

**LLS 1000 - Introduction to Latin American
and Latino Studies
Spring 2011
TTH 1:00-2:15
Kayser Hall 441**



George Rivera, *Matrinoms*
(series of 23 images), 2006,
digital, 5x8 inches each image

Instructor:
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Course Objective: This course introduces students to the basic elements of the multiple (social, economic, cultural and political) interactions that take place among, and mutually influence U.S. society as a whole, with a special attention paid to U.S. Latinos, Latin Americans and their realities in today's transnational and global environment.

This course is intended for Latino/Latin American (LLS) studies majors and Chicano/Latino (CLS) studies minors, and other interested students. This course satisfies three of the six hour College of Arts and Sciences requirement for course work in Cultural Diversity.

Reasonable accommodations are provided for students who are registered with Disability Services and make their requests sufficiently in advance. For more information, contact Disability Services (EAB 117, Phone: 554-2872, TTY: 554-3799) or go to the website: www.unomaha.edu/disability.

Pre-requisites for the course: There are no pre-requisites for this course.

Course Texts:

Eduardo Galeano, *Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent* (Danvers, MA: Monthly Review Press, 1997) 317 pages.

Lisa Garcia Bedolla, *Latino Politics* (Cambridge, UK: Polity Books, 2010), 288 pages

Course Objectives:

- Students will become familiar with the field of Latino/Latin American Studies
- Students will be able to identify the various subfields and dimensions of Latino/Latin American Studies
- Students will begin to develop critical reasoning and analytical skills relevant to the study of Latino/Latin American issues.
- Students will gain exposure in research and writing critical to the analysis of Latino/Latin American issues.

Course Assignments

Each Student will complete the following:

- Two multiple choice/short answer/essay exams. Examinations will cover all reading material, lectures and additional resources such as films or site visits.
- A final comprehensive written exam.
- Two film reflection essays (guidelines provided later in the semester)
- Prepare a topical news scrapbook
- Participate in a group project/presentation based on your scrapbook topic and special interests.

- Attend an event in conjunction with Hispanic Heritage Month

Grading and Evaluation

Types of student's work evaluated include class attendance and participation, group projects, minor writing assignments, and examinations.

Distribution of points – 500 points total

50 points	Exam 1
50 points	Exam 2
100 points	Final Exam
50 points	2 Film reflection essays (25 points each)
100 points	Group Project
50 points	Topical News Folder
100 points	Participation

Grading Scale

A+	100-98%
A	97.9 – 92%
A-	91.9 – 90%
B+	89.9 – 88%
B	87.9 – 82%
B-	81.9 – 80%
C+	79.9 – 78%
C	77.9 – 70%
D+	69.9 – 68%
D	67.9 – 62%
D-	61.9 – 60%
F	<59.9%

Ground Rules

- Late papers and assignments are not acceptable. They are a burden to your instructors and are unfair to your colleagues who do their work on time. Therefore, we will deduct a whole letter grade for each day an assignment is late. Extensions may be given but only if they are requested well in advance of the deadline, and there is a compelling reason.
- It is not our practice to give incompletes. However, if there is a suitable reason - subject to our approval and supported with

- appropriate documentation - an exception to the "no" incompletes rule may be possible.
- With respect to these first two ground rules, if you have problems in completing your assigned work, please let us know about it sooner than later.
 - Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student turning in a written assignment which is not your own work will receive a failing grade for the assignment and is subject to the further penalties as detailed in the "General Information Section on Registrations and Procedures" of the *UNO Undergraduate Catalog*.
 - The use of scholarly sources is essential in your all of your course work, you must make reference to the sources from which you draw your information.
 - Participation is a significant portion of your grade for this course. Therefore you must actually be in class - prepared and verbally participating - in order to be eligible to receive full credit for this portion of the course's grade. Attendance is a part of participation, as such we will keep track of attendance, and please note, 3 unexcused absences = the loss of one letter grade for participation.
 - We do not expect that the views and perceptions of Latino and Latin American topics (or for any contentious matter) by us or by all of you to be identical, either now, or at the completion of the course. The course is a place for the free and perhaps heated exchange of ideas. Thus we expect you to challenge viewpoints that differ from your own, but we also expect you to substantiate your arguments from the readings, lectures and discussions. In other words, you will be penalized if you simply agree with our lectures or the readings for no apparent reason other than the fact that we are your professors, or if you insist on merely spouting your own opinions while ignoring evidence and good logical reasoning rules.

Periodical Readings:

There are powerful and fast-moving political, social and economic transformations in countries such as Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Cuba and yes, the United States. Consequently, relying on just the course readings will not be sufficient. You are required to keep up with contemporary developments in Latino and Latin America if you are to get the most out of this course. Perhaps, the single most important periodical source is the *New York Times*. It is available and free via the Internet at www.nytimes.com. You will have to register a log-in and password in order to access this

important source. Other important sources include the *Wall Street Journal*, *The Miami Herald*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Business Week*, *The Economist*, *The New Republic*, *The American Prospect*, *Hispanic Magazine*, and *The Nation*. International newspapers add a complementary set of views not always found in U.S media. If you read other languages, French, Italian and Latin American newspapers provide a wealth of analysis on these important issues. There are also numerous scholarly journals that will be of great assistance to you in preparing your journal article reviews Among those most highly recommended are the: OLLAS' own, *Journal of Latino/Latin American Studies*, *NACLA Report on the Americas*, *Latin American Perspectives*, *Latin American Research Review*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *Journal of Democracy*. Additionally, avail yourselves of the numerous UNO library on-line electronic databases such as *J-STOR*, *Project Muse* and *Lexis-Nexis* for collecting articles and information for your group research assignments.

Course Readings and Assignments Schedule

‡(Indicates in-class reading)

** (Indicates Recommended Reading Only)

Week 1 (1/11-13): Introduction to Latino/Latin American Studies.

Read: Galeano, pp. ix-58

Lectures: "What Are We Talking About?" And "Why Study Latino/Latin American Studies, Part I"

Week 2 (1/18-20): The Evolution of Latino/Latin American Studies

Read: Galeano, pp, 59-133

Lecture: "Why Study Latino/Latin American Studies, Part II"; and, "A Brief History of South Omaha."

Discussion: Galeano's "Lust for Gold, Lust For Silver"

Week 3 (1/25-27): A Historical and Contemporary Profile of Latino Nebraska and South Omaha.

Film: *Crossing Arizona (2007)*

Assignment: Film Reflection Essay – due 2/3

Read: Helen Marrow, "New Destinations and Immigrant Incorporation." *Perspectives on Politics* (December 2005) , Vol3/No.4, pp. 761-799.

Week 4. (2/1-3): The Latin American Reality and the Curious Case of Cuba.

Lectures: "The Latin American Tradition and Process of Development"

Discussion: Galeano's "King Sugar and Other Agricultural Monarchs"

Read: Galeano, pp. 134-172

Site Visit: South Omaha Tour

Week 5 (2/8-10): Free Trade Agreements, Transnational Latino Communities, and Politics

Lecture: "The Failure of Globalization in Latin America: Is it Nature or Nurture?"

Read: Galeano, pp. 173-204

Assignment:

- a. Select topics for news scrapbook and begin collecting articles. [Guidelines distributed at this time]
- b. Form presentation project groups

Week 6 (2/15-17): Review and Exam 1

Discussion: Galeano's "The Invisible Sources of Power"

Exam 1 – 2/17: In-class short answer/essay exam

Week 7 (2/22-24): Latino Politics on the Edge

Lecture: "Incorporating Latinos into the Political Mainstream,"

Read: Galeano, pp. 173-204, Garcia Bedolla – Chs. 1-2

Film: *Walkout* (2007)

Assignment: Film Reflection Essay – Due 3/3 in class!

Week 8 (3/1-3): The Questions of Language and Identity: When Does Latin American become Latino?

Lecture: Latino Identity

Guest Speaker: Dr. Tom Sanchez, OLLAS and UNO Sociology

Read: Galeano, pp. 205-262

Discussion: Galeano's "Tales of Premature Death"

Week 9 (3/8-10): Latino/Latin American Literature and Culture

Guest Speaker: Dr. Ramon Guerra, UNO English

Read: Susana Cisneros "Woman Hollering Creek." (1991), Garcia-Bedolla – Ch. 3

Discussion: Galeano's "The Contemporary Structure of Plunder."

Week 10 (3/15-17): Latino Education

Guest Speaker: Dr. Lisa Kelly-Vance, UNO Psychology

Read: Valencia, Richard, and Mary S. Black, "Mexican Americans Don't Value Education! – On the Basis of Myth, Mythmaking and Debunking," *Journal of Latinos and Education*, 1(2), 81-103; and, Gracia-Bedolla, Ch. 4

Spring Break : March 20-25

Week 11 (3/29-31): Latino/Latin American Popular Culture

Film: *Visiones: Latino Art and Culture* – Episodes One/Two

Discussion: Latino Political Participation in the Nebraska Context

Read: Garcia Bedolla, Ch. 5.

**Week 12 (4/5-7): Policy Issues on the Front Burner:
Latino Health Issues**

Guest Speaker: Dr. Timi Barone, UNO Anthropology

Exam 2 – 4/7: In-class short answer/essay exam

**Week 13 (4/12-14): Policy Issues on the Front Burner:
Immigrant Integration**

Read: Benjamin-Alvarado and Gouveia, OLLAS Policy Brief No. 1 – "In the Balance;" Garcia-Bedolla, Ch 6-7; and Galeano 263-287.

Discussion: Latino Migration and Mobilization

Guest Speaker : Dr. Lourdes Gouveia, UNO Sociology

Week 14 (4/19-21) : Group Project Presentations

Assignment Reminder: Topical News Scrapbooks Due at the time of your group presentation in class!

Week 15 (4/26-28): Group Project Presentations

Final Exam – May 3, 2011, 1:00pm