

Chicanx Travel Narratives

LTEN 180/ETHN 139: Chicano Literature in English (4 units)
Winter 2021

Instructor: Prof. Ariana Ruiz

Email: aar002@ucsd.edu

Office Hours: Tu, Wed 9:30am-10:30am (or by appointment)

Schedule office hours here: <https://calendly.com/aar002/office-hours>

Office hours will be conducted using Zoom (Meeting ID# 915 0670 8079)

Course Description

This course examines Chicanx engagement with travel and mobility that provides a critical map for ascertaining everyday power relations. We will focus on how Chicanx expressive culture reveals the function of space, place, national borders, and social practices. The purpose of this course is to provide a survey of Chicanx travel literature and to analyze how Chicanx mobility charts terrains of struggle and new strategies for change. Over the course of the quarter, we will address some of the following questions: What is the travel genre? How does Chicanx mobility align with this tradition? How is mobility tied to ideas of race, class, gender, and sexuality? What does it mean to be a good mobile citizen?

Class Format

Given the unique circumstances of this academic school year, this course has been modified to work in an online environment. The class format is as follows:

Mondays: Watch lecture and posted materials (lecture will be uploaded by 2pm)

- Read course material and
- Upload discussion post, responding to question(s) posed in lecture by Thursdays at 11:59pm

Fridays: Synchronous/Meet via Zoom (Meeting ID# 956 0615 6462 from 2-2:50pm prepared to discuss the week's reading(s).

- You should use your UCSD Zoom Account.

Required Texts (e-books accepted)

Oscar Zeta Acosta, *Autobiography of a Brown Buffalo*

Ana Castillo, *The Mixquiahuala Letters*

Other readings will be available on CANVAS (see "Course Schedule")

Note: Although the course is taught in English and all readings will be in English, many of the primary texts include Spanish words and expressions. It is recommended to use—as needed—a good Spanish-English dictionary. If there are Spanish words and/or expressions that you do not understand it is your responsibility to look up the meaning before coming to class.

Course Requirements

Participation – 15%

Discussion Posts – 25%

Short Papers (2 x 20%) – 40%

Creative Project – 20%

Readings: Students are therefore expected to do all the required readings before the class in which they are due and bring the discussed texts to class. It is essential that you complete and reflect upon reading assignments before coming to class.

Participation: YOU are the most important part of class. Your participation will determine the extent to which the class can reach its potential. Read the material for class and attend the Friday sessions prepared to contribute in respectful, meaningful and thoughtful ways. I recommend preparing questions or comments in advance. I will call on folks and check in with you privately if I notice you are not contributing. Participation grades will be determined by the number of classes attended (and attended on time) and level of participation in discussions, in-class writing and reading, group work, etc.*

All members of the class are required to respect the opinions of their classmates. Interruption and hostile remarks will not be tolerated, nor will clear statements of a racist, sexist, homophobic, classist, xenophobic, victim-blaming nature. Students are expected to participate, listen in an engaged manner, and respect ideas shared in the class as a condition of their participation grade. (See also UCSD Principles of Community: <https://ucsd.edu/about/principles.html>)

Zoom Class Sessions: I will record all Zoom class sessions and may post excerpts on Canvas on a case-by-case basis. For student privacy issues it is important not to share the video (or screenshots) with people outside of your class. Refer to “Zoom Best Practices” for further information

Attendance: You are required to attend synchronous class sessions on time, ready to discuss the material in meaningful ways, and be present for the duration of the class period. Keep in mind, absences do take a toll on your performance in class and thus your grade. In-class activities and assignments cannot be made up.

If you have a problem that will make it difficult for you to participate or come to class, please speak with me before it becomes a real issue.

Discussion Posts: The class will be divided into four groups/discussion boards (subject to change). Unless otherwise noted, you will post to your group’s discussion board once a week by Thursdays at 11:59pm. Posts should address reading questions posed in lecture and ask additional questions that you may have about the text(s), if any. These posts give us time to consider each other’s comments (on a smaller and more manageable scale) and craft our own replies to enable rich conversations with deep insights for our Friday meetings. Each response should be a coherent and thoughtful offering. Credit will be based on both quantity and quality of posts. See “Discussion Board Evaluation Guide” for further information.

** Please note that while not a substitute for Friday Zoom meetings or in-class participation, responding to two of your classmate’s weekly discussion posts can count toward participation. Engagement with posts should be grounded in course material and advance or expand the conversation. Responses to that week’s discussion posts must be submitted no later than that Sunday at 11:59pm. (For example, if we are in Week 03, you cannot respond to a post from Week 02. It must be done for the current week)*

Short Papers: You will each be required to write 2 short papers. Guidelines for response papers will be discussed prior to the due date.

Paper Policy: Unless otherwise noted, papers should be typed and double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12-point font with 1-inch margins, MLA style. Papers should be submitted as doc., docx., or pdf. files. All papers that you turn into me should have a title of your own devising and should include on its first page your name, the date, and the assignment. You are expected to meet the paper length or word count requirements.

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism

of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site.

If an emergency arises and you make arrangements with me ahead of time, I may agree to accept a late assignment. If I do not agree or if prior arrangements have not been made, you will receive a lowered grade for the assignment. Paper grades will be reduced 1/3 letter grade for each day they are late beginning on the day it was due. If, for example, the paper was due at 11pm on Tuesday and you turn it in at midnight, your paper will be penalized by 1/3 letter grade (e.g., an "A-" paper=B+). Please remember to always back up all of your work; accidents (hard drive crashes, etc.) happen fairly frequently and to potentially disastrous effects.

Creative Project: Students will complete an individual project of their own design that explores, expands on, resonates with, or complicates ideas we have encountered about the politics of travel, mobility, and citizenship. The terms by which students are expected to follow for this project will be discussed prior to the due date.

Grade Distribution

Grades are determined by the following numerical breakdown:

90-100 = A (97-100=A+, 93-96=A, 90-92=A-)

80 - 89 = B (87-89=B+, 83-86=B, 80-82=B-)

70-79 = C (77-79=C+, 73-76=C, 70-72=C-)

60-69 = D (67-69=D+, 63-66=D, 60-62=D-)

If you would like to talk about your grade, please email me discussing your questions. I will schedule a meeting to discuss grades only after receiving the email. Before contacting me regarding your grade, please note that, for example, an 89.4 is not the same as an 89.5 and I do not provide extra credit.

Communication

Email: I will respond to email received Monday through Friday during business hours within 24 hours. Email received on weekends may not get answered until the following Monday.

Office Hours: Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding the course materials, your written work, or assignments. Office hours can be scheduled at: <https://calendly.com/aar002/office-hours>. If you are unable to attend my scheduled office hours, contact me to see if there is availability to meet at another time by appointment.

Academic Integrity

"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)

All work must be original to you and done for the first time this quarter for this class. No secondary outside materials may be used for any assignment in this course.

Accommodations

“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 (<https://osd.ucsd.edu>). Students are required to discuss accommodation arrangements with instructors and OSD liaisons in the department **in advance** of any exams or assignments.” (Source: Office for Students with Disabilities, 2020)

Writing Resources

The Writing Hub: <https://writinghub.ucsd.edu/for-undergrads/index.html>

By giving students a place to engage with writing *as writing*, outside of substantive course content, the Writing Hub leverages existing writing assignments in students' coursework for personalized learning interactions that promote deep learning and engagement.

OASIS Language Arts Tutorial Services Program: <https://oasis.ucsd.edu/language-arts/index.html>

OASIS LATS provides free individual tutoring sessions and workshops in the areas of writing, foreign languages, and study skills for all UC San Diego undergraduate students. LATS tutoring services and workshops begin Week 2 of all academic quarters.

Course Schedule

Week 01: Course Introduction & Mobile Citizenship

Monday, January 04 (Asynchronous/Pre-Recorded Video): Syllabus and Course Overview

Read:

- Tim Cresswell, "Mobility, Rights, and Citizenship in the United States" excerpt from *On the Move*

Recommended/Optional:

- Joel Rubin and Ben Poston, "LA County deputies stopped thousands of innocent Latinos on the 5..." *Los Angeles Times* 04 October 2018

To-do:

- Weekly Discussion Post/Introductions (submit no later than Thursday at 11:59pm), Repeats Weekly

Friday, January 08: Synchronous/Meet via Zoom

Week 02: Chicano/a/x Roots/Routes

Monday, January 11 (Asynchronous/Pre-Recorded Video)

Read:

- Gloria Anzaldúa, "The Homeland, Aztlán" from *Borderlands/La Frontera*
- Francisco Jiménez, "Under the Wire," and "The Circuit" from *The Circuit*
- Tomas Rivera, "The Lost Year," and "When We Arrive" from ...*y no se lo trago la tierra/... and the earth did not devour him*

Friday, January 15: Synchronous/Meet via Zoom

Week 03: Racialized Movements

Monday, January 18 (Asynchronous/Pre-Recorded Video)

Read: Oscar Zeta Acosta, *Autobiography of a Brown Buffalo*, Chapters 1-5

Friday, January 22: Synchronous/Meet via Zoom

Short Paper #1 Due by Sunday, January 24 at 11:59pm

Week 04

Monday, January 25 (Asynchronous/Pre-Recorded Video)

Read: Oscar Zeta Acosta, *Autobiography of a Brown Buffalo*, Chapters 6-9

Friday, January 29: Synchronous/Meet via Zoom

Week 05

Monday, February 01 (Asynchronous/Pre-Recorded Video)

Read: Read: Oscar Zeta Acosta, *Autobiography of a Brown Buffalo*, Chapters 10-16

Friday, February 05: Synchronous/Meet via Zoom

Week 06: *Mujeres Callejeras*, Pt. I

Monday, February 08 (Asynchronous/Pre-Recorded Video)

Read: Ana Castillo, *The Mixquihuala Letters*: "For the Conformist," "For the Cynic," "For the Quixotic"

Friday, February 12: Synchronous/Meet via Zoom

Week 07:

Monday, February 15 (Asynchronous/Pre-Recorded Video)

Read:

- Sandra Cisneros, "Woman Hollering Creek" from *Woman Hollering Creek*
- Monica Palacios, "La Llorona: The Other Side" from *Chicana Lesbians: The Girls Our Mothers Warned Us About*
- Victoria Moreno, "La Llorona, Crying Lady of the Creekbeds, 483 Years Old, and Aging" from *The Third Woman*

Friday, February 19: Synchronous/Meet via Zoom

Week 08

Monday, February 22 (Asynchronous/Pre-Recorded Video)

Read:

- Michele Serros, "Annie Says" from *Chicana Falsa*
- ---, "Let's Go, Mexico!" and "I Know What You Did Last Summer" from *How to be a Chicana Role Model*

Friday, February 26: Synchronous/Meet via Zoom

Short Paper #2 Due by Sunday February 28 at 11:59pm

Week 09: (Queer) Aztlán, Revisited

Monday, March 01 (Asynchronous/Pre-Recorded Video)

Read:

- Cherrie Moraga, "Queer Aztlán: The Re-formation of Chicano Tribe" from *The Lost Generation*
- Gil Cuadros, "My Aztlán, A White Place" from *City of God*

Friday, March 05: Synchronous/Meet via Zoom

Week 10: *Mujeres Callejeras*, Pt. II

Monday, March 08 (Asynchronous/Pre-Recorded Video)

Watch: *Ovarian Psycos* (2016, dirs. Joanna Sokolowski and Kate Trumbull-LaValle)

Friday, March 12: Synchronous/Meet via Zoom

CREATIVE PROJECT DUE BY WEDNESDAY MARCH 17 at 11:59pm