

**Ethnic Studies 118: Contemporary Immigration**  
**Winter Quarter, 2012**  
**Dr. Murillo**

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**Instructor:** Rubén R. Murillo  
**Classroom:** WLH 2113  
**Class time:** TTH 12:30-1:50

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**Office:** SSB 249  
**Office hours:** T/TH 10:45-12:15 & by appt.

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**Readings will be posted on Ted**

**Course description:**

This course examines the prevailing bellicose posture U.S. nationalist discourse takes toward immigration. Not only do we hear the tropes and language of war used on the national stage to describe immigration, but this language is accompanied with ever increasing deployment of military style tactics and equipment that scholars and activists have referred to as the militarization of the border.

We will historicize the contemporary framing of immigration as drawing upon the ideological foundations and the discursive processes that underwrite U.S. national identity and social organization. We will focus on how race and gender have played critical gatekeeping roles in determining access to economic wealth, political power, and social status often contradicting the notions of liberty, equality, and justice that presumably lie at foundation of the nation. After studying the historical trajectory of how the idea of race and gender have structured relations of power in the United States, we will pay particular attention to how national discourses as manifested in the contemporary debate over immigration negotiate these contradictions contingent upon the economic, political, and social exigencies.

**Grade calculation :**

Attend. & part.	15%
Reading journals:	15%
Mid-term:	20%
Final exam:	20%
Final paper:	30%

**Grading scale:**

A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F 0-59
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

**Attendance:**

I take attendance every time class meets, and your attendance factors significantly in determining your attendance & participation grade for the course. Each student can miss two classes for whatever reason during the quarter without any penalty. However, **if a student misses more than two classes during the quarter I will reduce his or her final course grade by 1% for each additional absence.**

**Participation (15%):**

Of course each student should complete his or her homework and come to class prepared to actively participate in class discussions and activities. Attendance and participation account for 15% of your final course grade. I expect each student to arrive to class prepared to actively participate in discussing assigned readings, posing and answering questions, and actively working in groups.

### **Reading Journals due via email two hours before class (15%)**

You will write journal entries of 1-2 single-spaced pages corresponding to each day of assigned readings. Write for approximately 15 minutes immediately upon completing the reading assignment so that the journal reflects your unfiltered and immediate thoughts. This is not a formal essay, but rather use the journal to process the theories, concepts, and methods presented in the readings and lectures and connect with other readings or personal experience. When there is more than one reading assigned for homework only write one journal, but put the readings in dialogue with each other.

**Journal format:** Please write in bold your name, course (ETHN 118), Winter 2012, Murillo and the date you are submitting on the upper left hand side of the page, single spaced, and the title of the reading you are journaling centered at the top.

Email me your journals (rmurillo@ucsd.edu) as you complete them at least two hours before class begins. The subject heading in the email simply should indicate the name of the reading you are journaling followed by your last name.

### **Final Paper (30%):**

You will write one research paper 6-8 pages in length due the last day of class. I will grade the essays based on several criteria such as content, organization, style, and demonstrated understanding of assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions. **If you hand in your essay late I will automatically deduct 10 points for every day it is late.**

**Final Paper Due Thursday 3/15**

**Final Exam (20%):** There will be a final exam for the course. It is cumulative covering all the readings, lectures, and class discussions. In addition to a section of fill in the blank and short answer that covers content, there will be two short essay questions of ½ to 1 page in length and a long essay question that will be 2-3 pages in length that will probe your ability to apply, contest, and/or elaborate on the critical concepts and methods presented in the course.

**Final Exam Tuesday 3/20**

### **Majoring or Minor in Ethnic Studies at UCSD**

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 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. An Ethnic Studies major is excellent preparation for a career in law, public policy, government and

politics, journalism, education, public health, social work, international relations, and many other careers. If you would like information about the Ethnic Studies major or minor at UCSD, please contact Yolanda Escamilla, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor, at 858-534-3277 or [yescamilla@ucsd.edu](mailto:yescamilla@ucsd.edu) or [www.ethnicstudies.ucsd.edu](http://www.ethnicstudies.ucsd.edu)

**Caveat:**

The professor reserves the right to modify this syllabus depending on the progress of the class or other pedagogical factors. If there are any changes, I will announce them in class and on Ted.

Calendar:

Week 1

**T 1/10: Introductions, Syllabus, Course Overview**

**TH 1/12: Border Wars**

homework due:

watch: *Border War: The Battle Over Immigration*

write: Journal 1

Week 2

**T 1/17: Historical Origins of U.S. National Identity**

homework due:

read: "What's in a Name?" in *Name of War* by Lepore (pp. ix-xxiii)

read: "Habitations of Cruelty" by Lepore (pp.71-96)

write: Journal 2

ancillary readings: "The Cult of Domesticity" by Amy Kaplan

**TH 1/19: The Ideological Underpinnings of U.S. National Identity**

homework due:

read: *Iron Cages* ch. i "The Iron Cage" (pp. 3-15)

read: *Iron Cages* ch. iv "Beyond Primitive Accumulation" (pp.69-79)

read: *Iron Cages* ch. V "The Red Race on our Borders" (pp. 80-107)

write: Journal 3

write: 5 possible mid-term questions

ancillary readings: *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, the African*  
"An American Prospero in King Arthur's Court" in *IC* (pp.145-170)

Week 3

**T 1/24: The Historical Role of Race in U.S. Immigration Law & Enforcement**

homework due:

read: "Immigration, Citizenship, and Racialization" in *Immigrant Acts* by Lisa Lowe

watch: *Race: The Power of an Illusion* ep.3 "The House We Live In" (on reserves)  
write: Journal 4

*ancillary readings*: "Birthing a Nation: Race, Ethnicity, & Childbearing" in *Entry Denied* by Eithne Luibheid  
"The House that Race Built" by Angela Davis

### **TH 1/26: Shock Doctrine: Economic Policies Imposed on Latin America**

*homework due*:

read: "Blank is Beautiful" in *Shock Doctrine* by Noemi Klein  
read: "Two Doctor Shocks" by Klein  
read: *Confessions of an Economic Hitman (COAEHM)* Preface, Prologue, & pp. 1-12  
write: Journal 5

*ancillary readings*: "The Face of America & the State of Emergency" by Lauren Berlant

### **Week 4**

### **T 1/31: Other People's Blood: U.S. Intervention in Central America**

*homework due*:

read: *Other People's Blood* Intro & Ch.1 by Kahn (pp.1-23)  
read: COAEHM "Panama's President & Hero et al." pp.66-87  
read: COAEHM "Ecuador's President Battles Big Oil" pp.165-171  
read: COAEHM "The U.S. Invades Panama" pp.203-213  
write: Journal 6

*ancillary readings*: "Neoliberalism & Global Order" by Noam Chomsky  
"Legitimizing vs. Meaningless 3rd World Elections: El Salvador, Guatemala, & Nicaragua" by Noam Chomsky in *Manufacturing Dissent*

### **TH 2/2: Other People's Blood: The Historical Origins of Immigration Prisons**

*homework due*:

read: "The Border is a Third Country" in *OPB* pp. 9-23,  
read: "Murder by Remote Control" in *OPB* pp. 31-45  
read "The Corralón" in *OPB* (pp. 53-91)  
write: Journal 7

*suggested viewing*: *Romero* directed by John Duigan (1989)  
*ancillary readings*: "The Sandinista Revolution" by Howard Zinn

### **Week 5**

### **T 2/7: Midterm Exam**

### **TH 2/9: Detained**

read: *Detained*

read: "The Panopticon" in *Discipline & Punish* by Michel Foucault

write: journal 8

ancillary source: watch "Lost in Detention" PBS

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/lost-in-detention/>

Week 6

### **T 2/14: Mapping Ideological Assumptions In Immigration Discourse**

homework due:

read: "Why Study Public Discourse Metaphors Depicting Latinos?" in *Brown Tide Rising* by Otto Santa Anna

write: journal 9

write: 5 possible final exam questions

### **TH 2/16: Mothers Against Illegal Aliens**

homework due:

read: "Constructing Mexican Immigrant Women as a Threat to American Families" by Mary Romero in *International Journal of Sociology & The Family*

write: journal 10

suggested viewing: youtube "Michelle Delacroce"

ancillary reading: "Latina Reproduction & Public Discourse" by Leo Chavez

Week 7

### **T 2/21: Enrique's Journey**

read: *Enrique's Journey*

write: Journal 9

### **TH 2/23: Enrique's Journey**

read: *Punishing the Poor* by Loic Wacquant

Week 8

### **T 2/28:**

### **TH 3/1 Paper Proposal**

read:

Week 9

### **T 3/6: Preliminary Research**

### **TH 3/8:**

*Week 10*

**T 3/13:**

**TH 3/15: Final Paper Due & Prepare for Final Exam**

**Thursday 3/15**

**Final Exam Thursday**