

Introduction to Latinx Cultural Studies
ENGL 1260, COML-1260, GSWS-1260, LALS-1260, ARTH 2679
Fall 2024 Course Prospectus

Professor: Jennifer S. Ponce de León (she/hers)
Email: poncej@sas.upenn.edu

Course Description

This course offers a broad introduction to the study of U.S. Latina/o/x history and culture. We will read poetry, short stories, novels, plays, and essays; watch films; and examine visual art from across a wide range of mediums and traditions, including poster art, performance art, murals, graffiti, conceptual art, and guerrilla urban interventions. In each instance, we will study this work within its historical context and with close attention to the ways it illuminates class formation, racialization, and ideologies of gender and sexuality as they shape Latino/a/xs' experience. Topics addressed in the course will include: the history of U.S. imperialism in Latin America, transnational migration and the function of borders, revolutionary nationalisms, Latinx feminisms, queer Latinx experience, ideology and racialization, identity formation, and the study of literature and art created within social movements. While we will address key texts, historical events, and intellectual currents from the 19th and early 20th century, the course will focus primarily on the period from the 1960s to the present. All texts will be in English.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and participation in class discussion

Canvas Discussion board: You are required to post a short commentary to Canvas once a week that reflects on the readings assigned for that day.

Final paper: 8-9 pages double-spaced. You will provide an analysis of one or more of the artworks or movements discussed in the course. You must reference at least two secondary scholarly sources not from the syllabus, in addition to sources we have addressed in class.

Creative project, artist statement & in-class presentation: After a semester of learning about different approaches to cultural production, you will do some of it yourself! Your creative project may take any form, e.g. a visual artwork, a performance piece, a short story or collection of poems, a short screenplay, a one-act play, a video, a comic, digital media, urban intervention, a work of critical cartography, etc., though it must engage with theories and topics we have discussed in the course. You may do your project individually or in a group. You must also submit a short artist statement (2-3 pages in length) with your project that explains how it relates to the topics and theories discussed in this course. You will give a short presentation about your project to the class during one of our last two final meetings before submitting your completed project to me on the last day of class.

COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to change)

Foundational Frameworks:

Class, Imperialism, Ideology, Identity, Race & Gender

Week One

- William I. Robinson, "The Global Economy and Latino Populations in the United States: A World-Systems Approach." *Critical Sociology*, vol. 19, Issue 2 (1992)
- María Josefina Saldaña Portillo, "From the Borderlands to the Transnational? Critiquing Empire in the Twenty-First Century." In *A Companion to Latino Studies*, edited by Juan Flores and Renato Rosaldo, 502-512. Malden, Massachusetts: Blackwell Publishing, 2007.
- Rosaura Sánchez, "On a Critical Realist Theory of Identity." In *Identity Politics Reconsidered*, edited by Linda Martin Alcoff, Michael Hames-García, Satya P. Mohanty and Paula M. L. Moya, 31-52. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.
- Adolph Reed Jr., "Marx, Race and Neoliberalism, *New Labor Forum* 22.1 (2013): 48-57.

Week Two

- Martha Giménez, selections from *Marx, Women, and Capitalist Social Reproduction: Marxist Feminist Essays*. Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2019.
- Rosario Ferré, "When Women Love Men" and "How I Wrote 'When Women Love Men'" in *The Youngest Doll*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1991.
- Helena María Viramontes, "Marks of the Chicana Corpus: An Intervention in the Universality Debate." In *A Companion to Latino Studies*, edited by Juan Flores and Renato Rosaldo, 3-14. Malden, Massachusetts: Blackwell Publishing, 2007.

The Chicano Liberation Movement: Ideology, Art, Literature & Theater

Week Three

- Alan Eladio Gómez, Chapter One, "Cartographies of the Chicano Left," from *The Revolutionary Imaginations of Greater Mexico: Chicana/o Radicalism, Solidarity Politics, and Latin American Social Movements* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2016), 16-39.
- "The Struggle for Chicano Liberation," Resolution adopted at the Twenty-fourth National Convention of the Socialist Workers' Party in August 1971, originally printed in SWP Internal Discussion Bulletin. In *The Politics of Chicano Liberation*, edited by Olga Rodriguez. New York: Pathfinder Press, 1976.
- Emma Tenayuca and Homer Brooks, "The Mexican Question in the Southwest," *The Communist* vol. 18, no. 3 (March 1939)
- August 29th Movement, "On the Revolutionary Struggle of the Chicano People" and "The Basic Demands of the Chicano Movement" (1976):
<https://www.marxists.org/history/erol/ncm-1a/atm-2nd.htm>
- Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzáles and Alberto Urista "Alurista." "El plan espiritual de Aztlán." *El grito del Norte* (Albuquerque, New Mexico), vol. II, no. 9 (July 6, 1969): 5.

- Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzáles, "I am Joaquin" (1967). Available online: <http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/latinos/joaquin.htm>
- Luis Valdez. *Luis Valdez Early Works: Actos, Bernabe and Pensamiento Serpentino* (Houston: Arte Público Press, 1990). Selection of plays including "Los Vendidos," "Las Dos Caras del Patroncito," "Quinta Temporada," and "Vietnam Campesino," as well as Valdez's essays "Notes on Chicano Theater" and "The Actos"

Week Four

- Rivera, Tomás. *...And the Earth Did Not Devour Him*. Available on Franklin. Come ready to discuss the novel in class
- Ramón Saldivar, *Chicano Narrative: The Dialectics of Difference*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1990. Introduction
- Shifra Goldman, "The Iconography of Chicano Self-Determination: Race, Ethnicity and Class," *Art Journal* Vol. 49, no. 2 (Summer 1990)
- George Lipsitz, "Not Just Another Social Movement: Poster Art and the Movimiento Chicano." In *¿Just Another Poster? Chicano Graphic Arts in California*, edited by Chon Noriega. Santa Barbara: University Art Museum, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2001. Images of poster art can be found in the file titled "Just Another Poster images"
- Browse images of more Chicano murals here: <http://calisphere.cdlib.org> (Links to an external site.). If you choose to analyze any of these works in your weekly response, please include a link to the image in your post.

Week Five

- Ondine Chavoya and Rita Gonzalez, "Asco and the Politics of Revulsion" in *ASCO: Elite of the Obscure*, ed. C. Ondine Chavoya and Rita Gonzalez (Hatje Kantz, 2011).
- Robert Legoretta, Interview by Jennifer Flores Sternad, "Cyclona and Early Chicano Performance Art: An Interview with Robert Legorreta." *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 3 (Summer 2006): 475-490. Available on Franklin.
- Watch: Harry Gamboa Jr., *Baby Jake* and *No Supper*. Available through Canvas under "Course Materials @ Penn Libraries"

The Young Lords & Puerto Rican Revolutionary Nationalism

- Watch: *¡Palante Siempre Palante!: The Young Lords* (1996) Directed by Iris Morales. Streaming on Franklin.
- Selections from *The Young Lords: A Reader*, edited by Darrel Enck-Wanzer. New York: New York University Press, 2010
- "The Young Lords Party Position Paper on Women," *Rat Subterranean News*, October 6, 1970.

- Explore *Palante*: “¡Abajo Con Machismo!” *Palante* May 22, 1970, 2; “Women’s Oppression: Cortejas,” *Palante* May 22, 1970, 16; “Puertorriqueñas esterilizadas” / “Sterilized Puerto Ricans,” *Palante* August 28, 1970, 5; cont’d 20.

The Nuyorican Literary Movement

Week Six

- Pedro Pietri, “Puerto Rican Obituary”
- Watch: *El Pueblo se levanta* by Third World Newsreel (1971), available on Franklin
- Watch short video of Piñero reading “Seeking the Cause”:
<https://artsandculture.google.com/asset/miguel-pi%C3%B1ero-seeking-the-cause-youtube/QwFBSkWK05I76A?hl=en> (Links to an external site.)
- Reference: Juan Flores, “Qué Assimilated, Brother, Yo soy Asimilao” in *Challenging Fronteras: Structuring Latina and Latino Lives in the U.S.*, edited by Mary Romero, Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, and Vilma Ortiz, 55-80. New York: Routledge, 1997.
- Miguel Piñero, selections from *Outlaw: The Collected Works of Miguel Piñero*. Houston: Arte Publico Press, 2010.
- Pedro Pietri, *The Masses Are Asses*

Counterrevolution and Central American Migration

Week Seven

- Watch: Allan Francovich’s trilogy *The Houses Are Full of Smoke*
- William Blum, *Killing Hope: S. Military and C.I.A. Interventions Since World War II*. Read sections 10, 23, 37, 49, and 54. The Introduction is optional and recommended.
- Greg Grandin, *The Last Colonial Massacre: Latin America in the Cold War*. Selections
- Greg Grandin, *Empire’s Workshop*. Selections

Week Eight

- Helena María Viramontes, “Cariboo Café” from *The Moths and Other Stories* (Arte Público Press, 1995).
- Héctor Tobar, *The Tattooed Soldier*.

State Violence & Masculinity

Week Nine

- Virginia Grise, *blu* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2011). Available on Franklin.

Borders and Immigration in History, Theater, and Cinema

- Justin Akers Chacón and Mike Davis, *No One is Illegal* (Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2006). Selections.

Week Ten

- Justin Akers Chacón, “Anti-migrant International,” *Punto Rojo* (2019), <https://www.puntorojomag.org/2019/10/20/the-anti-migrant-international/>
- *Reunión: Frontera Norte*, by Dani Zelko et al. Selections. Both the original Spanish text and English translation are available on Canvas.
- Reference/Optional: William I. Robinson and Xuan Santos, Global Capitalism, Immigrant Labor, and the Struggle for Justice, *Class Race and Corporate Power*, 2 (2014). Download here : <https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/classracecorporatepower/vol2/iss3/1/> (Links to an external site.)
- Reference / optional: William I. Robinson, “‘Aquí estamos y no nos vamos!’ Global capital and immigrant rights,” *Race & Class*, Vol. 48.2 (2006): 77–91. On Canvas

Week Eleven

- Watch: *Sleepdealer*, directed by Alex Rivera. Available on Canvas under “Course Materials @ Penn Libraries”
- Ricardo A. Bracho, *Puto* (2007). Unpublished play.
- Third World Gay Revolution (New York City), “What We Want, What We Believe,” [1971] reprinted in *Out of the Closets: Voices of Gay Liberation*, edited by Karla jay and Allen Young (New York: Jove/HBK Books, 1977)

Guerrilla Art & Movements in the 21st Century

Week Thirteen

- Sandra de la Loza, *The Pocho Research Society’s Field Guide to Erased and Invisible Histories*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2011. Raúl Homero Villa, *Barrio-Logos: Space and Place in Urban Chicano Literature and Culture*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2000. Introduction.
- Watch: *The People Without Faces*: <https://zapatista.ru/en/>
- EZLN (Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional / Zapatista Army of National Liberation) General Command, First Declaration of the Lacandon Jungle: <https://schoolsforchiapas.org/library/declaration-lacandona-jungle-2/>
- EZLN General Command and Clandestine Revolutionary Indigenous Committee, Sixth Declaration of the Lacandon Jungle: <https://schoolsforchiapas.org/library/sixth-declaration-lacandona-jungle/>
- Watch *Love and Labor* by Stephanie Andreou, Sarah Keeling and Adrián Gutiérrez. Available here: <https://newpoeticsoflaborcom.wordpress.com/2019/01/07/love-labor/>

Week Fourteen

Final Symposium

Presentation and discussion of creative projects.