Chic/Lat 121

Chicano/Latino Studies Program, UC Irvine

Latin@ Pop:
The Politics of Latina/o Popular Culture

Course Syllabus

Course Description:
This course will equip students with the core theoretical frameworks in Latina/o popular culture studies. With those broader frameworks in mind the course will focus on the politics of language and space/place in order to explore and critically analyze sites of Latina/o popular culture including: music, film, performance, sports, media and varied subcultures.

Required Texts:


*COURSE READER* available at UCI Bookstore.

COURSE EVALUATION/GRADING CRITERIA

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION 10%

ABSTRACT
One Page Abstract with 3-5 scholarly references. 20%

FIELDNOTES 30%
4-6 Pages of Critical Field Notes (this may include personal interviews or participant observation; textual analysis of music or media) of student’s chosen site for analysis.

FINAL PAPER/PROJECT 40%
7-10 Page final paper bringing together Field Notes with critical analysis utilizing course and outside readings pertaining to popular culture site of focus.

COURSE TOPICS AND READINGS:

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION
TU Introduction to structure of course and syllabi.

Screen: El Vez

TH Selections from Understanding Popular Culture by John Fiske.
Selections from anthology Black Popular Culture edited by Gina Dent and Michelle Wallace.

Habell-Pallán, Michelle. "¿Quien Es El Vez/Who Is El Vez?"

WEEK 2: SPACE/PLACE
TU Knauer, Lisa Maya. “Eating in Cuban”
Ruiz, Delberto. “Cut Tongues from the Heart: Colonialism, and the Politics of Space.”

TH Saldívar, José David. “On the Bad Edge of La Frontera.”
Gaspar de Alba, Alicia. “Rights of Passage: From Cultural Schizophrenia to Border Consciousness in Cheech Marin’s Born in East L.A.”

WEEK 3: LANGUAGE
Aparicio, Frances. “On Sub-Versive Signifiers” Tropicalizing Language in the United States.”

TH Flores, Juan. “Living/Borders/Buscando América: Languages of Latino Self-Formation.”

Selections English is Broken Here: Notes on Cultural Fusion in the Americas by Coco Fusco
ABSTRACT OF PROJECT PAPER DUE IN CLASS

WEEK 4: FILM

TU Selections from *Bronze Screen: Chicana and Chicano Film Culture* by Rosa Linda Fregoso


TH Selections from *Shot in America: Television, the State, and the Rise of Chicano Cinema* by Chon Noriega

WEEK 5: PERFORMANCE

TU Habell-Pallán, Michelle. “Don’t Call Us Hispanic”: Popular Latino Theatre in Vancouver.”

Gutierrez, Laura. “Deconstructing the Mythical Homeland: Mexico in Contemporary Chicana Performance.”

TH Arrizon, Alicia. “Chicana Identity and Performance Art: Beyond Chicanismo.”

Arrizon, Alicia. “Self-Representation: Race, Ethnicity and Queer Identity.”

WEEK 6: POPULAR MUSIC

TU Perrone and Dunn. *Brazilian Popular Music and Globalization*.

TH Perrone and Dunn. *Brazilian Popular Music and Globalization*.

WEEK 7: MEDIA/CULTURE


*Screen:* Excerpts from Don Francisco’s *Sabado Gigante* on Univision.

TH Sandoval, Denise. “Cruising Through Low Rider Culture: Chicana/o Identity in the Marketing of *Low Rider Magazine*.”

FIELDNOTES OF CULTURAL SITE DUE

WEEK 8: SPORTS

Burgos, Adrian Jr. “Learning America’s Other Game: Baseball, Race, and the Study of Latinos.”


Rodriguez, Gregory. “Boxing and Masculinity: The History and (Her)story of Oscar de la Hoya.”

WEEK 9: POPULAR CULTURE AND SEXUALITIES

TU  Aponte-Parés, Luis. “Outside/In: Crossing Queer and Latino Boundaries”

Esquibel, Catriona. “Velvet Malinche: Fantasies of “the” Aztec Princess in the Chicana/o Sexual Imagination.”


Segovia, Miguel. “Only Cauldrons Know the Secretes of Their Soups: Queer Romance and Like Water for Chocolate.”

WEEK 10: SUBCULTURES/STYLE/COUNTERCULTURE


Espinoza, Dione. “Tanto Tiempo Disfrutamos...”: Revisiting the Gender and Sexual Politics of Chicana/o Youth Culture in East Los Angeles in the 1960s.”

TH  Final Course Evaluations.

FINAL PAPER PROJECT DUE
(ACCORDING TO FINAL EXAM DATE LISTED BY REGISTRAR)