

**CULTURES AND CONTEXTS: CONTEMPORARY LATINO CULTURES
CORE-UA 529
New York University (Fall 2014)**

Course Professor: Cristina Beltrán, Associate Professor,

Department of Social & Cultural Analysis (cbeltran@nyu.edu)

Beltrán Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30pm, Room 426 [20 Cooper Square, 4th Floor]

Recitation Leaders: A.J. Bauer (ajb551@nyu.edu) & Dafne A. Duchesne-Sotomayor (dds298@nyu.edu)

Class Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-3:15pm

Classroom: 5 Washington Place, Room 101

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% of grade
- Midterm exam: 15% of grade
- Papers: 50% of grade
 - Paper #1 (4 pages) 10%
 - Paper #2 (5-6 pages) 15%
 - Final Paper (8 pages) 25%
- Final exam: 15% of grade

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.

**ALL FORMS OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION (CELLPHONES,
LAPTOPS, iPADS, ETC.) ARE *NOT* PERMITTED DURING LECTURE**

WRITING REQUIREMENTS

Exams: You will have a midterm and a final exam for this course. Both are in-class exams. The midterm and final will consist of essay and multiple-choice questions, each of which engages the material covered in the course to date. You will be given study questions one week prior to the exam. The midterm and final exams are each worth 15% of your grade.

Writing Assignments (50% of grade): 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. Paper questions will be provided for you. Each paper must seriously engage the readings and address the questions posed. Length will range from four to eight pages per paper and will count for 50% of your grade.

In addition to your three papers, there may be smaller writing assignments in your recitation sections. You may be required to post a short response on an online discussion forum the day before recitation. These assignments are included in your participation grade.

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.

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.).

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 READINGS

Julia Alvarez, *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents*

Victor M. Rios, *Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys*

Books are available at the NYU Bookstore. All other readings are available through NYU Classes.

Schedule

(subject to change as the course progresses)

**STUDENTS MUST CHECK THEIR NYU EMAIL ACCOUNTS DAILY
EVERY WEEKDAY FOR ANY UPDATES OR CHANGES REGARDING
COURSE READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

Week 1 — Introduction: Contemporary Contexts in Latino Studies

Tuesday, September 2: Introduction to the course

Thursday, September 4: “(Re)constructing Latinidad: The Challenge of Latina/o Studies” by Frances R. Aparicio in *A Companion to Latina/o Studies*, edited by Juan Flores and Renato Rosaldo: 39-48 [NYU CLASSES]

“The Town Where Immigrants Hit a Human Wall: Influx of Central American Migrant Roils, Murrieta, California” by Jennifer Medina in *The New York Times*, July 3, 2014 [NYU CLASSES]

Week 2 — Early History: Revolution, Colonialism, and Conquest

Tuesday, September 9: “Legacies of Conquest” by David G. Gutiérrez in *Walls and Mirrors: Mexican Americans, Mexican Immigrants, and the Politics of Ethnicity*: 13-38 [NYU CLASSES]

Thursday, September 11: “The Legal Relationship Between Puerto Rico and the *Estados Unidos de Norteamérica* (United States of America)” by Pedro A. Malavet in *America’s Colony: The Political and Cultural Conflict Between the United States and Puerto Rico* [NYU CLASSES]

"The Airbus"/"La guagua aérea" by Luis Rafael Sánchez (translated by Diana Vélez) [NYU CLASSES]

Week 3 — Early History Continued

Tuesday, September 16: “Cuban Americans: Occupation, Revolution, and Exile Politics” by Lisa García Bedolla in *Latino Politics*: 119-49 [NYU CLASSES]

“Transnational Ties and Incorporation: The Case of Dominicans in the United States” by Peggy Levitt in *The Columbia History of Latinos in the United States Since 1960*, edited by David G. Gutierrez et al.: 229-56 [NYU CLASSES]

Thursday, September 18: “Central American Migration: A Framework for Analysis” by Nora Hamilton and Norma Stoltz Chinchilla in *Challenging Fronteras: Structuring Latina and Latino Lives in the U.S.* [NYU CLASSES]

Week 4 — Protest and Activism: The Chicano and Puerto Rican Movements

Monday, September 22: Paper #1 Due

Paper must be UPLOADED to Turnitin on Monday, September 22, by 4pm

Hard copies must be handed in Tuesday, September 23, at start of class

Tuesday, September 23: “Introduction” and “Reinterpreting the Chicano Experience” by Ignacio García in *Chicanismo: The Forging of a Militant Ethos Among Mexican-Americans*: 3-18, 43-67 [NYU CLASSES]

Thursday, September 25 (continued): *El Plan de Santa Barbara*. Reprinted in *Youth, Identity, Power: The Chicano Movement* by Carlos Muñoz: 191-202 [NYU CLASSES]
El Plan Espiritual de Aztlán: 1-5 [NYU CLASSES]

Thursday, September 25: “Toward Understanding the Young Lords” by Darrel Enck-Wanzer in *The Young Lords: A Reader* (2010): 1-7 [NYU CLASSES]

“Opportunity for All” and “Before people called me a spic, they called me a nigger” by Pablo “Yoruba” Guzman, from *Pálante: Young Lords Party*: 50-52, 67-77 [NYU CLASSES]

“Women’s Liberation” by Guzman and “Opposing Machismo” by Denise Oliver, from *Pálante: Young Lords Party*: 40-41, 41-47 [NYU CLASSES]

Week 5 — Protest and Activism in Film

Tuesday, September 30: Film: *Chicano! The History of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement* (1996)

Thursday, October 2: Film: *¡Palante, Siempre Palante! The Young Lords* (1996)

Week 6 — The Politics of Identity: Creating Latinos

Tuesday, October 7: “Cross-Field Effects and Ethnic Classification: The Institutionalization of Hispanic Panethnicity, 1965-1990” by Cristina Mora, *The American Sociological Review*, 2014, Vol. 79 (2): 183-210 [NYU CLASSES]

Thursday, October 9: “From Barrio to Mainstream: On the Politics of Latino/a Art Museums,” by Arlene Dávila in *Latino Spin: Public Image and the Whitewashing of Race* [NYU CLASSES]

Week 7 — The Politics of Identity: Exclusions, Writing, and Survival

Tuesday, October 14: Fall Recess/No Class

Thursday, October 16: “Speaking in Tongues: A Letter to Third World Women Writers” by Gloria Anzaldúa in *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*, edited by Cherríe Moraga and Gloria Anzaldúa (1981/83): 165-74 [NYU CLASSES]

The Afro-Latin@ Reader: History and Culture in the United States, edited by Miriam Jiménez Román and Juan Flores (selections) [NYU CLASSES]

Week 8 — Midterm(s) and Elections

Tuesday, October 21: “Introduction” and “Hispanic Political Identity” by Marisa A. Abrajano and R. Michael Alvarez in *New Faces, New Voices: The Hispanic Electorate in America* (2010): 1-15, 18-34 [NYU CLASSES]

“Dual Citizenship and Political Participation: Migrants in the Interplay of the United States and Colombian Politics” by Cristina Escobar in *Latinos and Citizenship: The Dilemma of Belonging*, edited by Suzanne Oboler: 113-41 [NYU CLASSES]

Thursday, October 23: MIDTERM EXAM

Week 9 — Debating the Past: Language Anxiety and the Politics of Membership

Tuesday, October 28: “Introduction: A Politics of Language in the United States” and “Making Sense of Language Policy Conflict” by Ronald Schmidt Sr. in *Language Policy and Identity Politics in the United States* [NYU CLASSES]

Thursday, October 30: “The Latino Threat Narrative” by Leo Chavez in *The Latino Threat: Constructing Immigrants, Citizens, and the Nation* [NYU CLASSES]

Miscellaneous news articles on Latinos and the 2014 midterm election [NYU CLASSES]

Week 10 — Immigration: Policing the Border and Beyond

Tuesday, November 4: *Deportation Nation: Outsiders in American History* by Daniel Kanstroom (selections) [NYU CLASSES]

“‘Looking Like a Lesbian’: The Organization of Sexual Monitoring at the United States-Mexican Border” by Eithne Luibheid in *The Journal of the History of Sexuality*, Vol. 8, No. 3: 477-506 [NYU CLASSES]

Thursday, November 6: Continued discussion of immigration and discussion of midterm elections

Week 11 — Deportation and Policing: The Politics of Punishment

Tuesday, November 11: *Aftermath: Deportation Law and the New American Diaspora* by Daniel Kanstroom (selections) [NYU CLASSES]

Thursday, November 13: *Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys* by Victor M. Rios

Paper #2 Due – Friday Nov. 14

Paper must be UPLOADED to Turnitin on Friday, November 14, by 4pm
Hard copies must be handed in Tuesday, November 18, at start of class

Week 12 — Deportation and Policing: Punishment and Resistance

Tuesday, November 18: *Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys* by Victor M. Rios

Thursday, November 20: “Undocumented, Unafraid, and Acting Up: Sovereignty and the Queering of Democracy in the Immigrant Rights Movement.” Forthcoming in *Uncertain Identities: Aesthetics, Affect, and the Shifting Politics of Race* (collected essays) by Cristina Beltrán [NYU CLASSES]

Melancholia and Moralism: Essays on AIDS (selections) by Douglass Crimp [NYU CLASSES]

Week 13 — Dreamers, Resistance, and Undocumented Activism

Tuesday, November 25: “Cosmopolitanism Politics and the Migrant Day Labor Movement” by Paul Apostolidis and Abel Valenzuela in *Politics, Groups, and Identities* Vol. 2, No. 2 (June 2014): 222-244 [NYU CLASSES]

Thursday, November 27: Thanksgiving Break/No Class

Week 14 — Confronting the Past: Language, Migration, Memory

Tuesday, December 2: *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents* (Parts I & II) by Julia Alvarez

Thursday, December 4: *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents* (Part III) by Julia Alvarez

Week 15 — Latinos in the Media

FINAL PAPER DUE – Monday December 8

Paper must be UPLOADED to Turnitin on Monday, December 8, by 4pm

Hard copies must be handed in Tuesday, December 9, at start of class

Tuesday, December 9: Guest Lecture by Recitation Instructor A.J. Bauer

Contemporary Latina/o Media: Production, Circulation, Politics, edited by Arlene Dávila and Yeidy Rivero (selections) [NYU CLASSES]

WATCH BEFORE CLASS: "Representation and the Media," by Stuart Hall [55 minute lecture; transcript and YouTube links available on NYU Classes]

Thursday, December 11: Concluding Remarks

FINAL EXAM — Tuesday, December 16, 2:00-3:50PM