Freshman Seminar on Chicano/a Identity
Ethnic Studies 87
Thursdays, 2:00-3:20pm
Social Science Building 103

Professor Ramón A. Gutiérrez
Email: r gutierrez@ucsd.edu
Office: Social Sciences Bldg. 232
Office Phone: 858-534-2135
Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:30-1:30 pm, Thursdays 12:30-1:30 PM. Or by special appointment

This freshman seminar will explore the Chicana/o identity in global perspective, examining how personal identities are formed and maintained over time. We will start with an examination of how kinship, history, religion, race and color, ethnicity and social class shape how we think about our personal identities. We will also explore the issue of immigration, looking at how generation and historical experience shape identities, particularly given the close proximity of Mexico to the United States. Finally, we will analyze how Chicano/a political consciousness transformed the nature of ethnic Mexican identities in the United States.

This class meets six times during the quarter. Attendance is mandatory. Below each class meeting you will find a list of readings, which you are required to read in preparation for class. This class will be taught as a seminar and thus every student is expected to have done the reading and be prepared to participate in class discussion. Did anything spark your interest in the readings? Did you underline anything or mark it so that you could easily return to it? What issues or themes from the readings are you likely to talk to with your friends?

Writing assignments:
Each week each student will be expected to write a 1 to 1.5 page paper answering the following questions: What were the author’s thesis or most important points? What was most important in the reading for you? Was there anything you disagreed with? Why?

These papers are due one day before class, or at 4pm on Wednesdays. I will then use these responses to help lead the discussion. If you fail to meet the writing deadline, you must bring a copy of your paper to class.

Format: All papers should be paginated, have one-inch margins and be in times or times new roman, 12 point. Since you only need to reference assigned texts, the following citation format is acceptable: (Jones, 27).

Grading: The grading in this course is pass/no pass. You will receive one point for every class you attend beginning today, January 12th, and two points for every e-mail
response you turn in by Wednesday at 4pm. Papers turned in after this loose 1 point. No papers will be accepted after Thursday’s class. Papers that do not follow the format or fail to engage the material loose 1 point. There are a total of 16 points. You need 11 points to pass this class.

CLASS MEETINGS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS


January 19 -- Time, Space, Conquest and Identity


January 26 – Spanish, Mexican, and Mexican American National Identities


February 2 -- Americanization and U.S. Citizenship


February 9 -- The Chicano Movement


February 16 – Chicana/o Feminisms


Gloria Anzaldúa, “How to tame a wild tongue,” in Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza (San Francisco: Spinsters/Aunt lute, 1987), pp. 53-64.