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Hispanics in the U.S.: Migration and Adjustment

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CUNY City College

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LALS 12600 / SOC 31703

Hispanics in the United States: Migration and Adjustment

Professor: M. Romo-Carmona

Lecture: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2 pm

Classroom: NAC 4/121-B

Office: NAC 6/331

Office Hours: Thursday 11:00am -12pm

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This course will discuss the challenge that the multifaceted Latino/a-Hispanic reality poses to the anglo-european and *monocultural* conception of the United States. For the most part, mainstream approaches to the study of Latino and Latina populations in the United States tend to focus on Latinos/as as a problem group, somehow outside and distinct from society. In our approach, we will shift perspectives to the myriad identities that in fact constitute the U.S. We will read and discuss texts on the socio-economic and political origins of migration from Latin America and the Spanish speaking Caribbean to the United States, as well as the historic Latino/a-Hispanic presence pre-dating the expansion of U.S. territories. The course will discuss key concepts such as a multi-racial *latinidad*, first and 2nd-3rd generation Latinos/as, the politics of gender, homophobia, imperialism, neoliberalism, militarization, circular migration, illegality, borderlands, ethnic enclaves, and the immigrant consciousness. In our study, we will incorporate the term Latinx as a signifier of people, heritage, and culture.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Rivera, Gabby. *America: Fast and Fuertona*. Joe Quiñones et al, illustrators. Marvel, 2018, New York.

(all other **required texts** will be posted on Blackboard or available online)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand the key historical and cultural developments that shaped North America, including the Hispanic and Latin American presence.
2. Learn about the development of Latinx culture through interpretation of primary and secondary sources and student directed research into a relevant topic.
3. Think critically about popular portrayals of Latinx immigrant life and develop a more nuanced understanding of Latinx immigrant culture and politics
4. Demonstrate college-level reading, writing and speaking skills through class assignments and discussions

Assessment

1) Attendance and Participation: 10%

Students will be expected to attend all class sections, do all of the readings, and actively participate in class discussions. A roundtable discussion is scheduled after each topic.

The Discussion Board on Bb is reserved for posting critical commentary and expressing interest in participating in the roundtable.

You are allowed two unexcused absences. With a third absence, the final grade will be lowered one grade (e.g. from B to B-). Illnesses require a doctor's note.

2) Examinations: 50%

Students will complete Midterm and Final Examinations consisting of short paragraph answers and essays in class.

Midterm: Thursday, March 21.

Final Exam: Thursday, May 16, 8-10 am

3) Writing (Critical Paper): 40%

Students will conduct original research on a topic approved by the professor and write an analytical research paper of 12 pages. Students are expected to hand in an outline, first draft and final draft of the paper. The first draft of the essay should be approximately 5-6 pages in length and will be given a preliminary assessment of satisfactory or unsatisfactory progress by the professor. Students are then expected to follow suggestions and comments from first draft review and improve the quality of the paper for the final draft. The final paper grade will account for the quality of the paper's research, writing and relevancy to class topics. The City College rubric for critical essays is a very useful guideline—it is posted for you on Bb, under your course content. All versions of the term paper must be handed in person to the professor printed on paper. No electronic versions or emails with papers attached will be accepted.

Outline due: Feb. 19

First Draft due: March 21

Midterm exam: March 26

Final Draft due: May 14, last day of classes

Final Exam: May 16

TOPICS:

Historical Background

The Largest Minority

Latinx in the U.S.: Identities and Labels

Social Movements. Images and the Printed Words

Borderlands and Militarization

Migration and Labor

Gender: Latinas, violence and criminal justice. New visions of freedom

Illegality and Immigrant Bodies

U.S. Imperialism and Expansion

Territory, education, and capitalism

Course Schedule

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.

January 29: Introduction, review of syllabus.

Lust for Gold, Lust for Silver. Chapter I of *Open Veins of Latin America*, by Eduardo Galeano.

Jan 31: Jose Martí, "Our America"

<http://www.historyofcuba.com/history/marti/America.htm>

Feb 5: Roundtable discussion on Galeano and Martí

Feb 7: THE LARGEST MINORITY. Rubén G. Rumbaut. "The Making of a People", from *Hispanics and the Future of America*

February 12: *NO CLASSES: College Closed*

Feb 14: Jorge Durand, Telles, Edward and Flashman, Jennifer. "The Demographic Foundations of the Latino Population", from *Hispanics and the Future of America*

Feb 19: Outline for Critical Paper due. Roundtable discussion on The Making of a People and Demographics.

Feb 21: DECONSTRUCTING *LATINIDAD*: Who are we, really?

Guest lecture: Dr. Moisés Park, Baylor University. Background reading: "The Latin Dragon: The Remasculinization of the 'Oriental' Male in Marko Zaror's Films."

Readings:

Vanessa K. Valdés, Introduction, from *Diasporic Blackness: The Life and Times of Arturo Alfonso Schomburg*.

Juán González, "The Role of Race," excerpt from *Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America*.

Feb 26: Roundtable discussion on Latinidad.

Feb 28: *LATINX IN THE UNITED STATES: IDENTITY AND LABELS*.

Readings:

Blanca E. Vega: The Audacity of the LatinX Voice and the Purpose of the LatinX Intellectual.

<http://www.latinorebels.com/2015/10/14/the-audacity-of-the-latinx-voice-and-the-purpose-of-the-latinx-intellectual-tradition/>

The case for Latinx: Why Intersectionality is not a choice. María R. Scharrón-del Río and Alan A. Aja.

<http://www.latinorebels.com/2015/12/05/the-case-for-latinx-why-intersectionality-is-not-a-choice/>

March 5: Roundtable discussion on Identity and Labels

March 7: *MIGRATION, IMMIGRATION, EXILE*

SASSEN, Saskia. "Why Migration?" *NACLA*, vol. XXVI, no.1 (July 1992), pp.14-19, 46-47. <http://www.reimaginerpe.org/node/956>

Elvia Arriola, "Accountability for Murder in the *Maquiladoras*: Linking Corporate Indifference to Gender Violence at the US-Mexico Border." In Gaspar de Alma, *Making a Killing*." pp. 25-61

March 12: Roundtable discussion on Immigration

March 14: TERRITORY AND CAPITALISM: Territory and culture.
Empowered Culture? New York City's Empowerment Zone and the Selling of El Barrio
Arlene Dávila
The Mexican Barrio, from *Barrio Dreams*. Arlene Dávila.

March 19: Roundtable discussion on conceptions of territory and culture.

March 21: First Draft term paper due. BORDERLANDS & MILITARIZATION
Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera*, Chapters 1 & 7; "to live in the Borderlands means you."
Gilberto Rosas. "The Thickening Borderlands." *Cultural Dynamics*, 2006.

March 26: Midterm Exam

March 28; April 2: GENDER
Guest lecturer: Dr. Juanita Díaz-Cotto, SUNY Binghamton
Díaz-Cotto, Juanita, "Latinas/os and the War on Drugs, from *Chicana Lives and Criminal Justice*.
Rivera, Gabby. *America: Fast and Fuertona*. Joe Quiñones et al, illustrators. Marvel, 2018, New York.

April 4: Roundtable on Borderlands and Gender

April 9: UPHEAVAL AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS:
Guest lecturer: Prof. Jorge Alvis, Linguistics and Glotopolitics. PhD Program in Latin American, Iberian, and Latino Cultures, the Graduate Center, CUNY.
<http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/latinos/joaquin.htm>

April 11: Roundtable discussion on the role of the printed word.

April 16: US IMPERIALISM AND EXPANSION
Juan González, "Free Trade: The Final Conquest of Latin America", from *Harvest of Empire*.
Meghan G. McDowell and Nancy A. Wonders, "Keeping Migrants in Their Place: Technologies of Control and Racialized Public Space in Arizona". *Social Justice*, Vol. 36, No. 2 (116), Policing, Detention, Deportation, and Resistance(2009-2010), pp. 54-72

April 18: Roundtable discussion on imperialism and trade.

Spring Recess: April 19-28

April 30: ILLEGALITY & IMMIGRANT BODIES

Nicholas De Genova, "Migrant 'Illegality' and Deportability in Everyday Life." *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 2002.

Jonathan Xavier Inda, "Foreign Bodies: Migrants, Parasites and the Pathological Nation *Discourse*, Vol. 22, No. 3, *Imperial Disclosures: Part I* (Fall 2000), pp. 46-62

May 2: Roundtable discussion on illegality and immigrant bodies.

May 7: EDUCATION: RACIALIZATION IN PUBLIC POLICY

Reynaldo Contreras and Valverde, Leonard A., "The Impact of Brown on the Education of Latinos". *The Journal of Negro Education*.

Luz Yadira Herrera and Noguera, Pedro A., "Children First and its Impact on Latino Students in New York City", from *Latinos in New York: Communities in Transition*.

May 9: You Tube videos and documentaries. Latinx in American Music: American Music IS Latinx

May 14: Last Day of Classes: Final Draft term paper due; final roundtable discussion as preparation for the final exam.

Final Exam: Thursday, May 16, 2019. 1:00pm – 3:15 pm.