

Introduction to Latino/a Studies
Professor Luz Calvo
Spring 2003

Welcome! *Bienvenidos!*

Class: Tuesday/Thursday 1:30-3:18
Location: Ohio Union 436 (Multicultural Center)

Professor Calvo's office: 330 Dulles Hall
Office Hours: Wednesday 3-5 or by appointment
Email: calvo.3@osu.edu

This course presents a scholarly examination of the production of Latino/a identities in the US through an examination of a variety of texts, including sporting events, literature, film, music, and comic strips. We will consider Latino/a popular cultural in the context of global and local processes. Students will learn to identify transnational identities, discuss the politics of representation, and analyze cultural texts. In this course, we will discuss the political significance of Latino/a cultural production, considering cultural texts as sites where mainstream stereotypes are contested and counter-identities are constructed. In this course, Latino/a identities are understood as multiple and heterogeneous: in other words, there are many ways of being Latino/a and many Latino/a identities. Moreover, the very meaning of the term "Latino/a" is a site of political and cultural struggle. Finally, because struggles over popular culture occur in the public sphere they are linked to struggles for cultural and political citizenship in both local and global arenas.

Texts (available at SBX):

1. Michelle Habell-Pallán and Mary Romero. *Latino/a Popular Culture*. New York: NYU Press, 2002
2. Francisco H. Vázquez and Rodolfo D. Torres. *Latino/a Thought: Culture, Politics, Society*. New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2003.
3. *Los Bros Hernandez, Gilbert Hernandez, Jaime Hernandez. Love and Rockets, Book 9: Flies on the Ceiling Fantagraphics Books, 1991*
4. Hector Tobar, *The Tattooed Soldier*
5. Additional articles are available at the reserve desk, Main Library. These are required reading.

Recommended: Alicia Gaspar de Alba, *Velvet Barrios: Chicano/a Sexualities*

Films (to be screened in class):

1. *Palante, Siempre Palante The Young Lords*, 1996 director Iris Morales (50 minutes)
2. *Brincando el Charco*, 1994 director Frances Negron-Muntaner (55 minutes)
3. *New World Border*, 2001 director Casey Peek (28 minutes)
4. *Mi Vida Loca*, 1995 director Allison Anders (92 minutes)
5. *Corpus: A Home Movie for Selena*, 1998 director Lourdes Portillo (49 minutes)
6. *Pretty Vacant: A New Chicano Film*, 1996 director Jim Mendiola (34 minutes)

Requirements:

1. Midterm (20%) and Final (30%). Exams will cover reading assignments, films, speakers, and PowerPoint presentations. Both exams are "closed book" and "open note." In other words, you may consult notes but you may not look in books. This kind of exam is meant to encourage you to take good, careful notes. You SHOULD take notes on the reading, on PowerPoint presentations and other lectures, on the films, and on the speakers. You will only be allowed to look at notes that are in your own writing.

2. Final Project (25%): Students will work alone or in teams to produce an analysis of a Latino/a cultural text or to create a new cultural text relating to Latino/a identities in the US. Creativity is encouraged: poetry, video, fashion shows, artistic projects, comic strips, digital creations, music. Time for presentation will be extremely limited so students should develop projects that can be shared quickly, preferably in a "museum" or gallery setting or else work together. Students will submit a one-page explanation of their project.

3. Four (4) Response Papers (15%): 1-2 pages typed, double-spaced, 10-12 point font, as assigned. **NO LATE PAPERS. NO MAKE-UPS.**

4. Attendance and Participation (10%). This class involves participation. More than two unexcused absences will negatively affect your grade.

Standard Grading Scale: 94-100=A, 90-93=A-, 87-89=B+, 83-86=B, 80-82=B-, 77-79=C+, 73-76=C, 70-72=C-, 67-69=D+, 63-66=D, Below 62=E

Disability Statement:

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact the Office for Disability Services at 614-292-3307 in room 150 Pomerene hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

The Rules of the Game:

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please turn in only your own work. Ask the professor about questions you may have about citing sources. Information gathered on the web must be cited. Caution: I own software that allows me to type in one sentence to see if such word appears in print, either on the web or in other online sources. Plagiarism is grounds for failing the class and/or charges of academic misconduct. Cheating on exams will not be tolerated. Don't try it

SCHEDULE

Knowledge/Power and Culture/Difference

Tuesday, April 1 Introduction to the Class
Simulation Game: Star Power

Thursday, April 3 **NO CLASS**

READ: 1. <http://www.cohums.ohio-state.edu/comp/latinostudies/about.htm>
2. <http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hispanic/p20-535/p20-535.pdf>

Tuesday, April 8

1. *Latino/a Thought*, 1-22, 75-87
 2. *Latino/a Popular Culture* 1-21
- RESPONSE PAPER #1 DUE IN CLASS

Colonization, Nation, Sexuality: Puerto Rico

Key Concepts: Self-Determination, Global Economy, Queer diaspora, Nuyorican,

Thursday, April 10

Latino/a Popular Culture 38-60

Tuesday, April 15

Latino/a Thought, 149-165
Film: *Palante, Siempre Palante!*
PowerPoint: Self-Determination, National Liberation, Globalization

Thursday, April 17

Latino/a Thought 175-184
Film: *Brincando El Charco*
Powerpoint: Queer Diaspora

Music Cultures

Key Concepts: Global/local, nomad citizenship, diaspora

Tuesday, April 22

Latino/a Popular Culture 102-116
Response Paper #2 Due in Class
Speaker: Josh Kun

Thursday, April 24

Latino/a Popular Culture 85-101
PowerPoint: nomad citizenship

Tuesday, April 29

Latino/a Popular Culture 102-116
Film: *Corpus, A Home Movie; Selena Remembered; J-Lo in Puerto Rico*
PowerPoint: Identification and Latina Identity

Thursday, May 1

Midterm Exam: 1 hour

Film: *Pretty Vacant*

Immigration Anxieties: Mexicans in the US

Key Concepts: Us/them binary, borderlands, mestizo/a subjectivities, racism, nativism

Tuesday, May 6

1. Davis, Mike, "The Social Origins of the Referendum. Proposition 187. The Immigration Backlash" ON RESERVE

2. *Latino Popular Culture* 208-224

Film: *New World Border*

PowerPoint: Anxiety, ideologies of racial purity, *mestizaje*, transnational, Proposition 187

Thursday, May 8

Inda, Jonathan Xavier. 2000. "Foreign Bodies: Migrants, Parasites, and the Pathological Nation" ON RESERVE OR DOWNLOAD FROM:

http://www.chicst.ucsb.edu/faculty/Personal_Pages/Jonathan_Inda/foreignBodies.shtml

Speaker: Jonathan Inda "Delinquent Subjects: Illegality, Prudentialism and the Government of Immigration"

Gendered Identities in Latino/a Contexts

Key concepts: Intersectional analysis, masculinities, gender norms, Latina feminism

Tuesday, May 13

Latino/a Popular Culture 252-268

Response Paper #3 due in class.

Speaker: Gregory Rodriguez "Real Men- Real Women: Boxing and the Articulation of United States Mexican Identity"

Thursday, May 15

The Tattooed Soldier 1-50

FILM: MI VIDA LOCA

Response Paper #4 due in class.

Tuesday, May 20

1. *Love and Rockets*

2. *Latino/a Popular Culture* 190-207

3. *The Tattooed Soldier* 51-75

PowerPoint: Citizenship, Girl Gangs, The Politics of Punk,

Pan-Latino/a Identities and Politics

Key Concepts: Racialization, coalition, ethnic identity, multiple identities

Thursday, May 22

Latino/a Popular Culture 174-189

The Tattooed Soldier 75-125

CD: *El Vez*

Tuesday, May 27

1. *Latino/a Popular Culture* 25-37

2. *Latino/a Thought* 367-384

3. *The Tattooed Soldier* 126-150

Thursday, May 29

1. *Latino/a Thought* 58-74

2. *The Tattooed Soldier* 150-200

PowerPoint: Pan-Latino identities: The Politics of Coalition

Tuesday, June 3

The Tattooed Soldier 200-end

Speaker: Ana Patricia Rodriguez "The Jaguar Returns: Immigration, Impunity and the Specter of Violence in U.S. Central American Fiction"

Thursday, June 5

FINAL PROJECTS

Thursday, June 12 1:30 PM

FINAL EXAMINATION