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Office Hours: MW 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., T 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and by appointment

**CS 544: Latino/a Literature and Visual Culture #05631-1**

ENG 588 #21427-1

MW 11:30 a.m.-1:18 p.m., Room 56 UH

**Description**

In this course students will consider the interplay between the visual and the linguistic in Latino/a literary and cinematic texts. In thinking about how contemporary Latino/a novels and short fiction exist in relation to other traditional folktales, murals and film we will consider the "newness" and "Latino/a-ness" of Latino/a literature; its participation in media cultures and mediation of other realities; and its emergence amidst the social, cultural, artistic and political shifts in the latter half of twentieth century. We will devote considerable attention to puzzling out the many meanings of these new versions of traditional and historic figures. For example, what sorts of identities do these texts embrace, reject, spoof? What kind of cultural commentary do they offer? We also want to think about the techniques, histories and arts involved in the process of re-interpretation. Your experience will be enhanced by your willingness to a) engage in discussion b) become more familiar with bilingualism c) supplement course lectures and readings with your own research.

**Requirements**

- 20%** Regular attendance, participation in class discussion and weekly homework. Absences and non-participation will lower your grade in this category. Please see instructor for excused absences due to illness, death, emergency or participation in a University-sanctioned activity. Unexcused absences in excess of three classes will lower your grade.
- 30%** Collaborative Projects/Panel Presentations. Groups will collaborate on a panel presentation analyzing a specific film in light of course themes, questions, discussions. Six to eight paged typed paper due on day of presentation from each group member.
- 30%** Critical Analysis Essay 6-8 pages in length.
- 20%** Final Exam.

The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, which every student should consult in preparing papers for this class defines plagiarism as follows:  
*"plagiarism* refers to a form of cheating that has been defined as 'the false

assumption of authorship: the wrongful act of taking the product of another person's mind, and presenting it as one's own' (Alexander Lindey, *Plagiarism and Originality* [New York: Harper, 1952] 2). Plagiarism involves two kinds of wrongs. Using another person's ideas, information, or expressions without acknowledging that person's work constitutes intellectual theft. Passing off another person's ideas, information, or expressions as your own to get a better grade or gain some other advantage constitutes fraud" (66). Notice how careful the MLA Handbook is to acknowledge the source for its definition of plagiarism. Please be especially careful to cite all sources, including web sources, and consult the MLA Handbook for the proper format for documentation. Any suspected plagiarism, in accordance with university rules, will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.

All papers should be typed in standard 12 pt. font, double-spaced and stapled with one-inch margins.

The Office for Disability Services, located in 150 Pomerene Hall, offers services for students with documented disabilities. Contact the ODS at 2-3307.

**Collaborative Projects/Panel Presentations:** Early in the term students will sign up to participate in creating a panel presentation on one of the latter four films listed on the syllabus. You will need to view the film (individually or as a group) and make an appointment with instructor (as a group) to discuss ideas for panel presentations at least two weeks before your presentation, and, hopefully, earlier. Secondary research materials that you will want to consult in preparing your presentations may include film reviews, scholarship on Latino/a film (see instructor for recommendations) and sources relevant to your paper topic. On the latter: for example, if you are writing about urban space in a film you will want to look up a few articles or books that discuss the representation of space. Each student will select an individual topic, do individual research and write an individual paper, however, the individual papers will respond to a specific theme or title that the group devises so the first step in the process is for the group to discuss the film and a topic or theme or panel title that everyone is interested in researching.

**Books (at SBX)**

*Revolt of the Cockroach People* by Oscar Zeta Acosta

*Silent Dancing* by Judith Ortiz Cofer

*Infinite Divisions* edited by Tey Diana Rebolledo and Eliana Rivero

*Signs from the Heart: California Chicano Murals*, Ed. Eva Sperling Cockcroft  
and Holly Barnet-Sánchez

*The Buddha Book* by Abraham Rodriguez

*Loving Che* by Ana Menendez

**Films** (on reserve at Sullivant Library)

*West Side Story*

*Frida*

*Quinceañera*

*Real Women Have Curves*

*Nuyorican Dream*

**Calendar**

- Sep 19 Introduction
- Sep 24 *Infinite Divisions* edited by Tey Diana Rebolledo and Eliana Rivero  
Sep 26 *Infinite Divisions* edited by Tey Diana Rebolledo and Eliana Rivero
- Oct 1 *Silent Dancing* by Judith Ortiz Cofer  
Oct 3 *Silent Dancing* by Judith Ortiz Cofer
- Oct 8 *Revolt of the Cockroach People* by Oscar Zeta Acosta  
Oct 10 *Revolt of the Cockroach People* by Oscar Zeta Acosta
- Oct 15 *West Side Story* (see film on reserve before class)  
Oct 17 Excerpts from *Love and Rockets* (handout)  
**Paper #1 Due**
- Oct 22 *Signs from the Heart: California Chicano Murals*, Ed. Eva Sperling  
Cockcroft and Holly Barnet-Sánchez  
Oct 24 *Signs from the Heart: California Chicano Murals*, Ed. Eva Sperling  
Cockcroft and Holly Barnet-Sánchez
- Oct 29 *Loving Che* by Ana Menendez  
Oct 31 *Loving Che* by Ana Menendez
- Nov 5 *The Buddha Book* by Abraham Rodriguez  
Nov 7 *The Buddha Book* by Abraham Rodriguez
- Nov 12 Veteran's Day – No Class  
Nov 14 Film Panel: *Nuyorican Dream*
- Nov 19 Film Panel: *Frida*  
Nov 21 Film Panel: *Real Women Have Curves*
- Nov 26 Film Panel: *Quinceañera*  
Nov 28 Conclusion

Dec 3-6      Final Exams

**Notes:**