



CGS 137 / ETHN 137

Latina Issues and Cultural Production: Creating Joy

Spring 2023

Dr. Amanda Martin Sandino

Sessions Taught in Person, TuTh 9:30–10:50AM in WLH 2111

Zoom

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/my/sandino?pwd=VmQ4SWQvS3lkdy9aOGowZk9sZjJ0dz09>

Office: [Underbelly](#) Izakaya (near the Old Student Center) and via Zoom

Office hours: TTh, 11AM-12:30PM and by appointment

Email: amartins@ucsd.edu

* Please note that all course materials, including this syllabus, presentations, assignment guidelines, and more, are protected by copyright. I am the exclusive owner of the materials I create. I encourage you to take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. However, you may not, nor may you knowingly allow others to reproduce or distribute class notes and course materials publicly without my express written consent.

Similarly, you own the copyright for your original papers and discussion board posts. If I am interested in posting your privately submitted content on the course web site, I will request your written permission. Only enrolled students may attend our classroom sessions. Our classroom sessions may not be recorded or otherwise disseminated.

** All times listed should be assumed to be in Pacific Day Time.

Course Description

"The struggle is inner: Chicano, indio, American Indian, mojado, mexicano, immigrant Latino, Anglo in power, working class Anglo, Black, Asian--our psyches resemble the bordertowns and are populated by the same people. The struggle has always been inner, and is played out in outer terrains."

- Gloria Anzaldúa

"You need a compass for this boy, who the fuck is Columbus?

I'm wildin, yeah we on an island

Yeah we like a mixed lil panda, no designer."

- Nitty Scott, "Mango Nectar"

The artistic works of Latina and gender minority Latine creators inevitably speak to issues of intersectionality. We are deeply affected by the borders that surround and encompass our identities: the literal borders between countries, the borderlands that are our mixed race identities, the spaces between the insiders and the alien. In this class, we will be considering these border spaces as themes explored Latina and non-binary/genderqueer Latine artists.

Specifically, to counter **tragedy-centered** dominant narratives about, rather than by, Latine artists, we will be looking at **Latina- and NB Latine-created comedies**. In contrast to stereotypes about Latine-for-Latine people media consisting largely of telenovelas and narco/drug narratives, these complex stories tell not just of the suffering but also the joy that comes from our Latine subjectivities.

Particular issues considered in this class include:

- Colorism/hue privilege, both historically and today
- The coloniality of gender and erasure of gender/queerness
- Gentrification and the displacement of communities of color
- The influence of White supremacy on global beauty standards
- Ongoing efforts to undermine machismo culture
- The intersections between class and immigration status

Please note that no texts need be purchased for this course.

Grade Breakdown

- 20% Participation and Attendance
- 30% Weekly Reflections
- 35% Media Commentary
- 15% Class Leadership Assignment (or Alternative Assignment)

Assignments

- **Attendance and Participation:** Class attendance is mandatory and constitutes a large portion of your participation grade. **You are allowed a maximum of two unexcused absences this quarter.** In the event that you will miss class due to an unexcused absence, you need not email me but *should check in* with another student to catch up on missed material. Any absences or tardies beyond these two will result in the lowering of your grade and may result in failure of the course.
- **Weekly Reflections:** Each student will be expected to **complete 7 out of the 10** given weekly short writing responses, approximately 250 words in length. Based on the readings, these prompts will ask you to draw connections between learning modules (and courses), analyze readings, and demonstrate continued intellectual growth throughout the course. Detailed feedback will be provided in office hours and by appointment only.
- **Zoom Media Commentary:** As we will be watching a film, television show, or comedy special each week, I expect every student to participate via Zoom. This participation will entail using Zoom chat to submit and respond to relevant comments/questions. **Please plan on posting at least 3 meaningful comments/questions** for each media piece viewed.
- **Class Leadership Assignment:** Each student in the class must sign up for text for which they will be the discussion leader, either individually or with one or two peers. **This is not necessarily a presentation** (though it may be). You will be acting as a facilitator—someone responsible for helping us unpack a key text in class. For more information and to view the alternate assignment, view "assignments" on our course Canvas page.
- **Extra Credit:** Extra credit opportunities will likely be provided via Canvas throughout the quarter.

Course Schedule

* Please note that dates may be subject to change.

** **CW**= Text may be especially emotionally draining or trigger trauma. While many of our texts will include racial epithets, strong language, and descriptions of violence, these marked texts are especially graphic and/or upsetting in nature, in my opinion.

Week #1: Real Latinas Making Representation

- Film: *Real Women Have Curves* (2002)
- Heredia, "From the New Heights" (2013)
- Wendy Echeverria, "How Hollywood Reinforces Latinx Stereotypes" (2019)

Week #2: Sizeism and Gordita Pride

- TV Show: "Gordita Chronicles" (2022)
- Tovar, "Gordita Chronicles is the Chubby Brown Girl Coming-of-Age Story I Needed" (2022)
- Beltran, "The Hollywood Latina Body as Site of Social Struggle" (2002)
- Mendible, "Feminist Perspectives on Latinx Media" (2020)

Week #3: Talking Class (in Class)

- TV Show/Comedy Special: *Middle Classy* (2022) and *Cristela* (2014)
- Martinez, "Double Consciousness" (2002)
- Castillo Planas, *Cristela Alonzo's Subversive Humor* (2022)

Week #4: Transnational Machismo/Patriarcado

- Film: *Tortilla Soup* (2001)
- Li, "National Cuisine and International Sexuality" (2019)
- Lindenfeld, *Visiting the Mexican American Family Tortilla Soup as Culinary Tourism* (2007)

Week #5: Re/Queering Latine Rituals

- TV Show: *One Day at a Time* (2017–2020)
- pilot.viruet, "'One Day At A Time' Has a Nuanced Nonbinary Character" (2018)
- Saltzman, "How One Day at a Time Avoids Negative Queer Tropes" (2018)
- Ruiz Mangual, "Intergenerational Displays of Sexuality" (2021)

Week #6: Colorism and the Erasure of Afro-Latinidad

- Comedy Specials: *Bitch, Grow Up* (Marcella Arguello; 2023) and *Entre Nos, Part 3* (Aida Rodriguez; 2020)
- Hall, "Media Stereotypes and 'Coconut' Colorism" (2018)
- Antoine, "Hegemonic Race and Gender Discourses" (2015)

Week #7: "Living on Borders and in Margins"

- Film: *In the Heights* (2021)
- Cázares, "Resisting Gentrification" (2017)
- Boffone, "Whitewashed Usnavi" (2019)
- Castillo, "The limitations of 'Latinidad'" (2021)

Week #8: Laughing in the Face of Imperialism

- TV Show: *Los Espookys* (2019–2022)
- Zornosa, "The One Spooky Show You Need to Watch This Halloween Season" (2022) Published.
- Schmidt, "The Diverse World of Streaming in Latin America" (2022)

Week #9: De-Colonizing Gender

- TV Show: *Our Flag Means Death* (2022–Present)
- Zelleher, "Our Flag Means Death's non-binary pirate is 'reclaiming our stories', says actor Vico Ortiz"
- Hilkinger, "'Our Flag Means Death' and Normalizing Queerness" (2022)
- Gonzalez, "'Our Flag Means Death' and the Importance of Clear Queerness" (2022)

Week #10: The Illegalizing of Human Beings

- TV Show: *Gentefied* (2020–2022)
- Escobar, "Gentefied's Season 2 Dives Right Into the Debate of How Latinxs Define Ourselves" (2021)
- Mejia and Ono, "Fugitive Rhetorics in Media Representations of Sanctuary" (2020)
- Miranda, "From Border 'Reality' to Narrative Possibilities in Latinx TV and FX's *The Bridge*" (2022)

Course Policies

Academic Honesty

"Academic Integrity is expected of everyone at UC San Diego. This means that you must be honest, fair, responsible, respectful, and trustworthy in all of your actions. Lying, cheating or any other forms of dishonesty will not be tolerated because they undermine learning and the University's ability to certify students' knowledge and abilities. Thus, any attempt to get, or help another get, a grade by cheating, lying or dishonesty will be reported to the Academic Integrity Office and will result sanctions. Sanctions can include an F in this class and suspension or dismissal from the University.

"So, think carefully before you act by asking yourself: a) is what I'm about to do or submit for credit an honest, fair, respectful, responsible & trustworthy representation of my knowledge and abilities at this time and, b) would my instructor approve of my action? You are ultimately the only person responsible for your behavior. So, if you are unsure, don't ask a friend—ask your instructor, instructional assistant, or the Academic Integrity Office. You can learn more about academic integrity at academicintegrity.ucsd.edu" (Source: Academic Integrity Office, 2018).

Counseling Services

Life happens – it brings us joys, sorrows, challenges, and celebrations. In the past, students have been negatively impacted by relationships break ups, deportation, homelessness, losing a job, illness, car stolen, and more! Please contact me right away if these situations impact your work. I want you to succeed and can help you find resources if you let me know.

I also suggest checking out UCSD's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) website at <https://wellness.ucsd.edu/CAPS/>. CAPS has resources to support students with everything from time management to unexpected stressors to food insecurity.

Declaring a CGS Minor or Major

Many students take a Critical Gender Studies course because the topic is of great interest or because of a need to fulfill a university or college requirement. Often students have taken three or four classes out of *interest* yet have no information about the major or minor and don't realize how close they are to a major, a minor, or even a double major. A Critical Gender Studies major is excellent preparation for a career in law, public policy, education, public health, social work, non-profit work and many other careers. If you would like information about the Critical Gender Studies major or minor at UCSD, please contact Joje Reyes-Alonzo, Critical Gender Studies Program Advisor, via email at cgs@ucsd.edu.

Disability Support

Students with disabilities who may need academic accommodations (e.g. test Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter (paper or electronic) issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities. Students are required to discuss accommodation arrangements with instructors and OSD liaisons in the department **in advance** of any assignments. Check out OSD online at <https://osd.ucsd.edu/students/>.

When possible, I include subtitles on all content, including course lectures. All PDFs should be text-to-voice rendered. Please email me if you could use additional support.

Email Policy

I usually respond to email within 24 hours Monday through Friday. If you have not received a reply to your message within 48 hours please resend to make sure I have received your inquiry. Remember to sign your name and course number to your email messages.

Please do not email me asking if you have “missed anything” in class—if you been absent then you definitely missed something! It is your responsibility to either come to my office hours or email a friend in class to catch up. If you miss a film, you are still responsible for the media commentary.

As a rule, I do not discuss grade specifics via email. If you have questions regarding a grading decision, please either meet with me during office hours or another time that works for both of us.

Uncivil emails or messages including vitriol will be forwarded to the Office of Student Affairs.

Expected Absences

Inform me of any intended absences for the session in the first two weeks of class. In general, excused absences are only provided for childcare issues, religious observances, and major medical crises. Please contact me ASAP if you believe you have another planned absence that you believe should be excused.

Grade Disputes

Like all humans, I make mistakes. Which means that you should absolutely check in with me if you feel that a grade is lower than you deserve or you feel I've made a mistake with regard to your attendance.

To do so, I merely ask that you:

1. Take 24 hours to let the feeling sit—it is totally normal to feel angry after receiving a grade that is lower than you expected.
2. Reread your assignment and take notes. Be prepared to ask thoughtful questions and make a clear argument as to why you believe you should receive a higher grade.
3. Talk with me during office hours (not at the end of class or via email).

Land Acknowledgement

The UC San Diego community holds great respect for the land and the original people of the area where our campus is located. The university is built on the un-ceded territory of the Kumeyaay Nation. Today, the Kumeyaay people continue to maintain their political sovereignty and cultural traditions as vital members of the San Diego community. We acknowledge their tremendous contributions to our region and thank them for their stewardship.

**The Intertribal Resource Center is working with Kumeyaay community members and the campus community to create an official statement for UC San Diego. The above statement is a temporary draft currently used by the Intertribal Resource Center. As a member of the Mapuche peoples, I recognize that this really is so little compared to the genocide we've faced and survived as indigenous communities.*

Late Work Policy

The last day to submit late work is 11:59PM on Tuesday, June 13. All other work may be done asynchronously and submit before this time. However, please note that if you do miss a screening, you will be expected to gain access to the film/tv show/etc. on your own.

Student Conduct

UC San Diego Principles of Community The University of California, San Diego is dedicated to learning, teaching, and serving society through education, research, and public service. Our international reputation for excellence is due in large part to the cooperative and entrepreneurial nature of the UC San Diego community. UC San Diego faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to be creative and are rewarded for individual as well as collaborative achievements.

To foster the best possible working and learning environment, UC San Diego strives to maintain a climate of fairness, cooperation, and professionalism. These principles of

community are vital to the success of the University and the well being of its constituents. UC San Diego faculty, staff, and students are expected to practice these basic principles as individuals and in groups.

[Click here for the complete UCSD Principles of Community in English and Spanish.](#)

Title IX Compliance

UCSD recognizes the inherent dignity of all individuals and promotes respect for all people. Sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse will NOT be tolerated. If you have been the victim of sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, we encourage you to report this matter promptly. As a faculty member, I am interested in promoting a safe and healthy environment, and should I learn of any sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, I must report the matter to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you want to speak to a confidential source you may contact the Counseling Center.

The Office for the Prevention of Harassment & Discrimination (OPHD) provides assistance to students, faculty, and staff regarding reports of bias, harassment, and discrimination. OPHD is the UC San Diego Title IX office. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is the federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in educational institutions that are recipients of federal funds. Students have the right to an educational environment that is free from harassment and discrimination.

Students have options for reporting incidents of sexual violence and sexual harassment. Sexual violence includes sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. Information about reporting options may be obtained at OPHD at (858) 534-8298, ophd@ucsd.edu or <http://ophd.ucsd.edu>. Students may receive confidential assistance at CARE at the Sexual Assault Resource Center at (858) 534-5793, sarc@ucsd.edu or <http://care.ucsd.edu> or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at (858) 534-3755 or <http://caps.ucsd.edu>

Students may feel more comfortable discussing their particular concern with a trusted employee. This may be a student affairs staff member, a department Chair, a faculty member or other University official. These individuals have an obligation to report incidents of sexual violence and sexual harassment to OPHD. This does not necessarily mean that a formal complaint will be filed. If you find yourself in an uncomfortable situation, ask for help.

The Writing Hub

Academic writing is a crucial - and sometimes frustrating - part of your education. Learning to write with clarity, style, and power is a skill that will serve you throughout your life and career! That's why the Writing Hub's first principle is to help writers, not

writing. Our aim is to help you develop your long-term skills as an academic writer, one writing project at a time!

As of Fall 2021, we are offering face to face AND online/remote services. Wherever you are, we've still got you covered! For more info, visit <https://writinghub.ucsd.edu/for-undergrads/index.html>.

Undergraduate students can visit the Writing Hub for:

- One-on-one writing tutoring [by appointment](#)[Links to an external site.](#), 6 days/week, face to face AND online/remote
- Supportive, in-depth conversations about writing, the writing process, and writing skills
- Help with every stage of the writing process
- Same-day appointments by availability
- [Writing Workshops](#) on key writing topics