Latino Metropolis

The course will explore (through readings, lectures & discussions, and films) the processes of Latino urbanization and racialized relations and labor in the US. Particular attention will be paid to the political economy of Latino communities in Southern California with selected comparisons drawing from other cities. In doing so, we will draw on critical social theory to assess the transformation of class relations of Latino urban life and culture.

As more Latinos live and work in urban spaces, they are gradually transforming the social and class relations and spatial practices that manifest the geographical and historical legacies of previous waves of urbanization, to suit their varied needs and to express their own diverse values. Concurrently, these urban Latino communities adjust to the influences of the built environments they encounter, as well as to the social fabric upon which they now imprint themselves. As U.S. urban spaces become the loci that constitute, constrain and mediate Latino identity formation and contestation, they yield new potential for political and social change as they shape new claims on urban futures.

Topics to be covered:
Class theory
Theories of the state
Theories of urbanism
Transnational communities
Postindustrial change
Politics in a changing city
Historical foundation of Chicano LA
Comparative studies of Latinos in US Cities
African American and Latino Relations

Required Reading:
LATINO METROPOLIS by Victor Valle & Rodolfo Torres
SEEKING COMMUNITY IN A GLOBAL CITY by Nora Hamilton & Norma Chinchilla
THE TRANSFORMATION OF CITIES by David C. Thorns

Course Requirements:
1. Students are required to turn in a journal every two weeks. The journal should contain your reflections on and reactions to the course readings, videos, lectures and class discussion. Assignment is worth a maximum of 25 points.

2. STUDENT-LED DISCUSSIONS: Assignment requires each student(0 at least once during the term) to lead a discussion on an assigned reading. The discussion should encourage students to discover what is most significant about the assigned reading.
The following may guide your thinking in preparing a presentation: What do the readings have to say regarding the topic for which they were assigned? How do the readings relate to each other? Note points of agreement, disagreement, or some other issue generated by the reading and explaining their theoretical and policy relevance. A 1-2 page outline must be submitted to Roberto Gonzales via email the day before the discussion. Roberto will make copies of the outline for distribution in class. Students are also encouraged to incorporate audio/visual materials in their discussions. Assignment is worth a maximum of 25 points.

3. Final Paper: 12-15 page paper dealing with a particular theoretical and/or policy issue. In addition students will be required to present a summary of their work in progress to the class. The presentation is expected to be no longer than 15 minutes.

4. Attend 11th Annual Open House, Chicano/Latino Studies Program
Thursday, October 14, 4:00 to 6:00pm, Social Science Tower Plaza (ground level)

Outline:

9/29 Introduction

10/6
Chapter
3 (The Transformation of Cities)

Chapter
1 (Latino Metropolis)

10/13
Chapter
4 (The Transformation of Cities)

Chapters
1 & 2 (Seeking Community in a Global City)

Hand-out

10/20
Chapter
7 (The Transformation of Cities)

Chapter
2 (Latino Metropolis)

10/27
Chapter
8 (The Transformation of Cities)

Chapter
4 (Latino Metropolis)

11/3
Chapter
6 (Seeking Community in a Global City)

Chapter
5 (Latino Metropolis)

11/10
Chapter
7 (Seeking Community in a Global City)

Student Presentations

11/17
Chapter
8 (Seeking Community in a Global City)

Chapter
6 (Latino Metropolis)

Student Presentations

11/24
No Class Research Day :)

12/1
Student Presentations

12/8
Finals Week