Chicano/Latino Studies 289:
Afro Latinidades

Spring 2019
Thursday 4-6pm
Social Science Tower 318

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(with Prof. Belinda Campos)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar provides an introduction to the study of Afro-Latinos in the United States. We will engage with a variety of readings and other materials from the social sciences, humanities and the arts focused on Afrolatinidad. We will read research by, and participate in conversation with four local scholars who engage in research on Afro-Latinos.

Course Objectives:

- Master basic academic research and literature on Afro-Latinos
- Prepare yourself to develop an undergraduate course on Afro-Latinos

COURSE READINGS

Required readings can be downloaded or will be made directly available.
Participation and attendance: You are expected to come to class having done the reading and prepared to actively participate in discussion. Accommodations will only be made in the event of a medical emergency, family situation, immigration crisis, or when there are professional duties where scheduling is out of your control, such as conference attendance. 15%.

Class Facilitation: Partnering with another student you will facilitate class discussion during half-of-one of our weekly meetings. You and your partner should ask questions that lead us through the readings and also engage the week’s themes as listed in the syllabus. 15%.

Final Paper: Your final paper is an opportunity to integrate and condense what you have learned from the seminar in the form of a draft-syllabus for an undergraduate class on Afro-Latinos. More details about final paper will be provided at first seminar meeting. 70%.

COURSE SCHEDULE, READINGS, AND OTHER RESOURCES

WEEK ONE: APRIL 4TH

A. Music. Cumbia: History and examples

Cumbia drumming, in village on Colombian coast of Caribbean: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FhhTolKCggY

Carmen Rivero: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHKUoNJ2tXI

Mongo Santamaria: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKHr__SDrzc

“Juana la cubana” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAO7yYAclvo

Reflect on question: Why include cumbia as a subject in this seminar or in a class about Afro-Latinos?
B. Readings plus other resources


http://www.ipscuba.net/sociedad/especialistas-en-cuba-llaman-a-desamericanizar-los-estudios-afro/

Questions to guide reading:

Based on these first-week readings how would you:

Describe the differences between the racial conventions in the United States and the Caribbean, Latin America and between the Hispanic Caribbean and the Anglophone Caribbean?

How are the terms *mestizaje* and *Hypodescent* defined in these readings?

Who are Clara Rodríguez, Winston James, Alejo Carpentier, and Alejandro de la Fuente? Write for yourself a brief synopsis of each scholar.

C. Literature and Popular culture

Black Latinas

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/searching-for-a-motherland-as-a-black-latina_us_5abd18abe4b04a59a315941a

Puerto Rico: Fernando Fortunato Vizcarrondo, “Y tu abuela dónde está?” Interpreted by Luis Carbonell

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mF3uOdCOaBY&list=RDmF3uOdCOaBY&start_radio=1

Bobby Capó, “Piel canela,”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lypW6NTeu-A

México: “Negra consentida”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DaYuRIAJFcw
**Question:** What do the verses/lyrics in this poem and songs say about “blackness” in México, Puerto Rico and Cuba?

**WEEK TWO: APRIL 11TH**

**A. Music. Merengue, seis, plena… History and examples**

**Ensemble rehearsal**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vvpHXGu3dQ

Juan Luis Guerra, “Rosalía”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMypBW1vjS0

**Seis: Jibarito de Lares**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qg0H9lQOX6w

**plena: Cortijo con Ismael**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=El8O_NIPueA

“All the essentials of our dances are seen mixed in that summa of rhythms, full of gravity and of that proud dignity which follows from the practice of a rite.” (Alejo Carpentier)

Ismael Rivera. “El negro bembón”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UaT00Di1ow

“Las caras lindas de mi gente negra”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t9gsjztX3f8

**Tito Puente**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YoReSNj0tko

**Question:** How do you interpret the lyrics in “El negro bembón” and in Tito Puente’s “Qué será mi china?” Who is Ismael Rivera? What is the lead string instrument in the Seis performance?

**B1. Readings and other resources**


https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/026327699016001003


Who is Alejandro de la Fuente? Who was Arturo Schomburg? Alejo Carpentier?

B2. Further Readings and resources. Puerto Rico


Who is Jorge Duany?

C. Popular Culture and Literature


TO READ OUT LOUD:

Tato Laviera: https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/tato-laviera

Poem “Mixturao”:

“Latin music, like Latin dance, follows a pattern; it starts suave; the introduction, all the instruments do not come in at once; everything depends on the arrangement; the singer comes in and plants his theme, accompanied by a chorus which jumps right after him, emphasizing the main poetic idea of the song; the orchestra grows toward an area where individual instruments can take a solo if it is in the calling; once this is over, they gather back on to a plateau, which is similar to the introduction; the music gathers momentus and rises to a take off area where they all accelerate together. This is the last area of frenzy and possession which is a feature of both African and Arabian music.” (Víctor Hernández Cruz)
¿Qué te pasa a ti? 
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PehO11pWqgg

Calle 13: “Atrévete”  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vXtJkDHEAAc

What style of music is “Atrévete”?
https://afrofeminas.com/2017/01/20/temor-a-las-pequenas-manos-por-yolanda-arroyo-pizarro/

Who is Yolanda Arroyo Pizarro? What is your take on her vocabulary?

Víctor Hernández Cruz reads his poetry. Video.

Questions: What are the pros and cons of mestizaje according to De la Fuente? What are the differences in racist practices in Brazil vs. the U.S according to Bourdieu and Lacquant? What are the specific issues facing Afro-Latinos according to Bonilla? **Who is Eduardo Bonilla** What does Alejandro de la Fuente have to say about mestizaje? Can you summarize what Jorge Duany said about Puerto Rican identities? How does that match up with Winston James presentation?

READINGS FOR WEEK THREE:

Dr. Marie Nubia-Feliciano, “¿Dónde Pertenecemos?” Narrative Analysis of Afro-Boricua Women’s Experiences of Belonging Within and Beyond College,” Ph.D. Dissertation, Chapman University, College of Educational Studies, August, 2016. Read i-xviii, and chapters 1, 2, and 6.

WEEK THREE: APRIL 18TH

Conversatorio with Dr. Marie Nubia-Feliciano, Chapman University and UC Irvine (Chicano Latino Studies) about Afro-Boricua Women’s Experiences of Belonging Within and Beyond College

WEEK FOUR: APRIL 25

A. Music: Latin American dances: danzón, mangulina, salsa....

To be watched before class: Mexican film “Danzón”,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pa11fUWUPVM


**SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT**: Professor April Mayes, *The Mulatto Republic*.

Who is Robert Farris Thompson? Kobena Mercer? Professor Mayes?
C. Literature and Popular Culture

[Link to article discussing Afro-Latino topics]

**Dominican Republic**: Juan Antonio Alix, “El negro tras de la oreja”, by Luis Carbonell

**Cuba**: Nicolás Guillén, “Son número 6”: video

[Link to Guillén's poem]


How many types of merengue are there?

[Link to article discussing merengue types]

**WEEK FIVE: MAY 2ND**

*Conversatorio* with historian April Mayes, Pomona College, about her book *The Mulatto Republic: Class, Race, and National Identity in the Dominican Republic*, how her historiography connects with present day discussions about identity, and a discussion of her current research on Dominican feminism.

**WEEK SIX: MAY 9TH**

**Music**: What is a chacona? A zarabanda? A bamba? Whas is jarocho, jarabe, joropo?

[Link to blog post about black history month and La Bamba]


[Link to YouTube video about jarocho music]

Haendel

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIPIGQcrHA

“Changó ta vení”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mAXwECScAHE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EA3TPRfP-0M

Santana

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DolqXz2AlFs

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7ATTjg7tpE

B. Readings and other resources


Juliet Hooker, *Theorizing Race in the Americas*, p. 1-17; and chapter 4 on Vasconcelos’ notion of raza cósmica and Gloria Anzaldúa’s elaborations on *mestizaje*.


Who is Juliet Hooker?
C. Literature and popular culture

Costa Rica: Shirley Campbell

“Rotundamente negra” - “Categorically Black”

https://negracubanateniaqueser.com/somos-negras-cubanas/mujer-negra-por-shirley-campbell/


Readings for week 7th

Anthony Jerry, Chasing Blackness: Racial Economies and the Production of Citizenship in Mexico, ms in progress, NOT TO BE CITED, based on Ph.Dissertation.
Read

Intro, ch 1, ch 6, and the Conclusion.

WEEK SEVENTH: MAY 16TH

Conversatorio with anthropologist Anthony Jerry, UCR, about his ms Anthony Jerry, Chasing Blackness: Racial Economies and the Production of Citizenship in Mexico, focused on his field work in the Costa Chica of Mexico and the comunidad de Costa Chicans in Los Angeles.

WEEK EIGHTH: MAY 23

A. Music: Afro-Cuban Jazz, Latin jazz

CD Latin Jazz: La combinación perfecta


Chano Pozo: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chano_Pozo

Raul Fernandez,

B. Readings and other resources

**Readings for next week, Gaye Theresa Johnson:**


file:///C:/Users/rafernан/Downloads/Futures%20of%20Black%20Radicalism%20Introduction.pdf

**C. Literature and Popular Culture**


**WEEK NINTH: MAY 30**

**Conversatorio** with Professor Gaye T. Johnson, Black Studies and Chicano Studies, UCLA, focused on some of her early work on Chicano-African American shared histories and culture in California and the borderlands, issues of identity, as well as her current research.

**WEEK TENTH: JUNE 6**
“The lyrics are rarely deep and often bawdy; at least half the songs are about sex. But they have the richness of colour, rhythm and dialect that marks out the best of Caribbean poetry.” (Gregory Salter).

A. **Music: Afro-Cuban music, son, rumba, etc**

B. **Readings and other resources**


__________, “The Death of ‘la reina de la Salsa:” Celia Cruz and the Mythification of the Black Woman," in Rivera-Rideau and all, *Afro-Latin@s in Movement,* Palgrave, 2016


C. **Literature and Popular Culture**

*Cuban Hip Hop,* Orishas, “A lo cubano”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJGjgLLNEPg

**Timba**


**Los Van Van: “Ritmo Azúcar”**

Cuban underground hip hop: Black thoughts, Black revolution, Black modernity. Austin: University of Texas Press.


Mambo: Gustavo Dudamel

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsG0fNO-_QA

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsG0fNO-_QA

Celia:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTlnXaxuE-k

Hector Lavoe

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBuueYkmYVI

WEEK ELEVENTH: JUNE 13TH

Summary Review and discussion of class project(s)

Misc:

https://iberoamericasocial.com/recolonizacion-clasismo-y-racismo-clacso-y-los-estudios-afrolatinoamericanos/

https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esther_Pineda_G