

## **Latino Metropolis**

PP&D 177 and Chc/Lat 154

Monday 7-9:50 SSL 228

Fall 2012

Professor Rodolfo D. Torres

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Office Hours: Monday 5-6

The course will explore the processes of Chicano-Latino urbanization within the context of Southern California with selected comparisons drawing from other cities. The first hour of the class will be lecture and discussion of the assigned readings followed by a film on Latino life and culture.

As more Latinos live and work in urban spaces, they are gradually transforming the social relations and spatial practices that manifest the geographical and historical legacies of previous waves of urbanization, to suit their varied needs and to express their own diverse values. Concurrently, these urban Latino communities adjust to the influences of the built environments they encounter, as well as to the social fabric upon which they now imprint themselves. As U.S. urban spaces become the loci that constitute, constrain and mediate Latino identity formation and contestation, they yield new potential for political and social change and they shape new claims on the urban future. We will conclude with a session on Mexican labor to the United States---the bracero program. Questions of Mexican labor have historically shaped our understanding of Mexican American communities in the United States.

I also urge students to read the newspaper and other information outlets on a regular basis to share with students.

Topics to be covered:

- Theories of urbanism
- Transnational communities
- Postindustrial change
- Politics in a changing city
- Historical foundation of Chicano LA
- Comparative studies of Latinos in US Cities
- Latino Los Angeles

Required Reading:

All reading will be on EEE (or e-mailed) for student access.

Course Requirements:

1. Mid-term: Multiple Choice Exam (50%)
2. Final: Multiple Choice Exam (50%)

## OUTLINE:

### October 1

Introduction

### October 8

“Latino Communities in the United States” by Clara Irazabal and Ramzi Farhat

“A Profile of LA’s Poor” A United Way Report

### October 15

Foreword, Introduction, and Chapter 1 By Victor Valle and Rodolfo Torres in *Latino Metropolis*, University of Minnesota Press, 2000

“The City of Los Angeles: Latino Metropolis Study” by Rodolfo D. Torres

### October 22

“Latino Urbanism: An Introduction” by David Diaz and Rodolfo D. Torres (pages 1-11)

“The Grassroots and New Urbanism: A Case from a Southern California Latino Community” by Erualdo Gonzalez, Carolina Sarmiento, Ana Siria Urzua

Guest Speaker: Erualdo Gonzalez

**October 29 Mid-Term**

Students will be asked to answer two out of three essay questions. Please bring blue book.

**November 5**

Aesthetic Belonging: The Latinization and Renewal of Union City, New Jersey" By Johana Londono

"Fostering Diversity: Lessons from Integration in Public Housing" by Silvia Dominguez

**November 12 No Class (Holiday)**

**November 19**

"Latino Chicago" by Dennis Grammenos

A Pair of Queens: La Reina De Los Angeles, the Queen City of Charlotte, and the New (Latin) American South" by Jose Luis Gamez

**November 26**

"The Bracero Program, 1942-1964" in Consuming Mexican Labor, University of Toronto Press, 2011, By Ronald Mize and Alicia Swords

Guest Speaker: Gilbert Gonzalez

**December 3 Review**

**December 10 Final Exam (cumulative and multiple choice)**

**Syllabus subject to change**