

Syllabus

Spring 2017

LATINO 392 & SOCIOL 376:

Race, Knowledge, and the Politics of Latinidad

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

According to the latest statistics, the United States is home to over 55.5 million “Latinos” and “Hispanics.” In 2000, this population became the largest “minority group” in the country. Demographers forecast that within the century, this population will reach close to 100 million. Considerable popular and academic debate has ensued about the meaning and significance of these demographic trends. For some, this population growth represents a major domestic threat, and for others it is a beneficial and welcomed development. Implicated in these debates, but insufficiently interrogated, is the sociohistorical and political process by which diverse and heterogeneous Latin American-descent communities came to be imagined and understood as comprising a panethnic whole. As entrée into this broader topic, this course explores how the making of “Latinos”—as an object of knowledge, target of social policy, and source of identity—is, to some extent, inseparable from the ways this population has been marked, measured, and mobilized into existence. Through a close readings and discussion of scholarly and popular texts, we will reflect on the meaning of Latinidad and the politics of representation.

REQUIRED BOOKS

- Beltrán, Cristina. 2010. *The Trouble with Unity: Latino Politics and the Creation of Identity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Chavez, Leo R. 2013. *The Latino Threat: Constructing Immigrants, Citizens, and the Nation*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. Second Edition.
- Dávila, Arlene. 2008. *The Latino Spin: Public Image and the Whitewashing of Race*. New York: New York University Press.
- Gonzales, Alfonso. 2014. *Reform Without Justice: Latino Migrant Politics and the Homeland Security State*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Mora, G. Cristina. 2014. *Making Hispanics: How Activists, Bureaucrats, and Media Constructed a New American*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Books are available for purchase at the bookstore. Cheaper copies may be found online. Must purchase or borrow print version of assigned books. They will also be on reserve at the library. All assigned articles will be found on Canvas under “Files.” These readings should be printed and brought to class. For rationale, please see point below on “class preparation.”

GRADED ITEMS

Class participation (15%): Class participation will take various forms throughout the term, such as raising questions and making comments. In addition, a pair of students will make brief presentations each Tuesday session. Presentations should include the following: 1) background on the author(s); 2) a short synopsis of the reading, and 3) startup questions for discussion. Presenters do not have to submit a “Monday” memo. Presentations should be no more than 10-15 minutes. Creativity will be rewarded.

Weekly Memos (20%): Every week you are to submit a brief memo on Canvas by Monday at 5pm. Memos should be no less than 250-300 words and discuss what you found most interesting, perplexing, or confusing in reading(s). *You are allowed to miss one memo per term—choose wisely!*

Online Exam (20%): In Week 5, students will take an exam. The exam will be composed short answer questions.

Book Review (20%): Each student will write a book review on one of the assigned books. The review length is 800-1000 words. You will be provided with two samples.

Final Essay (25%): At the end of the term, you will submit a final paper on course readings. The paper must be between 6-7 pages (excluding citations and cover page). Further details will be provided in class. **E-mail your final paper by Wednesday, June 7, 5pm.**

Extra Credit (5%): Visit the Writing Place to get feedback on your final essay. Bring proof of visit and you will be awarded points. <http://www.writing.northwestern.edu>

MECHANICS

Class Preparation: Come to class having read assigned readings and memos. Hard copies of books and articles must be brought to class. No laptops will be allowed in class! We are going old-fashioned: Bring a notebook and something to write with.

Attendance: You are expected to attend every session, barring documented emergency or recognized religious holiday. An attendance sheet will be circulated at the beginning of class. More than 3 absences will result in a drop in letter grade; **more than 5 absences will result in an automatic failure.**

Deadlines and Makeups: This course has strict assignment deadlines. Deadlines help ensure that students receive feedback in a reasonable amount of time (typically within one to two weeks). Unless there is a documented emergency, deadlines must be met. Similarly, only in cases of a documented emergency will quiz or exam make-ups be granted. Early exam-taking will not be allowed.

Intellectual honesty: This course follows Northwestern’s code of academic conduct. As required, any incidents of plagiarism or academic misconduct will be immediately reported. Visit: www.northwestern.edu/provost/policies/academic-integrity/index.html.

Accommodations: I urge any students with disabilities or in need of accommodations to connect with Accessible NU. For more information visit: www.northwestern.edu/accessiblenu/. I also ask that students inform me as early as possible about their needs.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Course Overview (Tues., March 28 & Thurs., March 30)

- Lao-Montes, Agustin. 2001. "Introduction." Pp. 1-55 in *Mambo Montage: The Latinization of New York*, edited by Agustín Laó-Montes and Arlene Dávila. New York: Columbia University Press. [Read pages 1-12]
<https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=9kqsAgAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PR4&ots=DI NJRPd157&sig=UCUwCW4 YhGVN 5aL4X02PC7Z2U#v=onepage&q&f=false>
- Rodríguez-Muñiz, Michael. 2010. "Grappling with Latinidad: Puerto Rican Activism in Chicago's Immigrant Rights Movement." Pp. 237-58 in *¡Marcha!: Latino Chicago and the Immigrant Rights Movement*, edited by Nilda Flores-González and Amalia Pallares. Chicago: University of Illinois Press.
- Handout on course themes and concepts

Week 2: Historicizing Latinidad (April 6)

- Mora, G. Cristina. 2014. *Making Hispanics: How Activists, Bureaucrats, and Media Constructed a New American*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

*No class on April 4 (Submit weekly memo on Wednesday, April 5, 5pm for Thursday's session).

Week 3: Latino Threat (Tues., April 11 & Thurs., April 13)

- Huntington, Samuel P. 2004. "The Hispanic Challenge." Pp. 30-45 in *Foreign Policy*.
- Buchanan, Patrick J. 2006. *State of Emergency: The Third World Invasion and Conquest of America*. New York: St. Martin Press. [Excerpt]
- Coulter, Ann. 2015. *Adios, America: The Left's Plan to Turn Our Country into a Third World Hellhole*. Washington: Regnery Publishing. [Excerpt]

Week 4: Deconstructing Latino Threat (Tues., April 18 & Thurs., April 20)

- Chavez, Leo R. 2013. *The Latino Threat: Constructing Immigrants, Citizens, and the Nation*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Week 5: The Latino Market (Tues., April 25 & Thurs., April 27)

- Korzenny, Felipe and Betty Ann Korzenny. 2005. *Hispanic Marketing: A Cultural Perspective*. Burlington: Elsevier. [Excerpt]
- Cartagena, Chiqui. 2013. *Latino Boom II: Catch the Biggest Demographic Wave Since the Baby Boom*. New York: Worthy Shorts. [Excerpt]

Week 6: Latino Spin (Tues., May 2 & Thurs., May 4)

- Dávila, Arlene. 2008. *The Latino Spin: Public Image and the Whitewashing of Race*. New York: New York University Press.

Week 7: Latino Power (Tues., May 9 & Thurs., May 11)

- Cisneros, Henry G. 2009. *Latinos and the Nation's Future*. Houston: Arte Público Press. [Excerpt]
- Ramos, Jorge. 2005. *The Latino Wave: How Hispanics are Transforming Politics in America*. New York: Harper Perennial. [Excerpt]

Week 8: Trouble with Unity (*Tues., May 16 & Thurs., May 18*)

→ Beltrán, Cristina. 2010. *The Trouble with Unity: Latino Politics and the Creation of Identity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Week 9: Latinidad and the Pursuit of Justice (*Tues., May 23 & Thurs., May 25*)

→ Gonzales, Alfonso. 2014. *Reform Without Justice: Latino Migrant Politics and the Homeland Security State*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Week 10: Reading Period (*Tues., May 30 & Thurs., June 1*)

* *Instructor reserves right to modify syllabus. Changes will be announced in advance.*