

LLS 1020-001 INTRO TO CLS: HUMANITIES
A&S R 392 - TR 11:30 P.M. TO 12:45 P.M.
SPRING 2013

Instructor: Maria S. Arbelaez
Department of History 287-L
Phones: 554-3649 and 554-2593
E-mail: marbelaez@unomaha.edu
Office Hours: TR 4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Or by appointment

The Course:

According to the 2010, U.S. Population Census estimates there are approximately 48.5 million Latinos in the U.S. It is projected that by 2050 approximately more than 40% of the U.S. population will be Latino or of Latino origin. This demographic shift has had and will have a significant impact on American culture besides its obvious demographic, economic, social, and political implications. Thus, the purpose of this course is to introduce 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.

Textbooks:

There is no textbook for this class. All reading material for the course is located in Blackboard.

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, (3) Visit to EL Museo Latino, and (4) class presentation of research projects.

(1) *Class participation and attendance.* 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 and attendance will be 20 percent of the final grade.

(2) *Blackboard on-line quizzes.* Students are required to take all three 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.

(3) Museo Latino visit. All students must visit El Museo Latino located at 23 and L Streets in South Omaha. Students will submit proof of attendance plus a one page typed-written report of visit to the museum and inform of its exhibits.

10 percent of the final grade

(5) *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.** It could the copy of the power point presentation and a copy of the original will be sent to the instructor via email attachment.

Group, topics, and schedule of presentations will be organized during the second week of the semester. Instructions for presentations, schedule, and group will be posted under Assignments in Blackboard.

**The presentation-research project will be 40 percent of the final grade.
THERE WILL BE NO EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS.**

SUMMARY OF FINAL GRADE COMPONENTS:

- 1. Class participation and attendance = 20 percent**
- 2. BB on-line quizzes = 30 percent**
- 3. Group presentation = 40 percent**
- 4. Museo Latino visit = 10 percent**

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 attends or not. Students who wish to do well might want to come to class on a regular basis. Attendance is mandatory. **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 (**20 POINTS DEDUCTION**). It is only appropriate and respectful to be present during **ALL presentations**. Student absences during presentations weeks will be doubled. It is a matter of courtesy and respect among classmates to be in class during presentations.

All students are expected to be in time for class. Students who come in late distract students and instructor. It is appropriate to be in class in time.

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- January 8-10

Introduction Syllabus.

Who are the Latinos? Why Latinos?

U.S. a country of immigrant

Why geography matters

WEEK 2

T&R – January 15-17

History

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

Significant differences: North-South -North European-Southern Europeans

WEEK 3

T&R – January 22-24

Mexican-Americans

Movie Mi Familia

WEEK 4

T&R – January 29-31

Latino diversity

Puerto Ricans, Cuban, and Dominicans

Video

Thursday January 31 – Quiz 1

WEEK 5

T&R – February 5-7

The Latino Family and cultural features

Video

WEEK 6

T&R – February 12-14

Latinos and Religion

Video

WEEK 7

T&R –February 19-21

New Latinos

Central and South America

Movie: El Norte

WEEK 8

T & R – February 26-28

Cultural identity

Video

Thursday February 28 – Quiz 2

WEEK 9

T & R - March 5-7

Latinos and Education

Video

WEEK 10

T&R – March 12-14

Cultural representation in the art
Video

WEEK 11

T&R – March 19-21

Politics

NO CLASS SPRING BREAK

WEEK 12

T&R – March 26-28

Social and cultural institutions

Thursday March 28 – Quiz 3

WEEK 13

T&R April 2-4

Group Presentations

WEEK 14

T&R- April 9-11

Group Presentations

WEEK 15-16

T&R – April 16-18

April 23-25

Group Presentations

Thursday April 25 last day of classes