

UC Irvine Department of Chicano/Latino Studies

CHCLAT 62

Introduction to Chicano/Latino Studies

Winter 2012 • SSPA 1100 • Tu & Th 3:30P - 4:50P

Dr. Deborah R. Vargas

Office Hours: SST 387 TU 10:30-11:30a and by appointment

Teaching Asisstants:

Esther Castillo

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About this Class: This course provides students with an introduction to Chicano/Latino populations within the context of the United States. We will focus on literature and other forms of cultural production including: literary fiction, autobiography, music, documentary, poetry, and art. Readings pertaining to cultural production will be supported by readings and lecture that provide historical, political, sociological, and cultural foundations in order to critically engage issues pertaining to power, inequality, and agency including: gender, citizenship, representation, sexuality, language, exile, migration, race, segregation, class, among others. The course pays particular attention to place and region in order to challenge common tendencies to homogenize Latinos. The course approaches cultural production texts as mechanisms for visibility, voice, historicization, resistance, and representation. As such, the novels, music, poetry, art, and other forms of cultural production you will engage are not intended as complimentary to historical and sociological texts but as equivalent sites of knowledge production.

Objectives of this course:

- ☼ introduction to key writers of Latino novels
- ☼ analyze narrative texts within historical/political/cultural contexts
- ☼ ability to approach questions of history and politics through cultural production
- ☼ disrupt the homogenous assumptions about Latinos

Class Format and Expectations

What I expect from you: You are all students in the University of California, one of the most reputable research institutions of higher education in the nation. Thus, I have high expectations from you when it comes to your accountability to this class. I expect you to arrive to each class on time with all relevant materials, including course texts, notes, and questions.

What to expect from me: I hold a doctorate in sociology and my area of expertise is in Chicano/Latino studies. Thus, you can be assured that a great deal of thought and dedication has gone into the organization of this course. My goal as your professor is to create a dynamic, organized, and productive class time that encourages you to think critically about issues pertaining to Chicanos/Latinos in relationship to the United States.

What to expect from each other: You should hold each other accountable as peer scholars in this class. Show respect for yourself, one another, and for me and your TAs by arriving to class on time, abiding by rules, and approaching this class with the same dedication you do all of your classes.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS (AVAILABLE AT UCI BOOKSTORE):

- *Dreaming in Cuban*. Christina García (Ballantine Books, 1993).
- *House on Mango Street*. Sandra Cisneros (Vintage, 1993)
- *Canicula: Snapshots of a Girlhood en la Frontera*. Norma Cantú (University of New Mexico Press, 1997)
- *Hoyt Street: An Autobiography* (University of New Mexico Press, 2006)
- *The Latin Deli* (University of Georgia Press, 2010)

- COURSE READINGS Posted on EEE

COURSE CALENDAR

WEEK 1: LATINO AMÉRICA

JAN 10 Course Introduction & Logistics

JAN 12 Latino América

WEEK 2: MIDWEST MEXICAN, AMÉRICA


JAN 17 The House on Mango Street (7-50)
 "Al Norte" [Arredondo/EEE]
 "Mexican Chicago" [Arredondo/EEE]

JAN 19 The House on Mango Street (51-102)
 "'Latino' Locations: The Politics of Space in Chicago" [DeGenova & Ramos-Zayas/EEE]

WEEK 3: PUERTO RICAN, AMÉRICA

SECTIONS MEET

JAN 24 The Latin Deli (3-49)
 "Background of the Puerto Rican Migration to New York City"
 [Sánchez-Korrol/EEE]

JAN 26 The Latin Deli (50-119)
 Screen: Yo Soy Boricua, Pa' Que Tu Lo Sepas!

WEEK 4: PUERTO RICAN, + CUBAN, AMÉRICA

JAN 31 The Latin Deli (120-170)
 "Situating Salsa" [Aparicio/EEE]
 "Salsa: The Hidden History of Colonialism" [Lipzitz/EEE]

WEEK 7: GREATER L.A., MEXICAN AMÉRICA **SECTIONS MEET**

FEB 21 Hoyt Street (Part II "Reason")
 "Come On, Let's Go: The Rock and Roll Era" [Macías/EEE]


FEB 23 Hoyt Street (Part III "Knowledge")


WEEK 8: SOUTH TEXAS, MEXICAN AMÉRICA

FEB 28 Guest Lecture — Dana Nakano 

MAR 1 Canícula (1-74)
 "Texas Mexican Cities" [Arreola/EEE]

WEEK 9: SOUTH TEXAS MEXICAN AMÉRICA **SECTIONS MEET**

MAR 6 Canícula (75-132)
 "Texas Mexican Social Identities" [Arreola/EEE]
  Screen: "Songs of the Homeland"

MAR 8 Guest Lecture — Esther Castillo 

WEEK 10: "NEW SOUTH," MEXICAN AMÉRICA

MAR 13 "José Martí's 'Our America'" [EEE]
"Placing Latinas/os in the Music City: Latino Migration and Urban Transformation in Nashville, Tennessee" [Winders/EEE]

MAR 15 **Final Exam**  [Bring Scantron + Pencil]

House Rules:

- *Be on Time.* If you are late or leave class early and miss a quiz you will not be allowed to make up for it.
- *If you miss class it is your responsibility to catch up on anything missed in class from a classmate (i.e. NOT from the professor or your TAs).*
- Turn OFF all media: computers, iPads, cell phones (basically, anything electronic that brings you joy :)
- Please see me or the TAs in person during office hours or after class if you'd like to go over any of the readings or assignments. Do not use email to request assistance with readings or to discuss a grade.
- Do not cheat or plagiarize.
- All response papers must be submitted in hard copy form (i.e. real paper) at the beginning of sections unless other instructions are given.
NO Exceptions.
- Show the same respect for this class and ask questions of me and your TAs in the same manner you would your economics, chemistry, and biology professor.
- Always have at least 2 scantrons in your possession for Quizzes.

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation in Discussion Sections **20**

Total of 20 = 4 sections X 5 pts each.
You will only be granted the full 5 pts. if you are on time
and do not leave early

Response Papers **20**

4 response papers due in section
(each worth 5 pts each = 20 total pts.)

Response Papers should be: **min. 1 page – max. 2 pages.**
Palatino (or similar) font. 12 pt. Dbl spaced.
1 inch margins all around. Name should go in header.

Your paper should address the most recent novel read but are welcomed to address more than one text.
Choose a narrative scene; character; short story and provide your critical engagement of a social theme; political issue; social identity; class tension, race conflict; gender relation. I will provide more information in class.
Papers are due at the beginning of discussion section.

Quiz #1 + #2 (5 pts. each) **10**

2 unannounced quizzes will be given in class
The quiz will cover only the readings for that day.

Midterm **25**

Questions will include lectures, readings, documentaries through Feb 14th.

Final Exam **25**

Questions will include lectures, readings, documentaries, guest lectures from Feb. 16th to the end of the quarter.

Grade Scale (based on 100 pts.):

90-100 = A	80-89 = B
*70-79 = C	60-69 = D
59-Below = F	

**If you are taking this course P/NP you must make a 70 in order to receive a Pass.*