

UC Irvine
Winter 2006

W '06
Chc/lat
140A

Latina/o Queer Sexualities
ChcLat 140A
Womn St 157A

Professor Deborah Vargas
Office: SST 387

Time: T/TH 3:30-4:50P
Office Phone: 824.3857
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Place: SSL 105
Office Hours:
Tues. 5:00P-6:30P
Thurs. 5:00A-6:30P

Course Description:

This course seeks to critically examine constructions of community, family, nation, femininity, masculinity, and citizenship as they pertain to the formulation of identity practices and discursive spaces referred to as "Queer Latinidades." We will take a critical approach at exploring these constructions as sites of power, pleasure, and politics with particular attention to Latina/o queer sexuality. Some of the objectives of the course include: exploring the notion of "queer" and its relationship to Latinas/os (in this course we will focus on Chicanas/os, Puerto Ricans, and Cubans); developing a basic understanding of the dynamics of race, gender, sexuality, class and nation as this pertains to queer Latinas/os; exploring the shifting categories of "gender," "sex," "sexuality," "queer," and "desire" as well as culturally specific terms such as "jota/o," "pata/o," "tortillera," "maricon," etc.

Required Texts:

Queer Latinidad: Identity Practices, Discursive Spaces. Juana Maria Rodriguez. New York University Press (2001) = **QL**
What Night Brings. Carla Trujillo. Willimantic: CT, Curbstone Press (2003).
Course Reader = CR Sold On-Line www.mozenapublishing.com

COURSE TOPICS AND READINGS:

WEEK 1: Setting the Context

TU JAN. 10TH

Course Introduction

TH JAN. 12TH

“Echoing Stonewall and Other Dilemmas” The Organizational Beginnings of a Gay and Lesbian Agenda in Puerto Rico, 1972-1977 (Part I)” (F. Negron-Muntaner/CR)

Screen: Clip from *Before Stonewall* (Directed by: Greta Schiller)

WEEK 2: Queer — Sexuality, Power, Discourse, Ideology

TU JAN. 17TH

“Dude, Where’s My Gender” (J. Halberstam/**Handout**)
“The History of Sexuality” (excerpt by Michel Foucault/**Handout**)
“Preface” (J.M. Rodriguez/**QL**)
“Divas, Atrevidas y Entendidas” (Chap. 1 J.M. Rodriguez/**QL**)

TH JAN. 19TH

“Latino Cultures, Imperial Sexualities” (J. Quiroga/CR)
“That’s My Place!”: Negotiating Racial, Sexual, and Gender Politics in San Francisco’s Gay Latino Alliance, 1975-1983” (H. Ramirez/CR)

WEEK 3: Maricones and Migration/Queering the Borderlands

TU JAN. 24TH

“Queering Migration and Citizenship” (E. Luibhéid/CR)
“Looking Like a Lesbian” (E. Luibhéid/CR)
“To(o) Queer the Writer—Loca, escritora y chicana” (G. Anzaldúa/CR)

Screen: *Boi Hair* (Director/Producer: Alma Lopez)

TH JAN. 26TH

“Well Founded Fear: Political Asylum and the Boundaries of Sexual Identity in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands” (L. Cantú with Luibhéid and Stern/CR)

“The Subject on Trail: Reading *In re Tenorio* as Transnational Narrative” (J.M. Rodriguez/QL)

WEEK 4: Tropics of Desire/Cuba

TU JAN. 31ST

“Homosexuality, Homophobia, and Revolution: Notes toward an Understanding of the Cuban Lesbian and Gay Male Experience, Part I” (L. Arguelles and B.R. Rich/CR)

“Visibility and Silence: Mariel and Cuban American Gay Male Experience and Representation” (S. Peña/CR)

TH FEB. 2ND

“Revolution: Strawberry and Chocolate” (J. Quiroga/CR)

Screen: *Fresas y Chocolate* (Director: Tomás Gutiérrez)

WEEK 5: Patas/os de Borinquen/Puerto Rico

TU FEB. 7TH

“Pa' la escuelita con mucho cuida'o y por la orillita”: A journey through the Contested Terrains of the Nation and Sexual Orientation” (M. Guzmán/CR)

“Activism and Identity in the Ruins of Representation” Chap. 2 (J.M. Rodriguez/QL)

Screen: *Brincando el Charco* (Director: Frances Negrón-Muntaner)

TH FEB. 9TH

“De Un Pájaro Las Dos Alas” (L. La Fountain-Stokes/CR)

DUE: One-Page Description of Final Paper Project Idea

WEEK 6: Gender Queer Femininities and Masculinities I

TU FEB. 14TH

“Entre Hombres/Between Men: Latino Masculinity and Homosexualities” (L. Cantú/CR)

“Chicano Men: A Cartography of Homosexual Identity and Behavior” (T. Almaguer/CR)

TH FEB. 16TH

“It’s Your Gender, Stupid!” (R. Wilchens/CR)

“Introduction to Sustaining Femme Gender” (L. Harris and Crocker/CR)

“What We’re Rollin’ Around in Bed With: Sexual Silences in Feminism: A Conversation toward Ending Them” (A. Hollibaugh and C. Moraga/CR)

Guest Speaker: Stacy Macías (Co-Founder of *Tongues 'Zine*)

WEEK 7: Gender Queer Femininities and Masculinities II

TU FEB. 21ST

“Introduction: Female Masculinity” (J. Halberstam/CR)

“This Butch Body” (K. Walker/CR)

“Queer Sexism: Rethinking Gay Men and Masculinity” (J. Ward/CR)

TH FEB. 23RD

“The Gloria Stories” (R. Gamez/CR)

Screen: *Mind If I Call You Sir* (Producer: Karla Rosales)

Guest Speaker: Karla Rosales (Queer Activist Filmmaker)

Due: Final Project List of References/Resources

WEEK 8: **Growing Up Chicana/Growing Up Queer**

TU FEB. 28TH

What Night Brings pgs. 1-133 (C. Trujillo)

TH MAR. 2ND

What Night Brings pgs. 134-end (C. Trujillo)

WEEK 9: **Dangerous Crossroads of Homonormativity**

MAR. 7TH

“Families We Choose” (K. Weston/CR)

“Equality Inc.” (L. Duggan/CR)

“The Question of Normal” (S. Holland/CR)

MAR 9TH

“De Ambiente: Queer Tourism and the Shifting Boundaries of Mexican Male Sexualities” (L. Cantú/CR)

“Ricky’s Hips: The Queerness of Puerto Rican “White” Culture” (J. Quiroga/CR)

WEEK 10: **Disidentifications**

MAR. 14TH

“Performing Disidentity: Disidentification as a Practice of Freedom” (J. Muñoz/CR)

Screen: *Carmelita Tropicana: Your Kunst is Your Waffen* (Producer/Director: Ela Troyano) and other examples.

MAR. 16TH

- Student Presentations of Final Paper Project
- *Final Course Evaluations*

General "House Rules"

- Be on time to Class
- Turn OFF all cell phones/pagers/computers/blueberries, etc.
- Papers/assignments will NOT be accepted over email.
- Assignments must be typed. Specific guidelines will be handed out in class.
- Email or voicemail is fine for letting me know you will be absent or for asking general questions. I prefer you see me in person for discussion of readings or to talk about your project.
- **ABSOLUTELY NO DROPS/CHANGES TO P/NP WILL BE ALLOWED AFTER TUESDAY JAN. 17TH. NO EXCEPTIONS**

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation in Discussion

20

This is absolutely vital to the success of your experience since critical discussion is considered a key part of the overall learning process in this course.

Attendance will be taken daily:

2 Absences = -5pts

3 Absences = -10 pts

>3 Absences = No Credit

Please be respectful of others and arrive to class on time 😊

Facilitate Discussion of Concepts

10

Each of you will sign up for a day to lead discussion on the assigned readings. Do not merely summarize the readings.

Come to submit a typed handout for your classmates that includes:

- 3 key concepts in the readings
- 3 critical questions for discussion
- You may try to relate questions to other readings in the course or to a current event or issue related to queer sexualities.
- **BRING ENOUGH COPIES TO HAND OUT IN CLASS**
- **IF YOU EMAIL ME THE DOCUMENT NO LATER THAN 12Noon THE DAY OF I WILL MAKE THE COPIES FOR YOU.**

Critical Engagement with Current Event or Popular Cultural Production

10

Submit a 1/2 page (at least) summary/critical analysis/discussion of a current topic; popular culture icon; movie screened.

- Sites may include daily newspapers, popular magazines, websites, movies, television, music/videos.
- Please include a copy of the article, image or what ever it is you are referring to (if possible).
- There are tons of examples: A current event you come across in the newspaper; Latina/o gay icons like Albita, Ana Gabriel, Ricky Martin; The boom in Latino Homo-Hop; Queer youth activism; etc.

Provide background or context? How does it relate to a notion of Latina/o sexualities? Is there anything new you learned? What are the dimensions of power, especially around race, social class, gender, nationalism, citizenship and other issues we're discussing in class?

Final Project Description + List of References

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This assignment has 2 separate Due Dates:

Thursday Feb. 9th: Submit a one page description of the topic you are interested in pursuing for a final paper or collaborative project. I will provide guidelines and some examples.

Thursday Feb. 23rd: Submit 3-5 academic sources (journal articles, books, anthologies, etc.) that you intend to utilize for your final paper/project. More detailed guidelines will be provided.

Final Project

45

Students will have 2 Choices:

Collaborative Paper Project (2-3 students) **OR** Individual Paper

A Handout with further instructions (in addition to some ideas for projects/papers) will be discussed during the first weeks of class.

Basic guidelines:

- Individual Papers should be 8-10 pages
- Collaborative projects/papers should be 12-15 pages
- Be creative. I am open to discussing non-traditional forms of knowledge production so let's chat about it if you have ideas.

DUE DATE: Tuesday March 21st @ 5PM

(NO LATE PAPERS/NO EXCEPTIONS) ☹

Grade Scale (100 Points Max):

90+ = A

88-89 = B+

80-82 = B-

73-77 = C

60-69 = D

83-87 = B

78-79 = C+

70-72 = C-

59-below = F