CULTURES AND CONTEXTS: CONTEMPORARY LATINO CULTURES
CORE UA 529
New York University (Fall 2020)

COURSE PROFESSOR: Cristina Beltrán, Associate Professor, Department of Social & Cultural Analysis (cbeltran@nyu.edu)

RECITATION LEADERS: Kristina Jacobs, Department of Latin American, Iberian, and Latino Cultures, CUNY Graduate Center (kj31@nyu.edu); Amy Obermeyer, Department of Comparative Literature at NYU (amy.obermeyer@nyu.edu) and Devin Thomas, Department of Comparative Literature at NYU (devin.thomas@nyu.edu)

Beltrán Office Hours: Tuesdays, 9:00-11:00am and by appointment (remotely via Zoom and by phone)

Class Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:55-6:10pm (Lecture time will include a mix of pre-recorded lectures and live discussion during the class period)

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Using an interdisciplinary approach, this course will examine historical and contemporary examples of Latinx political, social, and cultural practices in the United States. Bringing together a diversity of texts related to and within the field of Latinx studies, the course will explore what constitutes Latinx identity and, indeed, what constitutes Latinx studies itself, raising questions to which we will return throughout the semester. More specifically, the course will explore themes that include: colonialism and conquest, social movements, sexuality and gender, transnationalism, immigration, and the politics of policing. The course will also look at issues of language, media, popular culture and representation — with a particular focus on the rise in anti-migrant/anti-Latinx violence, practices of resistance, and the role of the “Latino vote” in the 2020 election.

REQUIREMENTS
• Attendance and participation (includes attending Zoom lectures and talks at the Latinx Project at NYU, participating in weekly recitation sections and posting weekly questions and comments on Forum site on NYU Classes): 40% of grade
• Weekly Reading Responses (12 responses total): 40% of grade
• Final paper (8-pages) or final project: 20% of grade

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION (40% of Grade)
Lecture and Recitations. A central requirement for this course is your attendance and participation. However, because this course is being taught remotely, the style and structure of the course will be as follows:
Each Tuesday at 4:55pm, the lectures for the entire week (Tues/Thurs) will be posted and made available to the class for viewing. Each lecture will be approximately 40 minutes and broken up into 10-15 minute sections. You are encouraged to watch both lectures during our scheduled Tuesday course time, but that is up to you. Just please make sure you watch the Tuesday lecture before your Wednesday recitation sections and the Thursday lecture before class discussion on Thursdays.
Lectures will be available to view for two weeks (fourteen days). Please make sure you keep up with the lectures before they are taken off NYU Stream.
The Latinx Project at NYU: Periodically during the semester, class lectures will be supplemented by talks organized by the Latinx Project at NYU. Please see the syllabus for Latinx Project events.
ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION (continued)

**Weekly Question and Comment Posting.** Every Thursday by 12pm, students are required to post one question and one comment. Questions should seek to address an issue from the readings you are still puzzling over and trying to make sense of. Students should also post one idea or insight from the reading you found particularly striking or significant.

You are required to post both one question and one comment on the Forum site, but you are certainly welcome to post more. Please post your question and comment in one single posting. You are also encouraged to respond to and/or engage with the comments and questions of your classmates on the Forum site.

Each week’s comment and question posting must be completed by **noon each Thursday**. Comments posted **after noon each Thursday** will be counted as missing and will not be counted in your participation grade.

Each Thursday, class time will be devoted to a live Zoom discussion dedicated to discussing the assigned readings, the recorded lectures and answering various questions and issues raised in the Forum site.

You are **required to attend both Thursday lectures and weekly recitation sections.** Students who have five or more unexcused absences from their Recitation sections will have their final grade lowered and are at risk of failing the course. Students with five or more unexcused absences from Thursday class time will also have their final grade lowered and are at risk of failing the course.

Active participation in your recitation section will strongly influence your participation grade in the course.

**WEEKLY READING RESPONSES (40% of Grade)**

One short personal essay and twelve (12) two-page reading-response papers are due during the course of the semester. Reading-responses must be one-and-a-half- or double-spaced and approximately 700 words.

Reading-responses must be submitted to Turnitin in order to receive credit.

Response essays are a combination of summary and response/analysis of the readings from the past week. You do not have to write about every single reading from the past week. Instead, you are encouraged to focus on the readings you found most important and interesting. Essays should try to work through what you understand to be the author’s major arguments and claims. Response papers must be spell-checked, with proper grammar, and written in complete sentences, yet may be more informal and associative than a standard paper. Responses will not be graded individually. Rather, you will receive a final grade for the overall quality of your responses.

While the majority of your reading-responses are based on course readings and lectures, you will also have the option of basing up to four (4) of your reading-responses on talks sponsored by the **Latinx Project at NYU**. Responses based on Latinx Project Events must draw connections between the event and what you feel are relevant course readings. You can find NYU’s Latinx Project Schedule of Events at [https://www.latinxproject.nyu.edu/events](https://www.latinxproject.nyu.edu/events)

LATE reading-responses will only be accepted at the discretion of the professor and your recitation instructor. Faculty and recitation instructors may also choose not to accept multiple late papers or mark down the grade of your reading-responses.

**FINAL PAPER OR FINAL PROJECT (20% of Grade)**

Your final project can in the form of a traditional 8-page paper in which final paper questions will be provided. However, students also have the option to do a more creative project on a topic that connects to the reading and themes of the course. Possible projects include (but are not limited to) a short film, a podcast, a series of interviews, a proposal for a curated exhibition, or a photo essay.

Students who want to do a creative project must submit a one-page proposal for their final project by **FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20.**

**WRITING AND TUTORIAL SUPPORT**

As you can see, this course involves a significant amount of reading and writing. Thus, the more time you put into your writing, the better you will do. We encourage students to take advantage of Writing Center resources and work with a
WRITING AND TUTORIAL SUPPORT (continued)
tutor on drafts of your reading-responses. To make an appointment with the Writing Center, go to
www.nyu.edu/cas/ewp/html/writing_center.html

STATEMENT ON ACCESSIBILITY
Any student with particular needs around accessibility should contact the Moses Center and the professor or your recitation section at the start of the semester to ensure that the course is accessible in all ways. See:
https://www.nyu.edu/students/communities-and-groups/students-with-disabilities.html

ZOOM ETIQUETTE AND CAMERA USE
The preference in this course is that students keep their cameras on for the duration of Thursday class. Having cameras on makes for a more lively and personable experience for all participants. That being said, we realize there are a number of reasons as to why students do not want or cannot have their cameras on for the duration of the class (weak WiFi, lack of privacy, etc.). Thus the policy in lecture is to strongly encourage but not require cameras to be on.
If you have any problems with Zoom, please call IT Support at 212-998-3333 to discuss any issues you are having with Zoom.

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.

NYU VOTES
Because Fall 2020 is a U.S. presidential election (along with other down ballot elections of critical importance) I will be providing you with nonpartisan election information (under the heading NYU VOTES under “Resources” on NYU Classes.
If you are eligible to vote in this election, I strongly encourage to vote and volunteer in this election as a poll worker or for the candidate(s) of your choice. Please also note that even those who are not eligible to vote can still participate by volunteering and engaging in Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts for the candidate whose ideas you support. If this course teaches you anything, it’s that people are the engines of social change. If we want a better world, we have to build it. And voting is a critical part of that process!

REQUIRED READINGS
All readings are available through NYU Classes under “Resources”.

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Schedule
(subject to change as the course progresses)

STUDENTS MUST CHECK THEIR NYU EMAIL ACCOUNTS DAILY
EVERY WEEKDAY FOR ANY UPDATES OR CHANGES

WEEK 1: Introductions
Thursday, September 3: Go over course requirements and brief introduction to the course and our plans for the semester. Discuss first writing assignment for the course.

First Writing Assignment: Personal Essay: College During a Pandemic. Please see the essay prompt listed under “Resources.”

Personal essays are due Sunday, September 6 by 5pm. Please email your essay to the professor and your Recitation Instructor.

WEEK 2: The Nature of Identity: Latino, Latinx, and Beyond
Tuesday, September 8: Lectures for 9/8 and 9/10 will be posted and available for viewing starting at 4:55pm.


Thursday, September 10: Post one question and one comment on the Forum site on NYU Classes by 12pm


“Love It? Hate It? ‘Latinx points to the future…” by Raul Reyes, NBC News, September 25, 2018 [NYU CLASSES]

“About One-in-Four U.S. Hispanics Have Heard of Latinx, but Just 3% Use It” by Luis Noe-Bustamante, Lauren Mora, and Mark Hugo Lopez, Pew Research Center, August 11, 2020. [NYU CLASSES]

Reading-Response #1 (2-pages) is due Sunday, September 13 by 5pm. Please submit your essay to Turnitin.

WEEK 3: Getting Specific: Conquest, Colonialism, and Creation of U.S. Latino Communities (I)
Tuesday, September 15: Lectures for 9/15 and 9/17 will be posted and available for viewing starting at 4:55pm.

This week, please watch the documentary Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America (2012) [NYU Classes]


Wednesday, September 16: Recitations begin today

Thursday, September 17: Post one question and one comment on the Forum site on NYU Classes by 12pm


Reading-Response #2 (2-pages) is due Sunday, September 20 by 5pm. Please submit your essay to Turnitin.

WEEK 4: Getting Specific: Conquest, Colonialism, and Creation of U.S. Latino Communities (II)
Tuesday, September 22: Lectures for 9/22 and 9/24 will be posted and available for viewing starting at 4:55pm.
WEEK 4 (continued):


Post one question and one comment on the Forum site on NYU Classes on Thursday by 12pm

OPTIONAL EVENT WITH NYU’S LATINX PROJECT: Friday, September 25: “Latinx Politics Conference: Resistance, Disruption, and Power,” 12:00-5:00 via Zoom

Reading-Response #3 (2-pages) is due Sunday, September 27 by 5pm. Please submit your essay to Turnitin.

WEEK 5: Getting Specific: Conquest, Colonialism, and Creation of U.S. Latino Communities (III)
Tuesday, September 29: Lectures for 9/29 and 10/1 will be posted and available for viewing starting at 4:55pm.

Aftershocks of Disaster: Puerto Rico Before and After the Storm, edited by Yarimar Bonilla and Marisol LeBrón (Haymarket Press, 2019) (Excerpt) [NYU CLASSES]


"Cuban Immigrants Were Given A Haven In The U.S.; Now They're Being Deported," by Daniel Rivero, National Public Radio (NPR), May 11, 2019. [NYU CLASSES]


Post one question and one comment on the Forum site on NYU Classes on Thursday by 12pm

Reading-Response #4 (2-pages) is due Sunday, October 4 by 5pm. Please submit your essay to Turnitin.

WEEK 6: Getting Specific: Conquest, Colonialism, and Latinx Indigeneity
Tuesday, October 6: Lectures for 10/6 and 10/8 will be posted and available for viewing starting at 4:55pm.


“Trump administration ignored its own evidence of climate change’s impact on migration from Central America” by Jacob Soboroff and Julia Ainsley, NBC, September 20, 2019. [NYU CLASSES]

“Why Trump may protect 1 group of immigrants” by Anita Kumar and Daniel Lippman, Politico, September 2, 2019.

OPTIONAL EVENT WITH NYU’S LATINX PROJECT: Wednesday, October 7: “A Mexican State of Mind: New York City and the Borderlands of Culture,” 5:00-7:00pm via Zoom

Thursday, October 8: Simón Trujillo, Land Uprising: Native Story Power and the Insurgent Horizons of Latinx Indigeneity (University of Arizona Press, 2020) (Excerpt) [NYU CLASSES]

Post one question and one comment on the Forum site on NYU Classes on Thursday by 12pm

Reading-Response #5 (2-pages) is due Sunday, October 11 by 5pm. Please submit your essay to Turnitin.

WEEK 7: Protest, Activism, Organizing and Becoming: The Chicano & Puerto Rican Movements
Tuesday, October 13: Lectures for 10/13 and 10/15 will be posted and available for viewing starting at 4:55pm.
WEEK 7 (continued):

“Introduction” and “Reinterpreting the Chicano Experience” by Ignacio García in Chicanismo: The Forging of a Militant Ethos Among Mexican-Americans (Phoenix: University of Arizona Press, 1997) [NYU CLASSES]


“Introduction” and Nieto-Gomez by Alma García in Chicana Feminist Thought: The Basic Historical Writings (London: Routledge, 1997) [NYU CLASSES]

Watch Excerpts from the documentary Chicano! The History of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement (1996) [Kanopy/NYU CLASSES]

OPTIONAL EVENT WITH NYU’s LATINX PROJECT: Tuesday, October 13: “Critical Latinx Indigeneities Forum,” 5:00-7:00pm via Zoom

Thursday, October 15: Understanding the Young Lords” by Darrel Enck-Wanzer in The Young Lords: A Reader (New York: NYU Press, 2010): 1-7 [NYU CLASSES]

The Young Lords 13-Point Program and Platform (1969 and 1970 versions) [NYU CLASSES]

Rules of Discipline of the Young Lords Organization [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 (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1971): 50-52, 67-77 [NYU CLASSES]


Post one question and one comment on the Forum site on NYU Classes on Thursday by 12pm

Reading-Response #6 (2-pages) is due Sunday, October 18 by 5pm. Please submit your essay to Turnitin.

WEEK 8: Approaches to Representation: Who Speaks for (and about) “Latinos”?

Tuesday, October 20: Lectures for 10/20 and 10/22 will be posted and available for viewing starting at 4:55pm.

“The Concept of Representation” by Hanna Fenichel Pitkin in Representation edited by Hanna Fenichel Pitkin (New York: Atherton Press, 1969) [NYU CLASSES]


“The Republican Party’s White Strategy” by Peter Beinart, The Atlantic, July/August 2016. [NYU CLASSES]

Post one question and one comment on the Forum site on NYU Classes on Thursday by 12pm

Reading-Response #7 (2-pages) is due Sunday, October 25 by 5pm. Please submit your essay to Turnitin.

WEEK 9: Creating an Electorate: Whiteness, Anti-Migrant Politics, and the Latino Vote:

Tuesday, October 27: Lectures for 10/27 and 10/29 will be posted and available for viewing starting at 4:55pm.

Cristina Beltrán, Cruelty as Citizenship: How Migrant Suffering Sustains White Democracy (University of Minnesota Press, 2020) (Excerpt) [NYU CLASSES]
WEEK 9 (continued):


Miscellaneous news articles about Latino Trump supporters and Latino Biden supporters [NYU CLASSES]

Post one question and one comment on the Forum site on NYU Classes on Thursday by 12pm

OPTIONAL EVENT WITH NYU’s LATINX PROJECT: Friday, October 30: Book Talk with Cristina Beltrán (SCA) and Natasha Iskander (Wagner) to discuss *How Migrant Suffering Sustains White Democracy* 6:00-7:30pm via Zoom.

Reading-Response #8 (2-pages) is due Sunday, November 1 by 5pm. Please submit your essay to Turnitin.

WEEK 10: The 2020 Election: Democracy on the Line

Tuesday, November 3: ELECTION DAY – NO CLASS

Wednesday, November 4: Please read news articles posted regarding the election results [NYU CLASSES]

Thursday, November 5: Post one question and one comment on the Forum site on NYU Classes on Thursday by 12pm

Post-Election Discussion

WEEK 11: Understanding Immigration

Tuesday, November 10: Lectures for 11/10 and 11/12 will be posted and available for viewing starting at 4:55pm.

Roots of Immigration to the United States” (Ch. 1) and “The Department of Homeland Security and the Immigration Enforcement Regime of the Twenty-First” (Ch. 2) by Tanya Maria Golash-Boza in *Immigration Nation: Raids, Detentions, and Deportations in Post-9/11 America* (Boulder: Paradigm Publishers, 2012): 15-79 [NYU CLASSES]

OPTIONAL EVENT WITH NYU’s LATINX PROJECT: Tuesday, November 10: “NYU Center for the Humanities, Latinx Art, Book Roundtable and Discussion” 5:00-6:30 via Zoom


“The Immigration Act Than Inadvertently Changed America” by Tom Gjelten, *The Atlantic*, October 2, 2015 [NYU CLASSES]

Post one question and one comment on the Forum site on NYU Classes on Thursday by 12pm

Reading-Response #9 (2-pages) is due Sunday, November 15 by 5pm. Please submit your essay to Turnitin.

WEEK 12: Activism, Refusal, and Anti-Blackness

Tuesday, November 17: Lectures for 11/17 and 11/19 will be posted and available for viewing starting at 4:55pm.


OPTIONAL EVENT WITH NYU’s LATINX PROJECT: Wednesday, November 18: “Demystifying Disability: The Making/Musings of Latinx Creatives” 6:00-7:30pm via Zoom


*Afro-Latin@s in Movement: Critical Approaches to Blackness and Transnationalism in the Americas* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016) edited (Excerpts) [NYU CLASSES]
WEEK 12 (continued):
Post one question and one comment on the Forum site on NYU Classes on Thursday by 12pm

1-PAGE FINAL PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 5pm.
Students who want to do a creative project must submit a 1-page proposal for their final project by 5pm on 11/20

Reading-Response #10 (2-pages) is due Sunday, November 22 by 5pm. Please submit your essay to Turnitin.

WEEK 13: THANKSGIVING —ENACTING LANGUAGE, HOME, AND COMMUNITY
Tuesday, November 24: Lectures for 11/24 will be posted and available for viewing starting at 4:55pm.
“Latin@ Languages and Identities” by Ana Cecilia Zentella in Latinos: Remaking America, edited by Marcelo M. Suárez-Orozco and Mariela M. Páez (2002): 322-38 [NYU CLASSES]

“‘Why don’t you speak Spanish?’ For Julián Castro and millions of Latinos, the answer is not so simple” by Samantha Schmidt, The Washington Post, July 15, 2019 [NYU CLASSES]

“8 Times People Were Attacked for Speaking Spanish” by Virginia Isaad, HipLatina, August 9, 2019 [NYU CLASSES]

Thursday, November 26: NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK

WEEK 14: LIBERATION AND PUNISHMENT: WRITING AND CARCERAL REGIMES
Tuesday, December 1: Lectures for 12/01 and 12/03 will be posted and available for viewing starting at 4:55pm.


Post one question and one comment on the Forum site on NYU Classes on Thursday by 12pm

Reading-Response #11 (2-pages) is due Sunday, December 6 by 5pm. Please submit your essay to Turnitin.

WEEK 15: PRACTICES OF POLICING AND PRACTICES OF RESISTANCE
Tuesday, December 8: Lectures for 12/08 and 12/10 will be posted and available for viewing starting at 4:55pm.


Thursday, December 10: Marisol LeBrón, Policing Life and Death: Race, Violence, and Resistance in Puerto Rico (University of California Press, 2019) (Excerpts) [NYU CLASSES]

Post one question and one comment on the Forum site on NYU Classes on Thursday by 12pm

Reading-Response #12 (2-pages) is due Sunday, December 13 by 5pm. Please submit your essay to Turnitin.

FINAL PAPER OR PROJECT DUE – FRIDAY DECEMBER 18, 2020
Papers or Projects must be UPLOADED to Turnitin on Friday, December 18, by 6pm