

Proposed Syllabus

Department of Chicano/Latino Studies

Engaging Latino Issues in Media

Chc/Lat 136W

Professor Deborah R. Vargas

SST 387

vargasd@uci.edu

Course Description:

This writing course is designed to address contemporary issues related to *Latinidad* and Latinos according to a variety of media forms including commercial and independent news sources, talk shows, and internet sites. Issues range from immigration to electoral politics. Issues that will be addressed range from immigration to electoral politics, among others. Each week will be devoted to one of these issues (with the exception of immigration which will be covered over two class periods due to the amount of attention devoted to this issue in media). Media forms focused on in class include: commercial as well as public radio, newspaper (specifically *The Los Angeles Times*), cable versus main broadcasting news channels. The goal of the course is to critically assess how issues are being covered by a range of "news" sources and to learn to critically engage these issues through a variety of forms of writing including, scholarly research, personal journaling, letters to the editor, and others the instructor will introduce in class. In addition, students will also learn to improve their writing by conducting a peer review of a draft research paper.

Required Texts:

Student Subscription - *Los Angeles Times*

A Companion to Latina/o Studies. 2007. Juan Flores and Renato Rosaldo

The Nuts of Bolts of College Writing. 2003. Michael Harvey

Personal Journal. *The design is up to you but keep in mind purchasing something that is comfortable for you to carry around with you as well as something you can submit that doesn't include other course work (e.g. binder, science notebook, yellow writing pad). Pages must be 8.5 X 11 inches.*

Course Readings and Assignments

Week 1: Latinidad

"Latinas/os and the Mestizo Racial Heritage of Mexican Americans" Martha Menchaca

" 'Fantasy Heritage': Tracking Latina Bloodlines" Rosa Linda Fregoso

"Latinas/os and the (Re)racializing of US Society and Politics" Suzanne Oboler

"Punctuation" (Harvey)

Week 2: Cultural Citizenship

"The Name Game: Locating Latinas/os, Latins, and Latin Americans in the US Popular Music Landscape" Deborah Pacini Hernández

"José Limón, the Devil and the Dance" José E. Limón

"Paragraphs" (Harvey)

Week 3: Racism

"Coloring Class: Racial Constructions in Twentieth-Century Chicana/o Historiography" Vicki L. Ruiz

"Afro-Latinas/os and the Racial Wall" Silvio Torres-Saillant

Week 4: Immigration

"Refugees or Economic Immigrants? Immigration from Latin America and the Politics of US Refugee Policy" María Cristina García

"From the Borderlands to the Transnational? Critiquing Empire in the Twenty-First Century" María Josefina Saldaña-Portillo

"Using Sources" (Harvey)

Week 5: Immigration

“ ‘Y Que Pasara Con Jovenes Como Miguel Fernández?’: Education, Immigration, and the Future of Latinas/os in the United States” Pedro A. Noguera

“Inter-American Ethnography: Tracking Salvadoran Transnationality at the Borders of Latina/o and Latin American Studies” Elana Zilberg

DUE: Annotated Bibliography

Week 6: Gender and Sexuality

“Surviving AIDS in an Uneven World: Latina/o Studies for a Brown Epidemic” Carlos Ulises Decena

“The Powers of Women's Words: Oral Tradition and Performance Art” Yolanda Broyles-González

“Flow” (Harvey)

Week 7: Voting/Elections

“The New Latin Nation: Immigration and the Hispanic Population of the United States” Alejandro Portes

“Clarity” (Harvey)

Week 8: Language

“Dime con quién hablas, y te diré quién eres”: Linguistic (In)security and Latina/o Unity” Ana Celia Zentella

“Language and Other Lethal Weapons: Cultural Politics and the Rites of Children as Translators of Culture” Antonio I. Castañeda

DUE: Draft I of Research Paper

Week 9: Religion

“Cuando Dios y Usted Quiere: Latina/o Studies Between Religious Powers and Social Thought” David Carrasco

Week 10: Labor

“The Everyday Civil War: Migrant Labor, Capital, and Latina/o Studies”
Nicholas De Genova

“Beginnings and Endings” (Harvey)

DUE: Peer Review

Grading Guidelines*

*Based on Maximum Grade of 100 pts.

Journal Entries (Weekly 1-2 pages)

Every student will be required to write a minimum of one page of critical reflection on a chosen topic (what you learned about writing this week, notes about a news show or program, review of concept or argument from an assigned reading, etc.)

This space is dedicated to your own voice and process for writing and critically engaging weekly topics, especially those covered in The Los Angeles Times.

Journal will be randomly collected and evaluated 3 times during quarter.

Each evaluation is worth 3 points

9

Critical Response Paper (Weekly 1-2 pages)

Each weekly paper is worth 2 pts X 8 weeks =

16

Every student will be required to write a minimum of one page and maximum two pages as response/critique/mock editorial letter to the week's selected topic.

You must integrate at least one media sources (radio, newspaper article, etc.) and one assigned reading.

Papers are due at beginning of class period.

Annotated Bibliography of 5-8 scholarly sources (3-5 pages) for research paper

20

Handout with guidelines and instructions will be given out in class

Draft I Research Paper (8-10 pgs.)

20

Handout with guidelines and instructions will be given out in class

Peer Review

10

Handout with guidelines and instructions will be given out in class

Final Research Paper (12-15 pgs.)

25

Final paper is due on date/time designated in registrar's schedule of final exams.

Grade Scale:

90-100 = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

60-69 = D

59-Below = F