

Introduction to Chicana/o and Latino/a Studies Fall 2009
Latino and Latin American Studies 1010, Social Sciences, sec. 001
T, R 8:30 to 9:45

Instructor: Thomas Sanchez

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Office Hours: Tuesday 10-11am and 4:30 - 5:30pm and Thursday 10-11 **AND BY APPOINTMENT**

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OBJECTIVES

This class will introduce you to the fields of Chicano@ and Latino@ Studies. Although a broad range of Chicano/a Latina/o Studies topics will be covered, there will be a focus on certain aspects of history, culture, politics, race, gender and sexuality. Dialectical reasoning will be used to develop critical thinking skills and to teach you to weave sociological analysis into *your* history and culture using Chicano/Latino Studies as a point of departure. We will examine the similarities and differences among and between Chicano/a and Latino/a Studies while learning the basic tenets of both areas through the writings of Chicano/Latino writers, not all of who are college professors. You will be exposed to many aspects of the lives of Latinos and Chicanos in the United States including terms of identification and their significance in those lives. We will examine myths and stereotypes and look not only at how they are created, but also how we, both as individuals and in groups, come to believe in them.

Format for the Class.

Class will be a combination of lectures, videos, guest speakers, discussion and work outside the classroom. A large portion of the class will be discussion. We will learn from each other with the readings serving as a topical guideline. **IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU READ THE ASSIGNED READINGS BEFORE THE DATES THEY ARE TO BE DISCUSSED AND TAKE NOTES ON THOSE READINGS.** You should review your notes before each class so you can participate in meaningful discussions. I have great knowledge of the topics and some personal experiences to share with you and add to our discussions but you can also learn much from the knowledge and experiences of your classmates. You will be expected to ask relevant questions about the readings and other topics you do not understand and discuss the topics you know about and understand from the readings. You should always be thinking about your biographical relationship to the class discussion topics.

I think there will be times when you experience strong emotions in this class. If you are offended by comments made by other students or by myself and do not feel comfortable bringing those feelings up in class, **please** see me during office hours. Remember, you will not always be right and you will not always be wrong.

Two classes will be held in a place other than the classroom. One of these will be a visit to El Museo Latino (cost \$4.00) on a Saturday morning. The other will be a presentation on campus.

Required Text

Vazquez, Francisco H. 2009. *Latino/a Thought: Culture, Politics, and Society*. 2nd Ed. Boulder, CO: Rowman and Littlefield.

Grading

Class participation	50 points
quiz/paragraph summaries (as needed)	25 points
Discussion Starter	25 points
Book/Movie Review	100 points
Biography	100 points
Exams (4 x50 points each)	<u>200 points</u>
Total	500 points
Grades	490 to 500 points A+, 489 to 450 A
	449 to 440 points B+, 439 to 400 B
	399 to 390 points C+, 389 to 350 C
	349 to 340 points D+, 339 to 300 D and below 300 is failing

You are expected to attend every class and I will take attendance. An absence is an absence and there is no difference between excused and unexcused. Your fourth absence and every one after will result in a 5% reduction (25 points) of your final grade: for example, four absences will be 5% (25 points) off your final grade, five 10% (50 points) off and YOU CANNOT PASS THE CLASS WITH SIX ABSENCES.

Class Participation You are expected to complete the assigned readings prior to the day they are scheduled for class and to come to class prepared to discuss questions or make statements of educated opinion about the articles. You should take notes. **IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU READ THE ASSIGNED READINGS BEFORE THE DATES THEY ARE TO BE DISCUSSED AND TAKE NOTES ON THOSE READINGS.** You should review your notes before each class so you can participate in meaningful discussions. You will be expected to ask relevant questions about the readings and other topics you do not understand and discuss the topics you know about and understand from the readings. You should always be thinking about your biographical relationship to the class discussion topics. How are these readings related to you and your life? What don't you understand? What do you understand very well? Etc. You must be in class to participate. **ANY** absence takes away from your participation grade. This includes coming in late and leaving early.

Discussion Starters

Discussion should include, the primary claim(s) of the section. Write a hypothesis for each section or article, sum it up in a sentence or short paragraph and make an outline of the relevant articles. Include your perception of the quality of the evidence to support the authors claim. We are using a textbook that has discussion questions so this should be very easy. If you want an here be sure to have good organization and clarity, something you can easily understand. Keep in mind that these are discussions of the main ideas and will not include everything from the chapter. Be sure to include what you think is important and not just what the author and/or instructor thinks is important. Some sections will include poetry or historical documents. You might not know what to discuss from these readings so you should have your thoughts on them written down and be ready to talk about them. Hand in your notes at the beginning of the class.

Biography

You will complete a short autobiography on Race/Ethnicity. You will write about your life, including your family history and how that has affected you. There are some examples of ethnicity affecting lives in our readings. We will discuss this assignment on September 17th and you will be given specifics on what is expected. In the end this is worth 20% of your final grade and should be relatively easy. You may have to ask parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins, etc. for information but most of you will not need to do library work or extra research for this. Be careful with this assignment. Be sure you take the time to sit down, think about what you want to write and review the final product for organization and to make sure you have what you need for the grade you hope to achieve.

Book/Movie Review

This assignment will require you to read a book outside of class. You can choose any novel, biography or collection of short stories. If you are not sure see me and I can help you find an appropriate book. Look for Latino American authors or stories about Latino life in the U.S. Once you have read the book you must write a 3 page review which will include: 1) about one half page summary, what was the book about? What were the main themes or ideas. **Include almost no description here. Write about and explain one or two main themes of the book.** 2) two pages of analysis; in this section write about how the book relates to class discussions or the class readings. What was in the book that we also covered in class. Be sure to include definitions here. Do not assume anything is too obvious. Tell me, in detail, how the concepts from the book relate to the concepts from class. You will probably have to include some description here in order to explain how your book relates to issues from class. If you have questions about what is and what is not analysis, please ask. 3) The final part of this write-up will be about one half page and will include your opinion of the book, did you like it? Was it believable? Did it bring out any particular feelings or emotions? And of what use was (is) it in this type of class? To make it easier for me to follow the structure of your paper be sure to use section headings. **Papers are due on December 10, 2008.**

Quiz/reading summaries

There will also be random quizzes throughout the semester. I may also ask for reading summaries in class.

Exams

Exams will be multiple choice, True/False, with some short essays. All exams are worth 50 points.

All written assignments, except those done in class, must be typed. Use ten or twelve point type and **double space everything**. Use one inch margins. You will be graded on what is included in your paper not how long it is. Be sure not to plagiarize, give credit to the writings of others.

I DO NOT ACCEPT EMAILED ASSIGNMENTS!!

There will be no make up exams except with a note provided by a doctor. Prearranged dental exams and meetings with your lawyer do not count here.

Late assignments will be accepted for half credit up to one week after due date. NO assignments will be accepted one week after due date. NO course work will be accepted after December 10, 2008 (the last day of class)

See the Schedule of Classes for policies concerning withdrawal, pass/no pass and incompletes.

Special notes:

- 1) If you have a special disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact the instructor as soon as possible in order to ensure that your needs are met in a timely manner.
- 2) To avoid misunderstandings, all students are expected to uphold the academic integrity and conform to the policies and practices set forth in the section on Academic Integrity in the UNO Student Handbook. Students are also expected to avoid the appearance of impropriety by talking or having open books or notes during class activities when it would be inappropriate to do so. Embarrassing or ridiculing another member of the class or disrupting normal class functioning by creating a hostile environment will result in dismissal from class and a grade of F for the course.

This syllabus may be changed at the discretion of the instructor.

Class Schedule

Week One

August 25 Introduction, syllabus and vocabulary
August 27 **Read through page xlii**

Week Two

September 1 **Read 3-14**
September 3 **Read 51-81**

Week Three

September 8 **Read 31-50**
September 10 **Read 15-30** *Quest for a Homeland*

Week Four

September 15 **Read pages 83-112**
September 17 Writing and **Exam #1**

Week Five

September 22 **Read 113-144**
September 24 **Read 145-159** **Ethnic bio due**

Week Six

September 29 **Read 161-192**
October 1 **Read 193-204**

Week Seven

October 6 **Read 205-214** *Struggle in the Fields*
October 8 **Read 223-242**

Week Eight

October 13 **Read 243-270**
October 15 **Exam #2**

Week Nine

October 20 NO CLASS - FALL BREAK

October 22 **Read 273-298**

Week Ten

October 27 **Read 299-326**

October 29 **Read 327-356** *Elían Gonzalez*

El Museo Latino Saturday October 31, 10:30 am, 25th and L St. \$4.00

Week Eleven

November 3 **Read 359-375**

November 5 **Read 377-404**

Week Twelve

November 10 **Read 405-410** *Palante Siempre Palante* **Ethnic bio rewrites due**

November 12 **Exam #3**

Week Thirteen

November 17 **Read 411-438**

November 19 **Read 439-458**

Week Fourteen

November 24 NO CLASS - OFF TO ATTEND EL MUSEO

November 26 B NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Week Fifteen

December 1 **Read 491-510**

December 3 *Mi Familia*

Week Sixteen

December 8 *Mi Familia*

December 10 **Read 535-562**

Final exam Thursday December 17, 8:30 to 10:30