Latina Issues and Cultural Production: Latina Body Work

ETHN 137: Fall Quarter 2013
Monday-Wednesday-Friday, 11-11:50am
Sequoyah Hall, 147

Professor Jillian Hernandez, Ph.D.
E-mail: jillhernandez@ucsd.edu
Office: Social Sciences Building, 245
Office Hours: Wednesdays 12:30-1:30pm/Fridays 9:30-10:30am
and by appointment

Crystal Pearl, “Havana Riviera,” digital print, 2012

In what ways do the representations and actions of Latina bodies shape and challenge constructions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and citizenship? This course will explore the poetics, aesthetics, and politics of Latinidad as expressed by a diverse group of visual artists, performers, writers, musicians, and moving image makers. Our discussions will center on narratives of racialization and sexuality.

We will engage with memoirs, manifestos, YouTube videos and experimental multimedia projects. Our aim is to conduct comparative historical, transnational, and interdisciplinary analyses of how and why Latina bodies work to make meaning and culture.

Required Texts:
From Bananas to Buttocks: The Latina Body in Popular Film and Culture, edited by Myra Mendible (2007, University of Texas Press) Available at bookstore and library reserve, also easily available for online purchase

Flaming Iguanas by Erika Lopez (1998, Simon & Schuster) Available at bookstore and library reserve, also easily available for online purchase

All other texts available as downloadable pdfs on TED (https://ted.ucsd.edu/webapps/login/) or as links for online material on syllabus reading list

If you encounter trouble with the TED system please contact: http://acms.ucsd.edu/contact/index.html

**Required Films:**
All required films are on reserve at the Geisel library, you are expected to complete viewing of films on your own.

*Imitation of Life* (1934, John M. Stahl)

*Angelitos Negros* (1946, Joselito Rodriguez)


**Course Evaluation**
Your final grade will be based on the following:

Participation (20 points): Attendance and engagement in class discussion.

Prompted Response Papers (10 points each/20 points total): Due on October 16th; November 22nd

Prompts will be available 8 days prior to due date.

Mid-Term Exam (25 points): In-class October 28th

Body Language Creative Writing Project (10 points): Due December 2nd

Final Exam (25 points): In-class December 10th

*Please note, all assignments are to be submitted as hard copies unless I provide instructions stating otherwise.

**Grading Scale:**

100-95 points A+/ 94-90 points A / 89-85 points B+/ 84-80 points B
Course Requirements and Policies

Attendance: You may miss 2 classes without influencing your participation grade. Every unexcused or undocumented absence thereafter will effect your final grade. In order to be counted as present you must arrive on time and stay until class concludes. Attendance will be documented through brief writing prompts at the beginning of class, so please come to each session with a notebook and pen/pencil. If you have any questions regarding attendance please contact me.

Participation and Discussion Ethics: Class participation means you have done the assigned reading thoroughly and come to each class prepared with questions and comments for the discussion. I will document your engagement in class discussion when you make comments and pose questions.

Please engage one another in discussion with respect and consideration. Abusive and harsh language, intimidation and personal attacks will not be tolerated. These norms are reflected in the UCSD Principles of Community that we are all expected to follow (http://wwwvcb.ucsd.edu/principles.htm).

Correspondence: I can answer questions during office hours or via e-mail. Please be aware that I receive a high volume of e-mails, if your query is time sensitive please indicate that in the subject line. I will expect for you to check your UCSD e-mail once a day in the event that there is a schedule change or if I need to send you important information. Class alerts will be sent via the TED system. For a useful and humorous guide to corresponding with professors, read: http://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/professors-guide/2010/09/30/18-etiquette-tips-for-e-mailing-your-professor

Academic Integrity: Whether intentional or inadvertent, plagiarism is a serious violation. All work submitted in this course must be your own. The use of sources such as ideas, quotations, paraphrases, or anything written by someone else must be properly acknowledged and cited. If you have questions about the proper citation of sources, please ask me. Students who plagiarize, or who cheat on an exam, will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with University policy. Students are expected to be familiar with UCSD’s Policy on Integrity of Scholarship, available at http://www.senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm#AP14.

Disability Support: If you have a documented disability needing accommodations, please inform me and bring a notification letter outlining your approved accommodations. I will make all reasonable efforts to assist you. If, as a result of a disability, you cannot accept the content or terms of this syllabus, you must notify me in writing within one week of receipt of the syllabus. You may also seek assistance or information from the Office for Students with Disabilities, 858-534-4382.

Electronic Devices and Laptops: Cell phones must be turned off or set to silent in the classroom. If you must take an urgent call or send an important message please quietly
exit the room. Excessive disruption of class for use of cell phones will negatively impact your participation grade.

Laptops and tablets can be utilized solely for the purpose of taking notes. This privilege is contingent upon responsible use of these devices. If I notice or am informed that students are being distracted by such technology they will no longer be allowed in class.

**Late Submission of Assignments:** Assignments turned in late will lose 3 points per calendar day. If you foresee an issue in completing your assignment on time please contact me as soon as possible. Assignments over two days late will not be accepted without documentation from a doctor or dean.

**Sexual Content:** Some required course materials include explicit depictions and/or descriptions of sexual acts. I have assigned these works to facilitate learning about the politics and representation of girlhood sexualities. If you believe engagement with these materials would likely cause you significant discomfort it may be in your interest to drop the course.

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**Majoring or Minoring in Ethnic Studies**

Many students take an Ethnic Studies course because the topic is of great interest or because of a need to fulfill a social science, non-contiguous, or other college requirement. Often students have taken three or four classes out of interest yet do not realize how close they are to a major, a minor, or even a double major. An Ethnic Studies major is excellent preparation for a career in law, education, medicine, public health, social work, counseling, journalism, government and politics, international relations, and many other careers. If you would like information about the Ethnic Studies major or minor, please contact:

Daisy Rodríguez, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor
858-534-3277 or d1rodriguez@ucsd.edu or visit www.ethnicstudies.ucsd.edu

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**Reading and Screening Schedule (subject to change):**

*Please note, all reading must be completed by the date listed on the syllabus, as they will be discussed in class and I will expect for you to have comments and questions.*

**Friday September 27**

No class, I will be presenting at the Black Sexual Economies Conference at Washington University in St. Louis.

Read Myra Mendible’s introduction in *From Bananas to Buttocks: The Latina Body in Popular Film and Culture* (2007, University of Texas Press)

**Monday September 30**
Course introduction and discussion of reading

**Conceptualizing & Embodying Race**

**Wednesday October 2**


Excerpt from Michael Omi and Howard Winant’s *Racial Formations*

- Suggested additional reading:

**Friday October 4**

In-class screening and discussion of film *Imitation of Life* (1934, John M. Stahl)
(complete film viewing on your own by next class, film on reserve in Geisel Library)

**Monday October 7**


**Cuban/Mexican Crossings: *Mujeres de Rumbo***

**Wednesday October 9**


- Suggested additional reading:
  - Excerpts from Frantz Fanon’s *Black Skin, White Masks*, “The Fact of Blackness” and “The Woman of Color and the White Man”
  - Rey Chow, “Race and the Problem of Admittance” and “What Does the Woman of Color Want?”
Friday October 11

In-class screening and discussion of film *Angelitos Negros* (1946, Joselito Rodriguez)

*Complete film viewing on your own by next class, film on reserve in Geisel Library*

**Monday October 14**

Continued discussion of *Angelitos Negros*


**Wednesday October 16**

In-class viewing of segments from films *Victimas del Pecado* (1951, Emilio Fernandez) and *Negro es Mi Color* (1951, Tito Davison)


**Prompted response paper due**

*The Sounds & Bodies of Spectacular Latinas: From Latin Soul to Punk and Pop*

**Friday October 18**

No class, I will be giving a keynote lecture at the Women and Girls in Georgia conference at the University of Georgia.

Your assignment is to view the film *La Lupe: Queen of Latin Soul* (2007, Ela Troyano) by the next class. Film is on reserve at the Geisel Library.

**Mid-term short answer questions sent**

**Monday October 21**

Discussion of *La Lupe: Queen of Latin Soul*

“Celia’s Shoes” by Frances Negrón-Mutaner in *From Bananas to Buttocks* anthology


**Wednesday October 23**
“Jennifer Lopez: The New Wave of Border Crossing” by Tara Lockhart in From Bananas to Buttocks anthology

“Big Booty Beauty and the New Sexual Aesthetic” by Myra Mendible, January 5, 2009 (access via this link, not on TED: http://www.alternet.org/story/117518/big_booty_beauty_and_the_new_sexual_aesthetic

Friday October 25

“Work that Hoe: Tilling the Soil of Punk Feminism” (p. 233-238) by Alice Bag from Punk Anteriors special issue of Women & Performance Vol. 22 (Nos. 2-3), 2012


Monday October 28

**In-class mid-term examination (multiple choice), short answer responses due

La*tn* Bodies in Visual Art

Wednesday October 30

“Tarsila do Armaral: Art and Environmental Concerns of a Brazilian Modernist” by Carol Damian, Women’s Art Journal, Vol. 20 (No. 1), 1999, (p. 3-7)

“Manifesto Antropofágico” by Oswald de Andrade.

Coco Fusco “The Other History of Intercultural Performance” from The Feminism and Visual Culture Reader, edited by Amelia Jones (2003, Routledge), p. 205-216

Friday November 1


Monday November 4

Lecture on contemporary Latina artists

Wednesday November 6

**Creative Erotics**

**Friday November 8**


“Poetry is Not a Luxury” by Audre Lorde (p. 36-39) in *Sister Outsider* (2007, Crossing Press)

**Monday November 11**

No class, Veterans Day holiday

**Wednesday November 13**


“Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power” by Audre Lorde (p. 53-59)

**Friday November 15**

“Art Comes for the Archbishop: The Semiotics of Contemporary Chicana Feminism and the Work of Alma López” (p. 96-120) by Luz Calvo from *Our Lady of Controversy: Alma López’s Irreverent Apparition*. Edited by Alicia Gaspar de Alba and Alma López. (2011, University of Texas Press)

- Suggested additional readings:
- “Our Lady of Controversy: A Subject That Needs No Introduction” by Alicia Gaspar De Alba (p. 1-13)
- “The Artist of Our Lady (April 2, 2001) by Alma López (p. 13-16), and

**Monday November 18**

“Divas, Atrevidas, y Entendidas: An Introduction to Identities” and

Wednesday November 20


Friday November 22

Flaming Iguanas continued (pgs. 139-end)

**Prompted response paper due**

Monday November 25


Wednesday November 27


Friday November 29

No class, Thanksgiving holiday

**Final exam short answer questions sent**

Monday December 2

**Body Language Project submission and sharing**

Wednesday December 4

No class, presenting at Hip Hop and Punk Feminisms Conference at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Friday December 6

No class, presenting at Hip Hop and Punk Feminisms Conference at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Tuesday December 10

**In-class final examination (multiple choice), short answer responses due, closing discussion, 11:30am-2:30pm**
Student Consent for Release of Student Information

I hereby authorize the UCSD Ethnic Studies Department to return my graded final examination/research paper by placing the examination/research paper in a location accessible to all students in the course. I understand that the return of my examination/research paper as described above may result in the disclosure of personally identifiable information, that is not public information as defined in UCSD PPM 160-2, and I hereby consent to the disclosure of such information.

Quarter: 

Course: 

Instructor: 

Student I.D.#: 

Print Name: 

Signature: 