

LLS 1020-001 INTRO TO CLS: HUMANITIES
A&S R 310 - TR 10:00 A.M. TO 11:15 A.M.
SPRING 2014

Instructor: Maria S. Arbelaez
Department of History 287-L
Phones: 554-3649 and 554-2593
E-mail: marbelaez@unomaha.edu
Office hours: 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

CLASS RULES:

1. **Attendance is mandatory. Only reasonable and justifiable absences will be accepted. All students are expected to be present at ALL presentations. Absences during presentation weeks will be counted twice.**
2. **Come to class on time.**
3. **Read and study class materials.**
4. **Quizzes are expected to be the students learning and understanding of class materials. Copying of course documents and/or websites is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. If copying, quizzes will be invalidated.**
5. **No second chances when taking quizzes. Use reliable browsers and computers. Be mindful of rules when taking the quizzes. The quizzes are designed with plenty of time for processing and submitting.**

Prior to class, please turn off or do not bring cell phones, beepers or any other electronic communication device. These items are disruptive. Respect between students and instructor is instrumental to an adequate climate for the learning process. You can use computers to take notes and access BB. If you are caught web surfing you will be asked to leave the class. No excuses are acceptable after this admonition.

6. **You are responsible for all materials posted in Blackboard and reviewed in class: Visuals, documents, outlines, and power-points.**

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 15 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 15 percent of the final grade.

(3) ***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.

(4) **Oral history Assignment: Oral** histories. How much do we know of the life histories of Latino immigrants? What are their stories? Find a Latino person. Preferably over 60-65 years of age. Interview this person. If this person does not speak English, make sure you have someone to interpret for you. Before you interview this person, ask for their consent. Explain it is a class assignment and that the interview will be under a pseudonym. Create a fictitious name for this person. Ask them place of origin, where they grew up, occupation of the parents, decision to come to the U.S., How old when they came, School? Community? Religion? How many in the family, Current occupation, how do they identify themselves? What do they think of the U.S.? Their community? **PLEASE DO NOT ASK ABOUT IMMIGRATION STATUS. THIS IS AN INAPPROPRIATE QUESTION. DO NOT AT ANY TIME VIOLATE THIS PRINCIPLE. IT WOULD INFRINGE CONFIDENTIALITY.**

Write the history of this person under a fictitious name. Email the story to my email address.

Oral history project assignment is worth 30 percent of final grade.

THERE WILL BE NO EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS.

SUMMARY OF FINAL GRADE COMPONENTS:

- 1. Class participation and attendance = 15 percent**
- 2. BB on-line quizzes = 15 percent**
- 3. Group presentation = 40 percent**
- 4. Oral history Assignment = 30 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 15 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.

GRADE SCALE

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 14-16

Introduction Syllabus.
Who are the Latinos? Why Latinos?
U.S. a country of immigrant
Why geography matters

WEEK 2

T&R January 21-23

History
Spanish territories, Mexico, and the U.S. moving borders
Significant differences: North-South -North European-Southern Europeans

WEEK 3

T&R – January 28-30

Mexican-Americans

Movie Mi Familia

WEEK 4

T&R – February 4 -6

Latino diversity
Puerto Ricans, Cuban, and Dominicans
Video

WEEK 5

T&R – February 11-13

The Latino Family and cultural features
Video

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13 QUIZ ONE ON-LINE

WEEK 6

T&R – February 18-20

Latinos and Religion
Video

WEEK 7

T&R – February 25-27

New Latinos
Central and South America
Movie: El Norte

WEEK 8

T& R – March 4-6
Cultural identity
Video

WEEK 9

T& R – March 11-13
Latinos and Education
Video

THURSDAY MARCH 11 QUIZ TWO ON-LINE

WEEK 10

T&R – March 18-20
Cultural representation in the art
Video

WEEK 11

T&R – MARCH 25 -27 NO CLASS SPRING BREAK

WEEK 12

T&R – April 1-3
Politics and Latinos
Omaha Latinos
Social and cultural institutions

THURSDAY APRIL 3 QUIZ THREE ON-LINE

WEEK 13

T&R April 8-10
Group Presentations

WEEK 14

T&R- April 15-17
Group Presentations

WEEK 15

T & R April 22-24
Group Presentations

THURSDAY APRIL 24 LATINO STORY DUE

WEEK 16

T&R April 29 - May 1
Group Presentations

LAST DAY OF SEMESTER CLASSES.

