

University of Kentucky
US 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	30%
Blog Entries	30%

Blog Responses	10%
Final	30%

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

Tues, Jan 26 Introductions

Thurs, Jan 28 Defining Latinidad

- Gutiérrez, Ramón A. "What's in a Name? The History and Politics of Hispanic and Latino Panethnicities."
- Aparicio, Frances R. "Latinidad/es." In *Keywords in Latina/o Studies*, pp. 113-118. NYU Press, 2017.

Week 2

Tues, Feb 2 Defining Latinidad

- Watch: *Harvest of Empire* (2012)

Thurs, Feb 4 Racialization

- Omi, Michael, and Howard Winant. "The Theory of Racial Formation." In *Racial Formation in the United States*.

Week 3

Tues, Feb 9 Racialization

- Watch: *The House we Live In: Race—The Power of an Illusion* (2012)
 - Content warning: lynching

Thurs, Feb 11 Racial Scripts

- Molina, Natalia. *How race is made in America: Immigration, citizenship, and the historical power of racial scripts*.
 - Introduction

Week 4

Tues, Feb 16 Racial Scripts

- Molina, Natalia. *How race is made in America: Immigration, citizenship, and the historical power of racial scripts*.
 - Chapter 1

Thurs, Feb 18 Zoot Suits

- Eduardo Obregón Pagán. *Murder at the Sleepy Lagoon: Zoot Suits, Race, & Riot in Wartime L.A.*
 - Chapter 5

Week 5

Tues, Feb 23 Zoot Suits

- Watch: *Zoot Suit* (1981)

Thurs, Feb 25 United Farm Workers Movement

- 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”

Week 6

Tues, March 2 Gender and the UFW

- Watch: *Dolores* (2017)

Thurs, March 4 Chicano Movement

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

Week 7

Tues, March 9 Chicano Movement

- Read: Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales, *I am Joaquín*, 1967.

Thurs, March 11 The Young Lords

- Darrel Wanzer-Serrano, *The New York Young Lords and the Struggles for Liberation*
 - Chapter 1

Week 8

Tues, March 16 Intersectionality and the Young Lords

- Darrel Wanzer-Serrano, *The New York Young Lords and the Struggles for Liberation*
 - Chapter 3

Thurs, March 18, Campus Resource Center Workshop

Week 9

Tues, March 23, Campus Resource Center Workshop

Thurs, March 25 Cuban Americans

- García, María Cristina. *Havana USA: Cuban Exiles and Cuban Americans in South Florida, 1959-1994.*
 - Chapter 1

Week 10

Tues, March 30 Cuban Americans

- Monika Gosin. *The Racial Politics of Division: Interethnic Struggles for Legitimacy in Multicultural Miami.*
 - Chapter 1

Thurs, April 1 Cuban Americans and Black Latinxs

- Monika Gosin. *The Racial Politics of Division: Interethnic Struggles for Legitimacy in Multicultural Miami.*
 - Chapter 2
- Watch: Pero Like's "Struggles of Being Afro Latino"
- Watch: Pero Like's "What Afro-Latinos Want You to Know"

Week 11

Tues, April 6 Afroindigeneity and Central American Diaspora

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

Thurs, April 8 Hispanic Panethnicity

- Cristina Mora, *Making Hispanics: How Activists, Bureaucrats, and Media Constructed a New American*
 - Skim the Introduction
 - Read: Chapter 1

Week 12

Tues, April 13 Hispanic/Latino Panethnicity

- Cristina Mora, *Making Hispanics: How Activists, Bureaucrats, and Media Constructed a New American*
 - Read: Chapter 3

Thurs, April 15 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 13

Tues, April 20 LGBTQIA+ Rights

- 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, April 22 Latinidad in the South

- Julie M. Weise, *Corazón de Dixie: Mexicanos in the US South since 1910*.
 - Chapter 4

Week 14

Tues, April 27 Latinidad in the South

- Julie M. Weise, *Corazón de Dixie: Mexicanos in the US South since 1910*.
 - Chapter 5
- Guest lecture: Kelly Ferguson, Doctoral Student, Department of Hispanic Studies, UKY

Thurs, April 29 Immigrant Rights Activism

- Watch: *The Infiltrators* (2019)

Week 15

Tues, May 4 Rainbow Coalition

- Watch: *The First Rainbow Coalition* (2020)

Take home final exam due: Wednesday, May 12 by 11:59p.m.