are there so many characters? What is Esperanza's relationship to them?
- What does the book have to say about identity? And belonging?
- What does it say about the writer's responsibility?
- What is the role of affect in the book?
- What, specifically, does it say about shame (and pride)?



# *The House on Mango Street*

- Why are there so many characters? What is Esperanza's relationship to them?
- Is this a book merely about individual "escape," or about social change?
- Does Esperanza succeed on the "backs" of the other female characters?
- What is the role of writing in her escape, and in her return?
- What does the book say about the writer's responsibility?

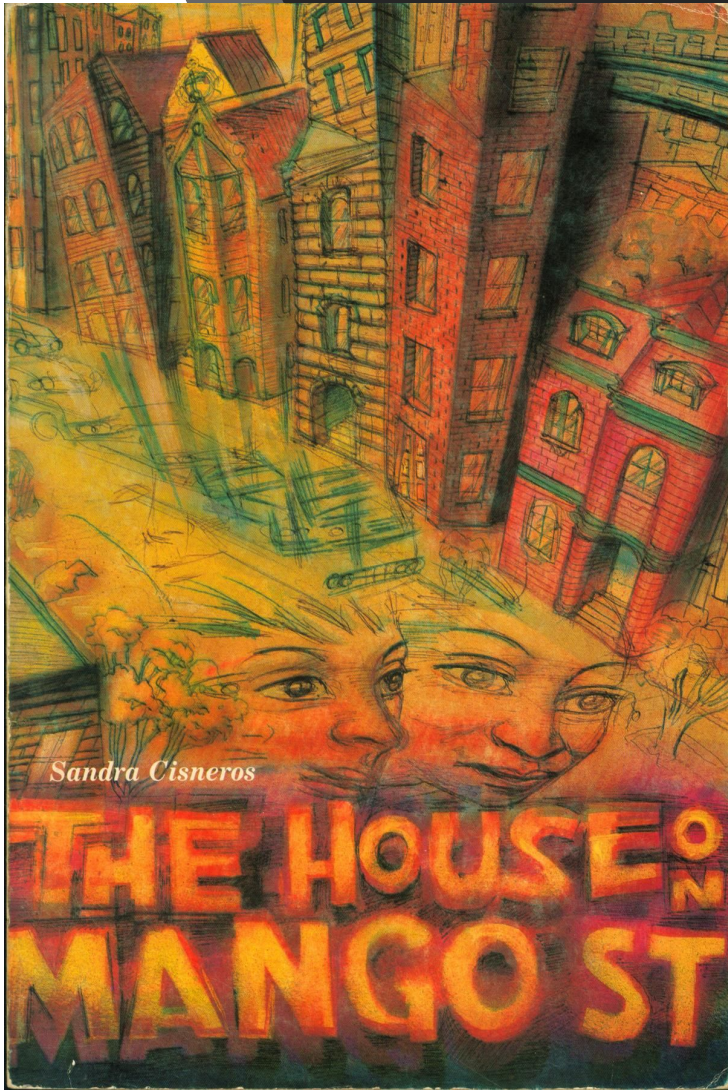



# *The House on Mango Street*

- What is the role of affect in the book?
- What, specifically, does it say about shame (and pride)?
- Both affects concern a relationship to the other.
- Perhaps they are both about (mis)recognition?
- Are they also both about a relationship to a social norm?

# *The House on Mango Street*

- What are the “kinks” in this book?



- 
- A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide consists of several parallel diagonal stripes in shades of gray and white, running from the top-left towards the bottom-right.
- What might this book (or the others we are reading) have to say to our current condition?
  - We see the reassertion of borders and the prohibition of mobility, on both global and local scales.
  - Fear and anxiety have become dominant affects, almost overwhelmingly.
  - There is a fear of contamination, of infection, from both people and objects.
  - We are redefining and rethinking the nature and limits of “community.”

**NEXT STEPS**

# For Tuesday

- Read Part I of *Lost Children Archive* (to page 186)
- Write a blog post (c. 400 words) about your reading, and publish it Monday evening.
- We will nominate our Wikipedia articles by Tuesday at midnight.
- Wash your hands and stay safe.