

Introduction to Chicana/o and Latino/a Studies Spring 2010
Latino and Latin American Studies 1010, Social Sciences, sec. 001
Monday 6:00 to 8:40

Instructor: Thomas Sanchez

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Office Hours: Monday 10 to 11:00, 4:30 to 5:30 and Wed. 11 to 12:00 **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.

Required Text

Vazquez, Francisco H. and Rodolfo D. Torres 2003. Latino/a Thought: Culture, Politics, and Society.

Boulder, CO: Rowman and Littlefield.

Grading	
Class participation	50 points
quiz/paragraph summaries (as needed)	25 points
Discussion Starter	25 points
Book Review	100 points
Biography (2x 50 points each)	100 points
Exams (4 x 50 points each)	<u>200 points</u>
Total	500 points
Grades 490 to 500 points A+, 489 to 460 A, 459 to 450 A-	
449 to 440 points B+, 439 to 410 B, 409 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 second absence will result in a 10% reduction (50 points) of your final grade and YOU CANNOT PASS THE CLASS WITH THREE 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. Write at least 3 discussion questions. What questions are raised by the author? How is this article related to others in class? Include your perception of the quality of the evidence to support the author's claim. We are using a textbook that has discussion questions so this should be very easy. If you want an **A+** 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 22nd and you will be given specifics on what is expected. Then you will rewrite the assignment using my feedback and what we learn in class to expand beyond your race/ethnicity and to write more about your culture in general. 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 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 April 26, 2010.**

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. Be prepared to show documentation for deaths in the family.

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 April 26, 2010 (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 for the course.

This syllabus may be changed at the discretion of the instructor. You will be given sufficient notice of any syllabus or schedule changes.

Class Schedule

Week One- January 11, Introductions and syllabus, vocabulary

Monday January 18, 2010 B NO CLASS

Week Two- January 25

Read **Latino Thought** Preface, Introduction, 3-14 and 51-81

Week ThreeB February 1

Read **Latino Thought** 15-50 AQuest for a Homeland@

Week Four February 8

Read **Latino Thought** 83-112 Writing/biographies and

EXAM #1

Week Five February 15

Read **Latino Thought** 113-144, 145-159

Ethnic Biography due

Week Six- February 22

Read **Latino Thought** 161-192, 193-204

Week Seven-March 1

Read **Latino Thought** 205-214, 223-242

Week Eight March 8

Read **Latino Thought** 243-270

Exam #2

Week Nine March 15 - NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK

Week Ten March 22

Read **Latino Thought** 273-298, 299-326

Week Eleven March 29

Read **Latino Thought** 327-356, 359-375 *Elian Gonzalez*

Cultural Biography due

Week Twelve April 5

Read **Latino Thought** 405-410 *Palante Siempre Palante*

Exam #3

Week Thirteen April 12

Read **Latino Thought** 411-438, 439-458

Week Fourteen April 19

22 Read **Latino Thought** 461-465, 491-510,511-529

Week Fifteen-April 26

Read 531-562 *Songs of the Homeland* and discussion

Book Review Due

Final exam Monday May 3, 2010