COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is an introduction to the research, literature, and issues surrounding the topic of Chicano/Latino Families. Many aspects of the Chicano/Latino family are examined including cultural history and contemporary issues such as: the organization of family, traditions, lifestyle, values, beliefs, generational differences, gender issues, and ethnic identity. Additionally, the course examines the evolution of demographic patterns and current economic and political standings for Chicano/Latinos in the United States.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
1. Examine the diversity and heterogeneity of Chicano/Latino families in terms of cultural customs and practices, as well as, family structure and family dynamics.

2. Understand the psychological issues faced by Chicano/Latino families and when relevant, and how these issues ultimately influence the Chicano/Latino individual.

3. Investigate current research on Chicano/Latino families, including topics such as the effects of immigration and acculturation on family members, the shifting gender roles leading to changes in the family structure and function, issues faced by children and youth, and dysfunction within the family (alcohol/drug abuse, physical and sexual abuse).

4. Identify the strengths of Chicano/Latino families that can be utilized to develop practical, appropriate prevention and intervention programs related to the provision of social and mental health services.

COURSE FORMAT
The course will take a seminar format, primarily reciprocal and cooperative learning for synthesizing and analyzing. The environment will allow for interaction among the students and group activity will be initiated. It is crucial that students complete the assigned readings to enable their participation in class dialogue.

GROUND RULES OF DISCUSSION
- Remain respectful of others' views, opinions and statements
- Express your thoughts openly while respecting your colleagues
- Be courteous and polite
- Avoid any comments and language that can be offensive
- Allow peers to finish statements and complete thoughts

COURSE EVALUATION

| POINTS |
Midterm Examination 100
Final Examination 100
Latino Family Case Study 50
Writing Assignments
  Family History (20 points) 35
  Movie Reaction (15 points)
Course Preparation and Involvement 10
Total Points Available 295

Grades will be assigned by percentage, i.e., 100-95% = A, 94-90% = A-, 89-87% = B+, 86-84% = B, 83-80 = B-, 79-77 = C+, 76-74 = C, 73-70 = C-, etc. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day noted. No late papers or make-up exams will be accepted without prior permission from the instructor.

Group assignments, in-class activities, and presentations cannot be made up. Homework assignments will be expected at the beginning of class. If the assignment is late, you lose points. Specifically, for each day late (including weekends), you will incur one of the following penalties:

1 Point deduction for 1-5 point assignments; 1.5 Point deduction for 6-9 Point assignments
2 Point deduction for 10-20 point assignments; 3 Point deduction for 25 Point assignment

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & EVALUATIONS, Continued

MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMINATIONS (100 POINTS EACH). There will be one midterm and one final. The exams will include multiple choice, true/false, and essay/comprehensive type questions. The exams are to be written in complete sentences. Answers will be evaluated on comprehensive and specific knowledge of the topic, development and support of conceptualization, thoroughness of responses, organization, and presentation of materials.

COURSE PARTICIPATION (10 POINTS). Students will be expected to engage in dialogue regarding assigned readings and engage in course activities. The discussions are to create an environment where students feel open to express themselves, share their opinions, and provide insight. Students are expected to offer opinions and engage in lively discussions about class topics. Attendance will be taken periodically.

CHICANO/LATINO FAMILY CASE STUDY - A Day in the Life of a Latino Family (50 POINTS). Students will be expected to capture the Chicano/Latino family experience in a choice of formats: written, audio, video, photography, art, etc. With the requirement of a home visit, students will be able to obtain concrete facts from individual perceptions and gain knowledge of Chicano/Latino attitudes, behaviors, and experiences. More specifically, a 12-15 page paper will be due at the end of the assignment accompanied with photos, journals, and other illustrative documents. (an additional handout will be provided with further details.)

FAMILY HISTORY (20 POINTS). We all have ethnic or cultural history, though we may not be consciously aware of it. In a 4-6 page typed, double spaced paper, describe the ethnic/cultural history/heritage of your family. Interview parents, grandparents, and relatives to discover the ethnic background and the origins of your family-national, cultural, geographical, religious, etc. A handout will be provided in class with a more thorough description of this assignment.
MOVIE REACTION PAPER (15 POINTS). Students are to watch *Real Women Have Curves* with three to four students enrolled in the course. You are to engage in a 45 minute discussion about the main issues presented in the movie. Formulate some opinions about the movie and its message. Write a 3-4 page paper on the movie, the discussion, and your reactions to the movie. Make sure you answer all the questions and you explain your answers.

Questions to be answered include:
1. Which character did you most identify with?
2. Which character did you have the most difficulty empathizing with or understanding? Why?
3. Did you notice any stereotypical portrayals of the group being examined? If so, what were they?
   Indicate whether you think they were positive or negative stereotypes.
4. Did any part of the film hurt or offend you? What and Why?
5. What was your perception of the Latina/o families before viewing the movie?
   - After viewing the movie, what role does
   - Generational gaps have on Latina/o communities?
   - Gender roles have for Latinas in both Latina/o and mainstream?
   - *la familia* play for Ana in her character development? (Was this surprising?)

PRESENTATION. This is an opportunity for the student to present their data from "A day in the life of a Chicano/Latino family" to the class. The student should be familiar with his/her data and findings and should be able to relate the observations to the class material. Evaluation will be based on presentation skills, coverage of the material, preparation and organization, and dialogue.

APA WRITING STYLE. All written assignments must be typed, spelled-checked, proofread for grammar mistakes, and should conform to the style and reference notation format outlined by the 2001 Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA), Fifth Edition.

REQUIRED TEXT:


A required course pack of research articles is available at the commons.
TOPICS AND READINGS

WEEK 1
Jan. 10

**Introduction to Latina/o Families**
**Conceptual Approaches and Overview / Key Terms**
**Diversity and Latina/o Families**

Velasquez Text Chapters 1 and 4


WEEK 2
Jan. 17

**Diversity and Latino Families**


WEEK 3
Jan. 24

**Acculturation and Immigration: Influence on the Latino Family**

**Ethnic Identity and Sexual Identity**

Velasquez Text Chapters 2 and 3


Assignment Due: Family History

WEEK 4
Jan. 31

**Gender Roles and the Latino Family**

Velasquez Text Chapter 9, 12, 14


WEEK 5

**Latino Youth, At-Risk Behavior, and Teenage Pregnancy**
Feb. 07

Velasquez Text Chapter 5


**Assignment Due: Movie Reaction**

WEEK 6
Feb. 14

**Latino Families and the Role of Religion and Spirituality**

**Espiritismo, Santeria, and Curanderismo**

Midterm Exam

Velasquez Text Chapter 6


WEEK 7
Feb. 21

**Latino Families and Education**

**Undergraduates, Graduate Students, and Faculty**

Velasquez Text Chapter 19


WEEK 8  
Feb. 28

The Elderly  
Latino Families and Health: Substance Abuse, AIDS

Velasquez Text Chapter 16, 10


Week 9  
March 7

Latino Family Case Studies and Presentations

Velasquez Text Chapter 18, 20


Assignment Due: Family Case Study

WEEK 10  
March 14

Future Directions for Research, Policy and Practice  
Final Review


Finals Week

Monday, March 19th 10:30-12:30pm, Final Exam (TENTATIVE)