

University of Kentucky
U.S. LATINO CULTURE & POLITICS
(ABRIDGED VERSION)

Instructor: Dr. Arcelia Gutiérrez
(Pronouns: she/her/hers)
Email:
Office Hours:

Course Description

We often hear that Latinxs constitute the fastest growing population in the United States today. What does it mean to be “Latino/a/x”? How long have Latinxs been in the United States? What diasporic communities and subethnic groups comprise Latinxs in the U.S.? How has panethnicity shaped what it means to be Latinx and what marginalizations does it produce? How will Latinxs be a part of the politics and culture of the United States in the future? In an effort to answer these questions, this course studies U.S. Latinx culture and politics since 1848. Students will be asked to evaluate and think critically about how differences arising from race, ethnicity, language, nationality, gender, sexuality, politics, and socioeconomic class impact the ways Latinidad operates. This course fulfills the UK Core Community, Culture and Citizenship in the U.S.A requirement.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Familiarization with the basic history of Latinxs in the U.S., from the Mexican-American War and US territorial expansion to significant waves of twentieth-century immigration from Puerto Rico, Cuba, and Central America.
2. Identify, interpret and analyze key Latinx cultural, political and historical events, persons, practices, and key terms.
3. Articulate an understanding of historical, societal, and cultural differences arising from race, ethnicity, language, nationality, political perspectives, gender, sexuality, and socioeconomic class.
4. Develop critical reading skills.

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

The course grade will be determined as follows:

Attendance/participation	15%
Blog entries	20%
Presentation	15%
Midterm	25%
Final	25%

Schedule of Classes

The instructor has the right to make any necessary changes to accommodate the material to the progress of the class

Week 1: Thurs, Jan 16 Introductions

- Collective classroom guidelines
- Participation rubric
- Watch: "Gimme the Word: Latinx"

Week 2: Tues, Jan 21 Latinidad, Ethnicity, and Race

- Read: Mérida M. Rúa's "Latinidades"
- Read: Selections of Omi and Winant's "Theory of Racial Formation"
- Watch: *The House we Live In: Race—The Power of an Illusion* (2012)
 - Content warning: lynching

Thurs, Jan 23 Diasporic and Subethnic Origins

- Watch: *Harvest of Empire* (2012)

Week 3: Tues, Jan 28 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the Southwest (P)

- Rachel St. John, *Line in the Sand: A History of the Western U.S.-Mexico Border*
 - Read: Chapter 1— "A New Map for North America: Defining the Border"

Thurs, Jan 30 Central American Diaspora (P)

- Read: selections of Javier Zamora's *Unaccompanied*
- Extra credit event: Interactive poetry workshop with Javier Zamora, Thurs, Jan. 30, 5-6p.m., Cat's Den, Gatton Student Center

Week 4: Tues, Feb 4 United Farm Workers Movement (P)

- Matt García, *From the Jaws of Victory: The Triumphant and Tragedy of Cesar Chavez and the Farm Workers Movement*
 - Read: Chapter 1— "Birth of a Movement"

Thurs, Feb 6 Gender and the UFW

- Watch: *Dolores* (2017)

Week 5: Tues, Feb 11 Chicano Movement

- Read: Sheila Marie Contreras "Chicana, Chicano, Chican@, Chicanx" (Keywords)
- Watch: *Latino Americans*, Episode 5: Prejudice and Pride

Thurs, Feb 13 The Young Lords (P)

- Darrel Wanzer-Serrano, *The New York Young Lords and the Struggles for Liberation*
 - Read: Chapter 1— "Origins and Optics: Remembering Colonialism, Nationalism, and Radicalism with the Young Lords"
- [Suggested reading: *The Young Lords: A Reader*, "3. The Origins and History of the Young Lords" (especially p. 27-49)]

Week 6: Tues, Feb 18 Intersectionality and the Young Lords

- Darrel Wanzer-Serrano, *The New York Young Lords and the Struggles for Liberation*
 - Read: Chapter 3 — “We Refused to Cave In: Gender, Race, Class, and Decolonial Intersectionality in the Young Lords’ Liberation Politics”

Thurs, Feb 20 Cuban Americans (P)

- Read: Gerald E. Poyo “Cuban American”
- Perla M. Guerrero, *Nuevo South: Asians, Latinas/os, and the Remaking of Place*
 - Read: Chapter 3 — “Mariel Cubans as an ‘Objectionable Burden’ and ‘Illegal Aliens’”

Week 7: Tues, Feb 25 Cuban Americans

- Watch: *One Day at a Time* (on Netflix) Season 1, Episode 9 “Viva Cuba” and Season 2, Episode 10 “Storage Wars”

Thurs, Feb 27 Hispanic/Latino Panethnicity

- Cristina Mora, *Making Hispanics: How Activists, Bureaucrats, and Media Constructed a New American*
 - Read: Chapter 1 — “Civil Rights, Brown Power, and the ‘Spanish-Speaking’ Vote: The Development of the Cabinet Committee on Opportunities for Spanish Speaking People”

Week 8: Tues, March 3 Hispanic/Latino Panethnicity

- Cristina Mora, *Making Hispanics: How Activists, Bureaucrats, and Media Constructed a New American*
 - Read: Chapter 3 — “The Toughest Question: The Census Bureau and the Making of Hispanic Data”

Thurs, March 5 Midterm Review**Week 9: Tues, March 10 Midterm****Thurs, March 12 Complicating Panethnicity**

- Cristina Beltrán, *The Trouble with Unity: Latino Politics and the Creation of Identity*
 - Read: Chapter 4 — “From Identification to Representation: Civic *Latinidad* and the Making of the Latino Vote”

Week 10: Tues, March 17 No class. Spring break.**Thurs, March 19 No class. Spring break.****Week 11: Tues, March 24 LGBTQIA+ Rights (P)**

- Read: Jessi Gan, “Still at the Back of the Bus: Sylvia Rivera’s Struggle”
- Watch: Pero Like’s “Struggles of Being Non Conforming/Non Binary and Latino”
- Watch: Pero Like’s “Latino or Latinx?”

Thurs, March 26 Afrolatinidad

- Read: Tanya Katerí Hernández, “Afro-Latinas/os” (Keywords)
- Vielka Cecilia Hoy, “Negotiating among Invisibilities: Tales of Afro-Latinidades in the United States” (From *The Afro-Latin@ Reader*)
- Watch: Pero Like’s “Struggles of Being Afro Latino”
- Watch: Pero Like’s “What Afro-Latinos Want You to Know”

Week 12: Tues, March 31 Afroindigeneity (P)

- Paul Joseph López Oro, “*Ni de aquí, ni de allá: Garífuna Subjectivities and the Politics of Diasporic Belonging*”

Thurs, April 2 Latinos and Forced Sterilization

- In-class screening of: *No más bebés* (2015)

Week 13: Tues, April 7 The Latino Threat

- Leo R. Chavez, *The Latino Threat: Constructing Immigrants, Citizens, and the Nation*
 - Read: Chapter 1 — “The Latino Threat Narrative”

Thurs, April 9 Latina Fertility as Threat to Nation (P)

- Leo R. Chavez, *The Latino Threat: Constructing Immigrants, Citizens, and the Nation*
 - Read: Chapter 3 — “Latina Sexuality, Reproduction, and Fertility as Threats to the Nation”

Week 14: Tues, April 14 Proposition 187 (P)

- Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, “Women and Children First: New Directions in Anti-Immigrant Politics”

Thurs, April 16 Proposition 187 (P)

- Natalia Molina, “Deportable Citizens: The Decoupling of Race and Citizenship in the Construction of the ‘Anchor Baby’” (in *Deportation in the Americas: Histories of Exclusion and Resistance*)

Week 15: Tues, April 21 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Dreamers (P)

- Leisy J. Abrego, “Renewed optimism and spatial mobility: Legal consciousness of Latino Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients and their families in Los Angeles

Thurs, April 23 Central American Refugees (P)

- Leisy J. Abrego, “Central American Refugees Reveal the Crisis of the State”

Week 16: Tues, April 28 Final exam review

Thurs, April 30 No class. Study for final.

Final: Tuesday, May 5 at 1:00 p.m. in our regular classroom.