

**LLS 1020-001 INTRO TO CLS: HUMANITIES
RH 112 - TR 10:00 A.M. TO 11:15 A.M.
FALL 2009**

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Office Hours: TR 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
Or by appointment

The Course:

According to the 2008 U.S. Population Census estimates there are approximately 45 million Latinos in the U.S. It is estimated that by 2050 approximately more than 40% of the U.S. population will be Latino or of Latino origin. This figure probably will override as the Census 2010 is computed. This demographic shift has had and will continue to have a significant impact on American culture besides its obvious economic, social, and political implications. Thus, the purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the historical, cultural, and intellectual development of Latinos in the U.S.

Attention will focus on the cultural experiences, achievements and contributions of Mexican-American, Puerto Ricans, and Cuban-Americans, which comprise the majority of the Hispanic population in the country.

We will examine early and recent understandings of Hispanic-Latino culture and its wealth of literary, artistic, and creative representations within the broad spectrum of Latino diversity.

This is a survey course and is intended as an introduction to the very rich and complex assortment of cultural expressions of Latino culture.

Textbook:

There is no textbook in this class. All lecture notes are posted in Blackboard. Several readings will also be included.

The course will concentrate on the following themes:

1. Who are the Latinos/Hispanics in the U.S.?
2. Diversity of backgrounds and experiences.
2. What are the themes of Latino culture?
3. The significance of family and religion
5. Ethnic identity and sense of community.
6. The many voices of the Latinos.
7. The contribution of the Latinos to the life of the nation.
8. Latinos in the arts and humanities

Assignments and Grading:

Final grades for the course will be based on (1) attendance and class participation; (2) Blackboard on-line quizzes, and (3) class presentation and research project.

(1) *Class participation.* It is expected that students will be present for all scheduled meetings, will have read class assignments, and actively participate in debates. Students who wish to do well will want to come to class on a regular basis. All students are expected to read class assignments and participate in class readings and discussions.

Class participation will be 20 percent of the final grade.

All students must **visit El Museo Latino** located at 23 Street and L in South Omaha. There they must see the exhibit on Ex-Votos and Retablos made by Mexican immigrants. The visit must be done before *September 29, 2009*. A one page report will be submitted. In it students should define what are ex-votos and retablos, what are their topics, who made them and why. **Report t is worth 10 percent.** The entrance fee at the Museo is \$4.00 for students.

(2) *Blackboard on-line quizzes.* Students are required to take all 3 scheduled quizzes on Blackboard. Special instructions and a study guide schedule will be made available prior to each quiz.

No re-makes are allowed. Only under certified serious circumstances a student will be authorized to access the on-line quiz if he/she was not able to take it the scheduled day.

Blackboard on-line quizzes will be 30 percent of the final grade.

(4) *Class presentation- research project.* Students are required to make a group presentation on any of the following Latino issues:

- religion
- family
- literature
- arts
- music
- theater
- mass media communications
- popular culture
- community
- identity
- immigration
- politics

Presentations will be scheduled for the last three weeks of the semester. Groups and topics will be made during the third week of the semester. The use of all media (power point, videos, posters, plays, etc.) is allowed and encouraged. **At the time of the presentation a detailed outline, list of sources used, and a brief summary of the presentation shall be turned in to the instructor.**

The presentation-research project will be 30 percent of the final grade.

There will be no extra credit assignments. If the student desires to improve its performance or is experiencing difficulty in the class, see the instructor for additional

help. Students are responsible for materials covered in class whether the student is in attendance or not. Students who wish to do well might want to come to class on a regular basis. **Remember** your **attendance and active in-class participation is worth 20 percent of your final grade**. During the presentation week it is expected that all students will be present. Failure to do so will result in a severe reduction of your final grade. It is only appropriate and respectful to be present during **ALL presentations**.

All students must present a **written report of class presentations**. **This report is worth 10 percent.**

Modifications to this syllabus due to unforeseen circumstances (inclement weather, illness, others) may occur at any time. Changes to the class schedule, should they occur, will be announced in class.

GRADES

Grades will be determined on a percentage basis, as follows:

98-100 percent, A+	95- 97 percent, A	90-94 percent, A-
86- 89 percent, B+	83- 85 percent, B	80-82 percent, B-
76- 79 percent, C+	73- 75 percent, C	70-72 percent, C-
66- 69 percent, D+	63- 65 percent, D	60-64 percent, D-
59 percent and below, F		

CLASS SCHEDULE

This is a tentative schedule and at any time can be subject to modification. The instructor will make adjustments, if that is the case and will provide students with proper notification. Changes will be made to accommodate group presentations.

WEEK 1

T&R- August 25-27

Introduction. Syllabus.

Who are the Latinos? Why Latinos?

U.S. a country of immigrants

WEEK 2

T&R – September 1-3

History

Spanish territories, Mexico, and the U.S. moving borders

WEEK 3

T&R - September 8-10

Mexican-Americans

Film Mi Familia

WEEK 4

T&R – September 15-17

Latino diversity

Puerto Ricans, Cuban, and Dominicans

Video

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17-ON LINE QUIZ 1

WEEK 5

T&R – September 22-24

The Latino Family and cultural features

Film El Norte

WEEK 6

T&R – September 29-October 1

Religion

Video

WEEK 7

T&R –October 6-8

New Latinos

Central and South America

Tuesday October 6. Report on visit to El Museo Latino is due.

WEEK 8

T&R – October 13-15

Cultural identity

Video

THURSDAY OCTOBER 15 ON-LINE QUIZ 2

WEEK 9

Tuesday 20. No class. Fall break.

Thursday October 22

Latinos and Education

WEEK 10

T&R – October 27-29

Cultural identity and Artistic expressions

Video

WEEK 11

T&R – November 3-5

Social and Cultural Institutions

Politics

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 5 ON-LINE QUIZ 3

WEEK 12

T&R – November 10-12

Group Presentations

WEEK 13

T&R November 17-19

Group Presentations

WEEK 14

Tuesday November 24

Movie: A Day without a Mexican

Video

Thursday 26 No class. Thanksgiving Day.

WEEK 15

T&R December 1-3

Group Presentations

WEEK 16

T&R December 8-10

Group Presentations

Written report on class presentations is due Thursday December 10 at the end of class.