

**Chc/Lat 140A**

Chicano/Latino Studies Program, UC Irvine

Professor: Deborah Vargas

Latin@ Queer Sexualities

**Course Syllabus**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will take as its focus the cultural, socio-political, and institutional categories/constructions of “nation” “family” and “religion” as they pertain to Chicana/o and Latina/o communities. With consistent attention to the above mentioned categories we will then explore cultural productions, performances, and contested categories related to non-normative sexualities, namely, queer, gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual Latinas/os within a U.S. context.

**ASSIGNMENTS/EVALUATION(GRADING):**

Participation and Attendance:	20%
2 Critical Reading Responses: 25% Each =	50%
Take-Home Final Exam:	30%

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Moraga, Cherrie. 1983. *Loving in the War Years: Lo que no pasó por sus labios*. South End Press.

Anzaldúa, Gloria. 1987. *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*. Aunt Lute Press.

Gutierrez, Ramon. 1992. *When Jesus Came the Cornmothers Went Away: Marriage, Sexuality and Power in New Mexico: 1500-1846*. Stanford University Press.

Perez, Emma. 1996. *Gulf Dreams*. Third Woman Press.

Rodriguez, Juana Maria. 2003. *Queer Latinidad: Identity Practices, Discursive Spaces*. New York University Press.

**COURSE READER** Available from UCI Bookstore

**Recommended Texts:**

Trujillo, Carla. 1991. *Chicana Lesbians: The Girls our Mothers Warned Us About*. Third Woman Press.

Muñoz, Jose. 1999. *Disidentifications: Queers of Color and the Performance of Politics*. University of Minnesota Press.

Quiroga, Jose. 2000. *Tropics of Desire: Interventions From Queer Latino America*. New York University Press.

De la Tierra, Tatiana. 2004. *For the Hard Ones: A Lesbian Phenomonology*. Calaca Press and Chibcha Press.

**COURSE TOPICS AND READINGS:**

**WEEK 1: THEORIZING LATINA/O QUEER SEXUALITIES**

TU Introduction of Course.

**Screen:** *Before Stonewall: The Making of a Gay and Lesbian Community*

TH Selected Readings from Gloria Anzaldúa's *Borderlands* and Cherrie Moraga's *Loving in the War Years*.

Almaguer, Tomas. "Chicano Men: A Cartography of Homosexual Identity and Behavior."

**WEEK 2: NATION**

TU

Moraga, Cherrie. "Queer Aztlan: The Reformation of Chicano Tribe" in *The Last Generation*. 1993. South End Press.

Pérez, Laura Elisa. "El desorden, Nationalism, and Chicana/o Aesthetics" in *Between Woman and Nation*. 1999.

Roque, Horacio. "Claiming Queer Cultural Citizenship: Gay Latino (Im)Migrant Cultures in San Francisco." In *Queer Moves: Sexuality, International Migration, and the Contested Boundaries of US Citizenship*, edited by E. Luibhéid and L. Cantú. Minneapolis University of Minnesota Press.

**Screen:** *Brincando el Charco: Portrait of a Puerto Rican*. 1994. Directed by Frances Negrón-Muntaner.

- TH** Cantu, Lionel. 2002. "De Ambiente: Queer Tourism and the Shifting Boundaries of Mexican Male Sexualities" in *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*.
- Masiello, Francine. "Gender, Dress, and Market: The Commerce of Citizenship in Latin America."

**WEEK 3: RELIGION**

- TU** Gutierrez, Ramon. *When Jesus Came the Cornmothers Went Away*.
- TH** Gutierrez, Ramon. *When Jesus Came the Cornmothers Went Away*.
- Hurtado, Aida. Selections from *Voicing Chicana Feminisms book on Religion* (including: "Believers")

**READING RESPONSE #1 DUE**

**WEEK 4: FAMILY**

- TU** Anzaldua, Gloria. "A Fear of Going Home"
- Trujillo, Carla. "Fear and Loathing in the Chicano Community."
- Cantú, Lionel. 2003. "A Place Called Home: A Queer Political Economy of Mexican Immigrant Men's Family Experiences." In *Perspectives on Las Americas*.
- TH** Rodriguez, Ricky. "Serial Kinship: Representing La Familia in Early Chicano Publications." *Aztlan: A Journal of Chicano Studies*
- Roque, Horacio. "My Community, My History, My Practice" *Oral History Review* Vol.28, No. 2 (Summer/Fall 2002): 87-92.
- "The Defense of Marriage Act"

**WEEK 5: MASCULINITIES AND FEMININITIES**

- TU** **Gay Latino Masculinities**
- Lancaster, Roger. "Guto's Performance: Notes on the Transvestism of Everyday Life"

Archetti, Eduardo. "Multiple Masculinities: The Worlds of Tango and Football in Argentina."

Cantú, Lionel. "Entre Hombres/Between Men: Latino Masculinities." In *Gay Masculinities*.

**Screen:** *Cholo/Joto*. 1993. Directed by Augie Robles

**TH Revisiting Butch/Femme**

De La Tierra, Tatiana. "A Latina Combat Femme"

Gámez, Rocky. "The Gloria Stories"

Objejas, Achy. "Butchiest Dyke Contest"

**Guest Speakers: Participants from both videos screened.**

**Screenings:** *Boi Hair*. 2004. Directed by Alma Lopez

*Femmes of Color Speak*. To be Released 2005. Directed by Alma Lopez

**WEEK 6: LITERARY VOICE**

**TU** Perez, Emma. *Gulf Dreams*

**TH** Esquibel, Catrióna Reuda. "Shameless Histories: Chicana Lesbian Fictions Talking Race/Talking Sex."

Hernandez, Ellie. 2004. "Chronotype of Desire: Emma Perez's Gulf Dreams." In *Chicana Feminisms: A Critical Reader*.

De La Mora, Sergio. "Response: The Lessons of Chicana Lesbian Fictions and Theories." In *Chicana Feminisms: A Critical Reader*.

**READING RESPONSE #2 DUE**

**WEEK 7: ALTERNATIVE PUBLIC SPHERES: CLUBS/PAGEANTS/CAMP**

**TU** Quiroga, Jose. "Tears at the Nightclub" in *Tropics of Desire*.

Yarbro-Bejarano. "Crossing the Border with Chabela Vargas: A Chicana Femme's Tribute."

**TH** Contreras, Daniel. "Utopian Drag and Gender Politics" from *Unrequited Love and Gay Latino Culture* (to be released Jan. 2005).

**Screen:** *¡Viva 16!* 1994. Directed by: Augie Robles and Valentine Aguirre

**WEEK 8: ALTERNATIVE PUBLIC SPHERES: *ART***

- TU** Yarbrow-Bejarano. 1995. "The Lesbina Body in Latina Cultural Production" in *Entiendes?: Queer Readings, Hispanic Writings*. Duke Press.
- Calvo, Luz. "Impassioned Icons: Alma Lopez and Queer Chicana Visual Desire"
- TH** The Art of Alma Lopez Study Website: [www.almalopez.net](http://www.almalopez.net)
- Guest Speaker:** Alma Lopez

**WEEK 9: ALTERNATIVE PUBLIC SPHERES: *'ZINES AND FILM***

- TU** *'Zines*
- Read: *'Zines: Tongues and Jota*
- Guest Speakers:** Editors of *Tongues* and *Jota* *'Zines*.
- TH** *Independent Film*
- Céspedes, Karina. 2003. "Bomberos on stage: Carmelita Tropicana Speaking in Tongues Against History, Madness, Fate, and the State."
- Screening:** *Carmelita Tropicana: Your Knust is Your Waffin*. 1994.  
Director Ela Troyano.
- Guest Speaker:** Aurora Guerrero (independent filmmaker)

**WEEK 10: TRANSNATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- TU** Grewal, Inderpal and Caren Kaplan. 2001. "Global identities: theorizing Transnational Studies of Sexuality" *GLQ: J. of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, vol. 7, issue 4, (2001): 663-679
- Quiroga, Jose. 2000. "Latino Cultures, Imperial Sexualities" in *Tropics of Desire: Interventions from Queer Latino America*.
- TH** Wrap-Up, Final Evaluations, and Final Take-Home Exam Passed Out.

*TAKE-HOME FINAL DUE (TBA ACCORDING TO CAMPUS  
FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE)*