

## **CLS 200A.**

### **CHICANO LATINO STUDIES: SCOPE, METHODOLOGIES, CONTENT**

**THURSDAYS 4-6PM, SST 318**

**(SYLLABUS UNDER CONSTRUCTION)**

The goal of this seminar is to introduce graduate students in all fields at UC Irvine to the various ways in which scholars engage the field of Chicano Studies. The seminar features faculty members in the disciplines of Anthropology, History, Political Science, Literature, and Sociology who will discuss their own work and the ways in which their particular branch of knowledge can be utilized to advantage in Chicano Studies research. Seminar will emphasize active learning by participants and will be coordinated by Professor Raul Fernandez.

#### **SCHEDULE OF INVITED GUEST SPEAKERS**

Sept. 27	First Day Intro/Syllabus ( <b>Raul Fernandez/Louis Desipio</b> )
Oct. 4	<b>Susan Coutin</b>
Oct. 11	<b>Nick Bravo/Anita Casavantes Bradford</b>
Oct. 18	<b>Louis DeSipio</b>
Oct. 25	<b>Rodrigo Lazo</b>
Nov. 1	<b>Michael Montoya</b>
Nov. 8	<b>Gilbert Gonzalez</b>
Nov. 15	<b>Ruben Rumbaut</b>
Nov. 22	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
Nov. 29	<b>Ana Rosas</b>
Dec. 6	Last Day/Brief presentations

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## SEPTEMBER 27. **Introduction and discussion of class requirements**

OCTOBER 4. **Professor Coutin**, who will present and lead a discussion of ethnographic approaches to studying immigration law. Two papers assigned: one on naturalization ceremonies, the other is about ways that race, class, and gender figured in suspension of deportation hearings observed by Professor Coutin.

OCTOBER 11. **Nick Bravo** explores ethnic Mexican racialization and identity formation through their social and economic relationships to alcohol in Prohibition-era (1900-1940) Los Angeles. Multivalent racialized and gendered experiences catalyzed the redefinition of ethnic, gender, and class identities as ethnic Mexicans sorted out-- amongst themselves and with Los Angeles as a whole--who they were, who belonged, who did not, and who decided.

Exploring this complex web of racialization and agency amidst the concurrent "wet" restriction of Mexican immigrants and alcohol reveals the essentially resistive nature of ethnic Mexican identity in the early twentieth century amidst intersecting social and economic hierarchies. Ethnic Mexicans' traffic in and consumption of alcohol inspired various forms of surveillance based on ideas about race, citizenship, gender, and class. Yet these systems of surveillance, whether legal or familial, always had their blind spots and Bravo considers ethnic Mexicans who sought cover in these concealed spaces as they followed the economic and social opportunities alcohol offered.

**Anita Casavantes Bradford** will explore the history of Latina/o identity formation through a discussion of her book, "For the Children? The Politics of Childhood in Havana and Miami, 1959-1962," which will be released by the University of North Carolina Press in January 2014. She will focus on the role of children and the symbolic figure of the child in the formation of the early Miami exile community, arguing that exiles developed a child-centered "Creation Myth" that justified their decision to seek asylum in the U.S., to distance themselves from other Latina/o immigrants and African American in Miami, and to secure the acceptance and support of the city's middle class white majority.

Casavantes Bradford challenges the popular historical narrative of the Cuban American community by demonstrating that exiles struggled to overcome the same racialized forms of discrimination that circumscribed the socioeconomic mobility of other Latina/o groups. She concludes that their success in doing so was less a product of Cubans' oft-asserted exceptionalism and more a byproduct of their ability to strategically link the wellbeing of their community with U.S. Cold War foreign policy goals.

OCTOBER 18. **Professor Desipio** will focus on Latino politics. Two articles assigned. One of the articles is a good survey of the scholarship that examines what questions are being asked and what aren't in the political science scholarship on Latinos. The other two look at questions getting a lot of attention among political scientists -- electoral

influence and immigrant political incorporation. Each should serve as a foundation for some good discussion.

OCTOBER 25. **Professor Lazo** will discuss the challenges and problems of conceptualizing and writing Latino literary history. Latino literature has witnessed a contemporary "boom" as a result of work published by writers such as Sandra Cisneros, Oscar Hijuelos, Helena Viramontes, and Junot Diaz. But what happens when we consider writing by Latinos from other centuries? How do questions of language (Spanish vs. English), the writer's class position, and historical difference affect the effort to conceptualize Latino literature across various time periods? What genres need to be considered? Does the concept "Latino" need to be altered to account for such differences?

For this meeting, we will read an article that takes up some of these questions. We will also analyze the preface to the new Norton Anthology of Latino Literature. And we will look at a short piece of writing from the nineteenth century. Professor Lazo will begin with an overview of the scholarship and debates over these questions, and then we will open it up to discussion from the seminar

NOVEMBER 1. **Professor Montoya** will focus on three facets of his work.

1) An ethnographic project of studying technocrats, but especially scientists who study diabetes using Mexicano peoples as their human subjects. He will touch on debates about race and racial projects, and discuss the relationship between capitalism, truth, and health. He will also discuss studying culturally powerful people.

2) The seminar will examine the politics of knowledge production and the problems of knowledge making in the contemporary world. The seminar will also discuss the ways Professor Montoya hopes to influence debates and the ways he hopes to situate his work strategically within larger political economy of knowledge.

3) Finally, a short piece about teaching race to medical students will be included as an anchor to the seminar.

NOVEMBER 8. **Professor Gonzalez** will explore how a culture of empire characterized from the beginning the treatment of Mexican immigrants

In the latter 19th Century U.S. investors engaged an imperialist economic agenda in the southern hemisphere; the first steps were taken in Mexico. Large scale U.S. investments into the construction of railroads and the development of mining and oil exploration in Mexico amounted to a billion dollars by 1910. This massive business intervention brought Mexico under the economic domination of the US.

One of the results of the fifteen thousand miles of railroads was to allow travel into Mexico by journalists, academics, investors, tourists and missionaries. By 1880 a literature by the same travelers began to appear that legitimized the imperial agenda by defining Mexico, its people and its culture in a way that required foreign tutelage.

The "Mexican Problem" became a common phrase among many writers which averred that a culturally deficient Mexico required an economic and cultural Americanization in order to overcome its deficiencies. Upon the arrival of massive Mexican immigration in the 1910s, that same definition was applied to the migrants and played significant roles in shaping public policy, in particular education.

NOVEMBER 15. **Professor Rumbaut** will lead the seminar discussion on issues of racialization and racial identities of "Hispanics" and "Latinos" as well as questions of immigration and ethnic mobility in Southern California.

NOVEMBER 29. **Professor Ana Rosas** (forthcoming)

DECEMBER 6. **Presentations by students**