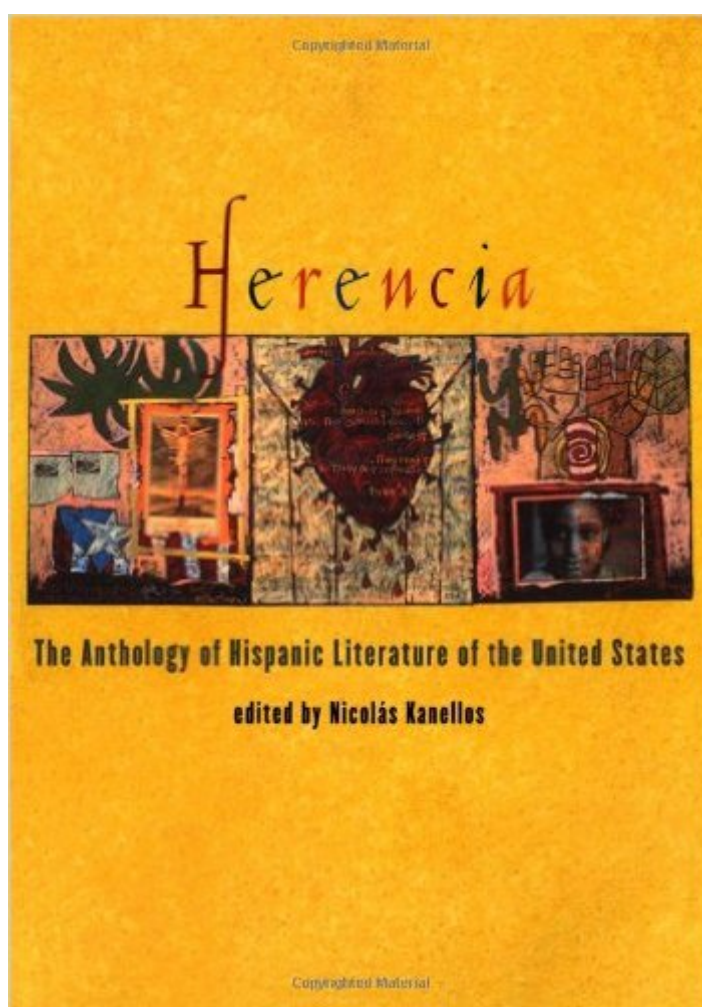


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# Herencia: The Anthology Of Hispanic Literature Of The United States (Recovering The U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage (Oxford University Press).)



## Synopsis

Herencia (meaning "inheritance" or "heritage") is the first anthology to bring together literature from the entire history of Hispanic writing in the United States, from the age of exploration to the present. The product of a ten-year project involving hundreds of scholars nationwide, Herencia is the most comprehensive literary collection available, spanning over three centuries and including writers from all the major Hispanic ethnic communities, and writing from diverse genres. Here is the voice of the conqueror and the conquered, the revolutionary and the reactionary, the native and the uprooted or landless. Of course, readers will find pieces by such leading writers as Piri Thomas, Luis Valdez, Isabel Allende, Oscar Hijuelos, and Reinaldo Arenas. But what really distinguishes this anthology is its historical depth and its rich, complex portrait of Hispanic literature in the United States. Beginning with Cabeza de Vaca's account of his explorations in the New World, the anthology includes a passage from La Florida, a narrative historical poem of 22,000 verses, written by Franciscan friar Alonso de Escobedo; an attack on Mexican stereotypes in the nascent movie industry, written by Nicasio Idar, editor of Laredo's La Cronica; and an essay about Coney Island written by revolutionary Jose Marti. Embracing Chicano, Nuyorican, Cuban American, and Latino writings, the voices of immigrants and the voices of exiles, Herencia makes a vital contribution to our understanding not only of Hispanic writing in the United States, but also of the great contribution Hispanics have made to the United States.

## Book Information

Series: Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage (Oxford University Press).

Hardcover: 656 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press (November 1, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0195138244

ISBN-13: 978-0195138245

Product Dimensions: 9.6 x 1.9 x 6.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,061,781 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #108 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > United States > Hispanic American](#) #140 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Literature > World Literature > Latin American](#) #307 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > Caribbean & Latin American](#)

## Customer Reviews

A vast compilation of the struggles, strivings, and dreams of a people. The selections show a sharp eye for scholarship and passion is at work, one with a keen ear for the music of the language. Kudos to Dworkin y Mendez and the other editors for their labor of love and language.

The book arrived promptly! I was afraid that it wouldn't make it to me in time for my class but it was here just in time! The quality was excellent! Would recommend!

I bought this book for a college course. It was exactly what I need for the class, and also it's not a bad read.

Very good conditions and the price was great

Interesting book.

Herencia : The Anthology of Hispanic Literature of the United States by Nicolas Kanellos (Editor), is a book that's been creating a lot of buzz here in San Antonio (where I live), a town that is one of the centers of "Hispanic" literature. The buzz has been overwhelmingly negative, the primary thrust of the discussions being that this book is a "political" book and a "sellout". The book does have some serious problems. First of all, this is not an anthology of "Hispanic" authors per se--calling it an anthology of "Latino" authors would have been more accurate. You'd think the guru's at an institution as prestigious and knowledgeable as the Oxford University Press would understand that entities other than the Spanish colonized the southern Americas. If this was intended to be a collection of "Hispanic" literature, several included authors should have been excluded. As it is, excluding authors didn't seem to be an issue. A list of major "Hispanic" authors whose work does not appear-or even get passing mention-here would fill a much larger collection than this. Such a list would include major literary award recipients such as Kathleen Acala, Ana Castillo and Sandra Cisneros, as well as other, extremely well known and thought of artists as Julia Alvarez, Jose Antonio Burciaga, Alam Luz Villanueva, Denise Chavez, Gary Soto, Angela de Hoyos, John Phillip Santos, Juan Philippe Herrera, Arturo Islas and Cecile Pineda, to literally just name a few. The word around here is that this is a "political" book in the politics or publishing sense. Mr. Kanellos is apparently know quite well in the Latino writing community as a man who helps those he like and attacks those he does not-apparently quite a list based on the omissions from this text. That sounds

like pettiness at first blush-but when one looks at the way this book is constructed, one has to wonder. Even with all that, the book is an impressive collection of works that cover a wide range of Latino heritage (the translation of the title) and writing styles. In the end, this stands not as "the" anthology of the (rather arrogant) title, but "an" anthology of "Latino" writers that is seriously flawed, but nevertheless stands as an impressive collection all the same.

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