

CL121

Chc/Lat 121

Chicano/Latino Studies Program, UC Irvine

Professor: Deborah Vargas

Latin@ Pop:  
The Politics of Latina/o Popular Culture

**Course Syllabus**

**Course Description:**

This course will equip students with the core theoretical frameworks in Latina/o popular culture studies. With those broader frameworks in mind the course will focus on the politics of language and space/place in order to explore and critically analyze sites of Latina/o popular culture including: music, film, performance, sports, media and varied subcultures.

**Required Texts:**

Gaspar de Alba, Alicia. 2003. *Velvet Barrios: Popular Culture and Chicana/o Sexualities*. Palgrave Press.

Habell-Pallán, Michelle and Mary Romero. 2002. *Latina/o Popular Culture*. NYU Press.

Aldama, Arturo and Naomi Quiñonez. 2002. *Decolonial Voices: Chicana and Chicano Studies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Indiana University Press.

Charles A. Perrone and Christopher Dunn. 2001. *Brazilian Popular Music and Globalization*. Routledge Press.

*COURSE READER* available at UCI Bookstore.

**COURSE EVALUATION/GRADING CRITERIA**

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|--|-----|
| ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION                                     | 10% |
| ABSTRACT<br>One Page Abstract with 3-5 scholarly references. | 20% |
| FIELDNOTES   | 30% |

4-6 Pages of Critical Field Notes (this may include personal interviews or participant observation; textual analysis of music or media) of student's chose site for analysis.

**FINAL PAPER/PROJECT**

40%

7-10 Page final paper bringing together Field Notes with critical analysis utilizing course and outside readings pertaining to popular culture site of focus.

**COURSE TOPICS AND READINGS:**

**WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION**

**TU** Introduction to structure of course and syllabi.

**Screen:** El Vez

**TH** Selections from *Understanding Popular Culture* by John Fiske.

Selections from anthology *Black Popular Culture* edited by Gina Dent and Michelle Wallace.

Habell-Pallán, Michelle. "¿Quien Es El Vez/Who Is El Vez?"

**WEEK 2: SPACE/PLACE**

**TU** Knauer, Lisa Maya. "Eating in Cuban"

Ruiz, Delberto. "Cut Tongues from the Heart: Colonialism, and the Politics of Space."

**TH** Saldivar, José David. "On the Bad Edge of *La Frontera*."

Gaspar de Alba, Alicia. "Rights of Passage: From Cultural Schizophrenia to Border Consciousness in Cheech Marin's *Born in East L.A.*"

**WEEK 3: LANGUAGE**

**TU** Davila, Arlene. "Talking Back: Spanish Media and U.S. Latinidad."

Aparicio, Frances. "On Sub-Versive Signifiers" Tropicalizing Language in the United States."

**TH** Flores, Juan. "Living/Borders/Buscando América: Languages of Latino Self-Formation."

Selections *English is Broken Here: Notes on Cultural Fusion* in the Americas by Coco Fusco

## ABSTRACT OF PROJECT PAPER DUE IN CLASS

### WEEK 4:      **FILM**

**TU**                Selections from *Bronze Screen: Chicana and Chicano Film Culture* by Rosa Linda Fregoso

Ramirez-Berg, Charles. "A Crash Course on Hollywood's Latino Imagery"

**TH**                Selections from *Shot in America: Television, the State, and the Rise of Chicano Cinema* by Chon Noriega

### WEEK 5:      **PERFORMANCE**

**TU**                Habel-Pallán, Michelle. "Don't Call Us Hispanic": Popular Latino Theatre in Vancouver."

Gutierrez, Laura. "Deconstructing the Mythical Homeland: Mexico in Contemporary Chicana Performance."

**TH**                Arrizon, Alicia. "Chicana Identity and Performance Art: Beyond Chicanismo."

Arrizon, Alicia. "Self-Representation: Race, Ethnicity and Queer Identity."

### WEEK 6:      **POPULAR MUSIC**

**TU**                Perrone and Dunn. *Brazilian Popular Music and Globalization*.

**TH**                Perrone and Dunn. *Brazilian Popular Music and Globalization*.

### WEEK 7:      **MEDIA/CULTURE**

**TU**                Davila, Arlene. "The Latin Side of Madison Avenue: Marketing and the Language that Makes us "Hispanics."

**Screen:** Excerpts from Don Francisco's *Sabado Gigante* on Univision.

**TH**                Sandoval, Denise. "Cruising Through Low Rider Culture: Chicana/o Identity in the Marketing of *Low Rider Magazine*."

## FIELDNOTES OF CULTURAL SITE DUE

### WEEK 8:      **SPORTS**

**TU** Burgos, Adrian Jr. "The Latins from Manhattan" : Confronting Race and Building Community in Jim Crow Baseball, 1906-1950. "

Burgos, Adrian Jr. "Learning America's Other Game: Baseball, Race, and the Study of Latinos."

**TH** Shinn, Christopher. "Fútbol Nation: U.S. Latinos and the Goal of a Homeland."

Rodriguez, Gregory. "Boxing and Masculinity: The History and (Her)story of Oscar de la Hoya."

**WEEK 9: POPULAR CULTURE AND SEXUALITIES**

**TU** Aponte-Parés, Luis. "Outside/In: Crossing Queer and Latino Boundaries"

Esquibel, Catriona. "Velvet Malinche: Fantasies of "the" Aztec Princess in the Chicana/o Sexual Imagination."

**TH** Marrero, M. Teres. "Out of the Fringe: Desire and Homosexuality in the 1990s Latino Theater."

Segovia, Miguel. "Only Cauldrons Know the Secretes of Their Soups: Queer Romance and *Like Water for Chocolate*."

**WEEK 10: SUBCULTURES/STYLE/COUNTERCULTURE**

**TU** Readings from Dick Hebdige's *Subculture: The Meaning of Style*. Routledge Press. 1991.

Espinoza, Dionne. "Tanto Tiempo Disfrutamos...": Revisiting the Gender and Sexual Politics of Chicana/o Youth Culture in East Los Angeles in the 1960s."

**TH** *Final Course Evaluations.*  
*Study Guide for Writing Up Final Paper Project.*

**FINAL PAPER PROJECT DUE**  
(ACCORDING TO FINAL EXAM DATE LISTED BY REGISTRAR)