Latino/a Cultures
LAS 4935/6938
Spring 2019

Instructor: Prof. Elizabeth Garcia
Class Time: Friday 9:35 a.m.-12:35 p.m.
Class Location: Grinter 376

Ofc. Hours: Tuesdays 1-3 p.m.
Ofc. Location: Grinter 392
Email: egarcia@latam.ufl.edu

Course Description:

This course explores the development of Latino/a/x culture(s) or Latinidades in the United States. We will analyze various forms of cultural expression including music, literature, and other forms of art. We will also explore how race, gender, sexuality, and religion influence definitions and expressions of Latinx cultures.

Class Assignments and Grading:

Grading will be based on the following assignments:

Undergraduates:
Class Participation: 10%
Intro Paper: 10%
Journals: 20%
Mid-Term Paper: 15%
Final Paper: 45%
  Proposal: 5%
  Annotated Bibliography: 10%
  Outline: 10%
  Final Draft: 20%

Graduates:
Class Participation: 10%
Intro Paper: 10%
Oral Presentation: 20%
Journals: 25%
Final Paper: 35%

Grading Rubric:

A= 100-93  C(S)= 76-73
A-= 92-90  C-(U)= 72-70
B+= 89-87  D+= 69-67
B= 86-83  D= 66-63
Undergraduate Assignment Descriptions:

Class Participation & In-Class Assignments: Participating in class is a very important part of your final grade. Participation in this course is defined as a) coming to class having read the assigned material, b) actively engaging in class conversation and, c) bringing to each class a question for discussion and a quote you want to discuss from the reading. Lack of preparedness in any of the above manners will impact your final grade.

Participation requires that you be consistently present in class. More than two unexcused absences will result in 5 points off your participation grade for each absence.

Please also note that tardiness will count against your participation grade.

Intro Paper: In this 1-2 page paper respond to the following prompt.

What knowledge do you already have about Latino/a/x history and culture in the United States? Where did you gain this knowledge? What do you hope to learn in this course?

This paper will be due Friday, January 18th in class.

Journal: Throughout the semester there will be in-class writing activities where I will give you a prompt based on that day’s discussion. For your journal you will be asked to choose 5 of these assignments, edit them, and turn them in as a journal. Each final journal entry should be 2 pages for a total of 10 pages.

In addition to these 5 pieces, you should add a 2 page reflection piece about what you’ve learned in the course. How has your knowledge about Latinx culture(s) changed as a result of your learning experience in this course?

Completed Journals will be due April 19th in class.

Mid-Term and Paper: You will be given a series of writing options and prompts from which you will choose one and write a 5-7 page paper. Further detailed instructions will be provided in class at least a week before the assignment is due. The assignment will be due Friday February 22nd in class.

Final Research Paper: For your final paper you will write a 10-page research paper where you will choose one art form we have not discussed in depth in class and conduct an analysis of the art form and Latinx contributions in this area.
Suggested topics include:

Theater
Poetry
Film
Visual Arts
Music Genres Not Discussed in Class
Food
Children or YA Literature
Latino Representations in Television Shows

Your Final Research Paper assignment is divided into multiple parts, each part due at different points in the semester.

A) **Paper Proposal.**
   For your proposal you should submit 1 page paper describing your topic, why you selected this topic, what you will be analyzing and what methods you’ll be using.

   Your paper proposal will be due **Friday, February 1st in class.**

B) **Annotated Bibliography**
   For your annotated bibliography you should list 5-7 sources. These sources should be scholarly materials (i.e. books, scholarly journal articles), and not popular materials found on the internet.

   Each citation should be followed with a one paragraph description of what the source is about and how it will be used in your paper. The annotated bibliography will be due **Friday, March 15th in class.**

C) **Outline**
   Your Outline should consist of the following parts: a) Draft of your introductory paragraph which should include a thesis statement, clearly state what is your argument, and explain how you will be demonstrating or supporting your argument in the rest of your paper; b) List of each topic section of your paper with a brief description of what you’ll be discussing in each section; and c) A draft of your concluding paragraph.

   Your outline will be due **Friday, April 5th in class.**

D) **Final Draft**
   Your final draft should consist of your completed 10-page paper, double spaced 12-point times new roman font, with a works cited page.

   **Your Final Paper will be due Monday, April 29th by 5 p.m. via email.**
Graduate Assignment Descriptions:

Class Participation: See undergraduate section above.

Intro Paper:  See undergraduate section above.

Journal Assignment: See undergraduate section above.

Oral Presentation:  All graduate students will do an in class 30 minute presentation based on the assigned readings for the day. Students will sign up for presentations during the 3rd week of class. Students should schedule a meeting prior to their presentation date with me to go over your plans and receive feedback.

Your presentation should include the following:

- A slide show presentation that highlights the key points of the reading, has interesting visuals, and incorporates multi-media (i.e. images, clips, audio, music, etc.)
- Presentations should focus on 3-5 key points that you have chosen to discuss. These should be identified clearly at the beginning of the presentation.
- Presentation should end with 3-5 discussion questions to engage and lead the class in discussion.
- Presentations should last at least 30 minutes.
- You should bring a hard copy of your presentation for me to grade on the day of your presentation.

Final Paper: A 15-page research paper will be your final project for this course. The paper should delve deeper into one of the many themes discussed in the course. An abstract of your final paper delineating your paper topic, argument, and method will be due in class on Friday, March 29th. The Final paper will be due on: Monday, April 29th by 5 p.m. via email

Technology in the Classroom: Cell phones should be silenced. No texting is allowed in class. Laptops should ONLY be used to take notes, do in class writing, and reference online course reading materials. If you are caught using your laptops for anything else not course related your participation grade will be significantly lowered.

Communication & Email Policy: The best way to communicate with me is via email. You should be aware however that I check my email M-F 9a.m.-5p.m. and sparingly on weekends. Therefore you should not expect quick responses from me if you email after 5 p.m. weekdays or during the weekends.

Communication is also key when it comes to any issues or challenges you may be having that prevent you from attending class, turning in an assignment on time, or impact your overall performance in class. Communicating with me as early as possible when
confronted with an issue will ensure that I can work with you to maximize your success in the course.

**Late Work & Incompletes:** Late assignments require prior permission from the instructor and will be deducted 1/3 of a letter grade for each day they are late (ex: A- becomes a B+). Assignments over 5 days late will not be accepted.

In accordance with UF policies, an incomplete may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor as an interim grade for a course in which:

1. the student has completed a major portion of the course with a passing grade, AND
2. been unable to complete course requirements before the end of the term because of extenuating circumstances, AND
3. obtained written agreement from the instructor and arranged for resolution of the incomplete grade.

**Academic Integrity:**
UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

**Students Requiring Accommodations**
Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**Required Texts:**
All books are available for purchase at the college bookstore. Books are also available on reserve at the library. Additional articles will be available on Canvas.


**Week 1: Introduction**

1/11 Syllabus and Class Structure/Organization.

**Week 2: Labels & Concepts: What is Latino/a/x? What is culture?**

Salvador Vidal-Ortiz and Juliana Martinez, “Latinx Thoughts: Latinidad with an X”
Frances Aparicio, “Confronting Diversity and Latinidad in Latina/o Studies”

**Intro Paper Due in Class**

**Week 3: Latinidades and Mexican American Literature**

1/25 Maria Amparo Ruiz De Burton, “The Squatter and the Don” (LR)
Jose Antonio Villareal, “Pocho” (LR)
Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales, “I am Joaquin” (LR)
Lorna Dee Cervantes “Poem for the Young White Man…” (LR)
Rudolfo Anaya, “Bless Me Ultima” (LR)
Richard Rodriguez, “Hunger of Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez” (LR)
Sandra Cisneros, “Woman Hollering Creek” (LR)

**Week 4: Latinidades and Puerto Rican Literature**

2/1 Bernardo Vega “Memoirs of Bernardo Vega” (LR)
Jesus Colon, “A Puerto Rican in New York and Other Sketches” (ALR)
Piri Thomas, “Down These Mean Streets” (LR)
Nicholasa Mohr, “Nilda” (LR)
Pedro Pietri, “Puerto Rican Obituary” (LR)
Miguel Piñero, “A Lower East Side Poem” (LR)
Judith Ortiz Cofer, “American History” (LR)
Final Paper Proposal Due in Class

Week 5: Latinidades: Cuban & Dominican American

2/8  Evelio Grillo, “Black Cuban, Black American” (ALR)
     Cristina Garcia, “Dreaming in Cuban” (LR)
     Achy Obejas, “We Came All the Way From Cuba So You Could Dress Like
     This?” (EL)
     Junot Diaz, “Fiesta, 1980” (EL)
     Julia Alvarez, “Daughter of Invention” (EL)
     Sherezada “Chiqui” Vicioso, “Discovering Myself: Un Testimonio” (ALR)

Week 6: Racializing Culture

2/15  Martha Menchaca “Latinas/os and the Mestizo Racial Heritage of Mexican
      Americans” (EL)
      Gabriel Haslip-Viera, “The Taino Identity Movement Among Caribbean
      Latinas/os In the United States” (EL)
      Silvio Torres-Saillant, “Divisible Blackness: Reflections on Heterogeneity and
      Racial Identity” (ALR)
      Marta Cruz Jansen, “Latinegras: Desired Women—Undesirable Mothers,
      Daughters, Sisters, and Wives” (ALR)
      Ana M. Lara, “Uncovering Mirrors: Afro-Latina Lesbian Subjects” (ALR)

Week 7: Racializing Culture

2/22  Pablo “Yoruba” Guzman, “Before People Called Me a Spic, They Called Me a
      Nigger” (ALR)
      Maria Rosario Jackson, “Profile of an Afro-Latina: Black, Mexican, Both” (ALR)
      Ginetta E. B. Candelario, “Displaying Identity: Dominicans in the Black Mosaic
      of Washington, DC” (ALR)
      Yvette Modestin, “An Afro-Latina’s Quest for Inclusion” (ALR)
      Ryan Mann-Hamilton, “Retracing Migration: From Samaná to New York and
      Back Again” (ALR)
      Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, “Reflections About Race by a Negrito Acomplejao”
      (ALR)

Mid-term Paper Due in Class

Week 8: Religion & Culture

3/1  Ruth Behar, “Latina Without Apologies” (EL)
     Marta Moreno Vega, “The Yoruba Orisha Tradition Comes to New York City”
     (ALR)
Luis Barrios, “Reflections and Lived Experience of Afro-Latin@ Religiosity” (ALR)
David Carrasco, “Cuando Dios y Usted Quiere: Latina/o Studies Between Religious Powers and Social Thought” (EL)
Anthony M. Stevens-Arroyo, “From Barrio To Barricades: Religion & Religiosity in Latino Life” in The Columbia History…” (EL)
Socorro Castaneda-Liles, “Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Politics of Cultural Interpretation” from Mexican American Religions (EL)

**Week 9: Spring Break**

3/8 NO CLASS

**Week 10: Queering Culture**

3/15 Oye Loca, Intro-Ch.4

Annotated Bibliography Due in Class

**Week 11: Queering Culture**

3/22 Oye Loca, Ch. 5-8

**Week 12: Latin@ Popular Music**

3/29 Oye Como Va, Ch. 1-4

Graduate Students Final Paper Abstracts Due in Class

**Week 13: Latin@ Popular Music**

4/5 Oye Como Va, Ch. 5-7

Final Paper Outline Due in Class

**Week 14: Latinx Graphix**

4/12 Alberto Ledesma, *Diary of a Reluctant Dreamer*

**Week 15: Class Conclusion**

4/19 Rosario Morales and Aurora Levins Morales, “Ending Poem” (LR)

Journals Due in Class

Final Paper Due Monday, April 29th by 5 p.m. via email