

Freshman Seminar on Chicano/a Identity

Ethnic Studies 87

Thursdays, 2:00-3:20pm

Social Science Building 103

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:30-1:30 pm, Thursdays 12:30-1:30PM. 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 12 -- Introduction -- The Cultural Dimensions of Identity.

January 19 -- Time, Space, Conquest and Identity

Ramón A. Gutiérrez, "Mexican-Origin People in the United States," in Suzanne Oboler and Deena J. González, eds., *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Latinos and Latinas in the United States* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), Vol. 3, pp. 129-39.

"Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo," in Oscar J. Martínez, ed., *U.S.-Mexico Borderlands: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives* (Wilmington, De.: Scholarly Resources Books, 1996), pp. 2-37.

"Plan de San Diego," in Oscar J. Martínez, ed., *U.S.-Mexico Borderlands: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives* (Wilmington, De.: Scholarly Resources Books, 1996), pp. 139-141.

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

Ramón A. Gutiérrez, "Unraveling America's Hispanic Past: Internal Stratification and Class Boundaries," *The Chicano Studies Reader* (Los Angeles: UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center, 2001), pp. 371-387.

David Gutiérrez, "Early Manifestations of Ethnic Awareness," in Walls and Mirrors: Mexican Americans, Mexican Immigrants, and the Politics of Ethnicity (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995), pp. 28-38.

February 2 -- Americanization and U.S. Citizenship

George Sanchez, "Americanization and the Mexican Immigrant," in *Becoming Mexican American: Ethnicity, Culture and Identity in Chicano Los Angeles, 1900-1945* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1993), pp. 87-107.

Nicholas de Genova and Ana Y. Ramos-Zayas, *Latino Crossings: Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and the Politics of Race and Citizenship* (New York: Routledge, 2003), pp. 1-22.

February 9 -- The Chicano Movement

Ramón A. Gutiérrez, "Community, Patriarchy and Individualism: The Politics of Chicano History," *The American Quarterly* 45/1(March 1993), pp. 44-72.

Ramón A. Gutiérrez, "Internal Colonialism: The History of a Theory," *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race*, Vol. 1, No. 2 (Summer 2004), pp. 281-96.

“El Plan de Delano,” “El Plan Espiritual de Aztlán,” and “El Plan de Santa Bárbara,” in F. Arturo Rosales, *Testimonio* (Houston: Arte Público Press, 2000), pp. 295, 361-369.

February 16 – Chicana/o Feminisms

Cherríe Moraga, “La Güera,” in *Loving in the War Years* (Boston: South End Press, 1983), pp. 50-59.

Richard Rodriguez, *Hunger for Memory: An Autobiography* (New York: Bantam Books, 1983), pp. 113-39.

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