CULTURES AND CONTEXTS: CONTEMPORARY LATINO CULTURES  
New York University (Fall 2017)

Course Professor: Cecilia Márquez, Assistant Professor,  
Department of Social & Cultural Analysis  
Office Hours: Monday 3:30-5:30  
Recitation Leaders: Rebeca Pineda Burgos, Nicholas Duron  
Class Time: 2:00-3:15PM  
Classroom: Silver 408

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Using an interdisciplinary approach, this course will examine historical and contemporary examples of Latino/a political, social, and cultural practices in the United States. Bringing together a diversity of texts related to and within the field of Latino/a studies, the course will explore what constitutes Latino/a identity and, indeed, what constitutes Latino/a studies itself, raising questions to which we will return throughout the semester. More specifically, the course will take up themes including colonialism and conquest, sexuality and gender, transnationalism and immigration, and social inequality and practices of resistance, as well as language, popular culture, and media representations.

REQUIREMENTS
- Attendance and participation: 20%
- Midterm Exam: 15%
- Papers: 50%
  - Paper 1 (4 pages) 10%
  - Paper 2 (5-6 pages) 15%
  - Final Paper (8 pages) 20%
- Final Exam 20%

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION
Lecture and Recitations. A central requirement for this course is your attendance and participation. Please bring the required readings (articles/books) to lecture and recitation on the day they are assigned. You are required to attend both lectures and recitations. Completion of assignments and active participation in your recitation section will strongly influence your participation grade in the course. Students with five or more unexcused absences from Recitation will automatically fail the course. Students with seven or more unexcused absences from Lecture will automatically fail the course. Students will be allowed one absence from recitations and class without penalty; documentation is required for other absences. Absences will lower your grade for participation. Attendance and participation account for 20% of your grade.

WRITING REQUIREMENTS
Exams: You will have a midterm and a final exam for this course. The midterm and final will consist of essay and multiple-choice questions, each of which engages the material covered in the course to date.
**Writing Assignments:** In addition to exams, you are required to write three papers during the course of the semester. The length and complexity of each paper assignment will increase as the semester progresses. Each paper must seriously engage the readings and address the questions posed.

As you can see, this course involves a significant amount of reading and writing. Because of this, we encourage you to give yourself plenty of time to engage in re-reading and rewriting. The more time you put into your papers, the better you will do. With that in mind, we encourage every student enrolled to take advantage of Writing Center resources and work with a tutor on drafts of your papers. To make an online appointment with the Writing Center, go to www.nyu.edu/cas/ewp/html/writing_center.html.

*Paper 1 “Latino Landmarks”:* Visit and photograph a Latino landmark in New York and write up an accompanying historical analysis of the place and a description of its importance in the history of Latino/as and its contemporary role in the Latino/a community. How has the community around the landmark changed or stayed the same? Examples include: El Museo de Barrio, spaces in Jackson Heights, Nyurican Poets Café, or Loisaida. (4-5 pages)

*Paper 2 Reading Response:* Choose three of the readings and put them into conversation. What are the overlapping and divergent arguments each of the author’s make? Do you agree or disagree? What can we learn when we read the texts together? (5-6 pages)

*Paper 3:* Select a recent news article discussing an issue facing the Latino/a community (e.g. gentrification, immigration reform, reproductive justice, bilingual education, gerrymandering etc.) and analyze it using the readings and themes of the course. (8-9 pages)

**NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PENALTY.** Your grade will drop one half grade for every day it is late (e.g., a B paper that is turned in one day late will receive a B-, two days late a C+, etc.).

To lessen (or avoid) a penalty, you must speak with your recitation leader at least 48 hours (two days) before the paper is due. Papers turned in late with less than 48 hours notice will be subject to the full grade penalty listed above. To avoid the penalty, recitation leaders may require you to do additional writing (i.e., meeting with a tutor to go over a rough draft; turning in a draft prior to the final paper, etc.).

**Extra Credit:** Throughout the semester I will announce events related to the course and if students attend three events and write up a 350-400 word response they will receive a 2% overall grade increase.

**Technology:** Students are not permitted to have laptop computers or any other type of technology in the classroom unless they have a documented reason for their use.

**Statement on Accessibility:** Any student with particular needs around accessibility should contact the Moses Center and Professor Márquez at the start of the semester to ensure that the course is accessible in all ways.
A Note on Plagiarism:
Because the university is a place where ideas are cultivated and exchanged, the stealing of another’s intellectual property is the worst academic crime one can commit. Plagiarism is copying someone else’s work and presenting it as your own by not citing the true source of the phrases, ideas, and arguments. Plagiarism constitutes a serious breach of academic integrity and can have severe disciplinary consequences.

With this in mind, each of your papers must be submitted to the website turnitin.com (directions to follow in the paper guidelines). If all three papers do not appear on turnitin.com, you will receive no grade for the course.

For more information on plagiarism, please refer to the NYU College of Arts and Science Web page on academic integrity: http://cas.nyu.edu/page/ug.academicintegrity. Any student found guilty of plagiarism will fail the course.

Required Books: Harvest of Empire

Week 1: What is Latino/a? What is Latino/a Studies?
- Wednesday 9/6

Week 2: Making Empire
- Monday 9/11
  - Harvest of Empire, Chapter 2
  - Primary Source: Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (in class)
- Wednesday 9/13

Week 3: Making Empire (continued)
- Monday 9/18
  - Harvest of Empire, Chapter 3
- Wednesday 9/20
  - Harvest of Empire, Chapter 4
  - Primary Source: Operation Bootstrap (in class)

Week 4: Becoming Latino/a
- Monday 9/25
“Becoming Mexican American.” George Sanchez. Chapter 10 and Chapter 12 (n.b. The PDF has Chapter 10, 11, and 12, you only need to read 10 and 12)

- **Wednesday 9/27**
  - “The Problem of Segregation as Applied to Mexican-Americans” Mark Brilliant in *The Color of America has Changed*
  - *Primary Source:* selections from *Mendez v. Westminster*

**Week 5: Protest and Politics**
- **Monday 10/2**
  - *Guest Lecture:* Nicholas Duron, PhD Student, Department of English, New York University
  - Watch Chicano! “Quest for a Homeland” (online: either YouTube or Kanopy)
  - *Primary Source:* El Plan Espiritual de Aztlán

**Wednesday 10/4 [PAPER #1 DUE]**

**Week 6: Protest and Politics**
- **Monday 10/9 FALL RECESS**
- **Wednesday 10/11**
  - “Before people called me a spic, they called me a nigger.” Pablo “Yoruba” Guzman
  - “We’re trying to make a society where opportunity is the rule for everybody.” Pablo “Yoruba” Guzman
  - *In Class:* ¡Palante, Siempre Palante! The Young Lords
  - *Primary Source:* Young Lords 13 Point Program (in class)

**Week 7: Cubans**
- **Monday 10/16**
  - *Guest Lecture:* Dr. Sarah McNamara, Assistant Professor of History at Texas A&M University
  - Harvest of Empire, Chapter 6

- **Wednesday 10/18**

**Week 8: Cubans (continued)**
- **Monday 10/23**
  - Geraldo Cadava, “The Rise and Fall of Hispanic Conservatism”
  - *Primary Source:* Latino/as for Trump (in class)

- **Wednesday 10/25**
• **Guest Lecture**: Dr. Llana Barber, Assistant Professor of American Studies, SUNY Old Westbury
  • Introduction, “Latino City”

**Week 9: Dominicans**
- **Monday 10/30**
  - [MIDTERM EXAM]
- **Wednesday 11/1**
  - **Guest Lecture**: Dr. Arlene Dávila, Professor of Latino/a Studies and Anthropology, New York University
  - Harvest of Empire, Chapter 7
  - Junot Díaz, “How to Date a Browngirl, Blackgirl, Whitegirl, or Halfie”

**Week 10: Afro-Latinidad**
- **Monday 11/6**
- **Wednesday 11/8**
  - **Guest Lecture**: Miriam Jimenez Roman, Executive Director of AfroLatin@ Forum
  - Readings: TBA

**Week 11: Queer Latinidad**
- **Monday 11/13**
  - Watch “No Más Bebés”
- **Wednesday 11/15**
  - *Primary Source*: Sylvia Rivera, “Queens in Exile”

**Week 12: South Americans**
- **Monday 11/20 [PAPER #2 DUE]**
  - Harvest of Empire, Chapter 9
- **Wednesday 11/29**
  - **Guest Lecture**: Rebeca Burgos, PhD Candidate, Department of Hispanic Studies, CUNY
  - Marilyn Espitia “The Other ‘Other Hispanics’: South American-Origin Latinos in the United States.” *The Columbia History of Latinos in the United States Since 1960*

**Week 13: Central Americans and Free Trade**
- **Monday 11/27**
  - Harvest of Empire, Chapter 8
- **Wednesday 11/29**
○ Harvest of Empire, Chapter 11, 13
○ Primary Source: “(Immigrants) We Get the Job Done” Hamilton Mixtape (in class)

Week 14: New Latino/a Geographies
- Monday 12/4
- Wednesday 12/6

Week 15: Unmaking of Latinidad
- Monday 12/11
  ○ Guest Lecture: Dr. Cristina Beltrán, Associate Professor in Social and Cultural Analysis, New York University
  ○ Beltran, Cristina. The Trouble with Unity. Conclusion
- Tuesday 12/12 [FINAL PAPER DUE]

FINAL EXAM DUE DURING EXAM PERIOD