

Professor Rodolfo D. Torres
Latino Metropolis
Fall 2018
Lecture Hall: Humanities Hall 178
Syllabus is subject to change
Office Hours: Wed 3-4pm
53195-F18@classes.uci.edu,
61230-F18@classes.uci.edu
Email: rudolphd@uci.edu

Rodolfo D. Torres is professor of Planning and Public Policy and adjunct member of the Department of Chicano Studies. He has been teaching for nearly 35 years (yikes) and plans to retire in 2-3 years. He is author of eight books and editor over fifteen books and nearly 100 articles and book chapters. He is a third generation Mexican American/Chicano. Born in Boyle Heights (on East 1st Street in East LA) and raised in the 'loco zones' of the Ramona Gardens public housing project. Torres remains active in labor and social justice movements in Southern California. Torres attended Lincoln High School. Torres is a graduate of UC Irvine (class of 74) and Claremont Graduate School (PhD in Public Policy, 1984). He has taught at Amherst College, UC Berkeley, Hampshire College, Stanford University, California State University, Long Beach and UC Irvine (20 years). He is a proud father of a 20-year-old son who is currently attending Sonoma State University. He is an education and environmental studies major with the goal of teaching environmental justice in high school.

Course Description:

The course will explore across generations the process of Mexican American urbanization, particularly in the context of the changing political economy of Southern California. We will begin with the displacement of Mexican American neighborhoods of Chavez Ravine in the late 40's and early 50's. Followed up with the economic restructuring of the Southern California region with attention paid to Latino labor and gentrification. Class will conclude with exploring urban policy alternatives that advance economic justice in Latino communities and beyond. Documentaries will be screened every class session related to topic and readings. The films are central to the class are not meant to entertain. The films have scholarly merit.

Required Book:

The Latino Question: Politics, Labouring Classes, and the Next Left by Armando Ibarra, Alfredo Carlos and Rodolfo D. Torres (Pluto Press, 2018)

Additional readings will be available on Canvas or sent via email. Please check your email for assigned readings.

Course Requirement:

Final Exam (multiple choice) 40-50 questions

Course Outline:

Oct 3 Introduction and Expectations

Film: East LA Interchange

Oct 10 Displacement and the Red Scare in the 50's

Read: The Latino Question: Introduction

Assigned readings/links below were sent via email on October 2

<https://www.pbs.org/independentlens/chavezravine/cr.html>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2017/10/31/561246946/remembering-the-communities-buried-under-center-field>

<http://articles.latimes.com/2012/apr/05/local/la-me-adv-chavez-ravine-20120405>

October 17 Immigrant City

Read:

The Latino Question: Chapter 1

October 24th Inequality and alternatives

Read:

The Latino Question: Chapters 2 and 4

Guest Speaker: Alfredo Carlos

Department of Political Science, CSULB

October 31st Gentrification I

Readings to be assigned

November 7 Gentrification II

Readings to be assigned

November 14 The Housing Question

Read:

“Ain’t No Apartment Small Enough: Informal Housing in the Latino Metropolis”

Guest Talk: Deyanira Nevarez Martinez, UC Irvine PhD student, Urban Planning

November 21 **No Class (Thanksgiving Eve)**

November 28 **Urban Alternatives**

Read:
The Latino question Chapter 7 and Conclusion

December 5 **Review and Study Guide distributed**

December 12 **Final at 7pm**