

## AC 213: Introduction to Latina/o Studies

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Fall 2008

M-W 1:00-2:30

1300 CHEM

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Instructor: Dr. Maria Cotera

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### Course Description:

Latino Studies is an interdisciplinary approach to the study of Puerto Rican, Mexican, Cuban, Caribbean, Central American, and Latin American communities in the US. Latina/o Studies offers a rubric for understanding not only the interconnections between diverse Latina/o communities but also the differences that sometimes divide them. This course will introduce students to the many practices of Latina/o Studies by giving them the opportunity to meet and learn more about scholars engaged in this field of study. The class will consist of a series of lectures/projects designed in conjunction with scholars, activists and cultural practitioners working in different areas of Latino Studies at the University of Michigan and beyond.

### Online Resources:

CTools: <http://www.ctools.umich.edu/portal>

AC213 Website: <http://www.umich.edu/~ac213>

### Required Texts:

AC213 Course Reader: (Available at Dollar Bill Copying)

### Course Requirements:

*Attendance (10%):* Regular attendance is required from all registered students. At the beginning of every class, you will sign our class roster to indicate that you were present for that class session, tardiness is unacceptable. You are allowed up to two (2) **excused** absences during the semester, but you must show documentation in order for an absence to be counted as "excused." Absences are excused for personal illness, family emergencies, jury duty and religious holidays. More than one **unexcused absence** will lower your overall attendance grade so please make sure you talk to me in advance if you know you'll have to miss a class.

*Participation/Discussion (20%):* Constructive class participation and consistent and engaged reading of assigned texts are required from all registered students. You will receive a **daily grade** for your participation in discussion section, which will be averaged over the course of the semester, so please prepare for your discussion section. Preparation for discussion includes identifying puzzling aspects in the readings or lectures, highlighting specific passages in your readings for analysis, and raising questions for debate. We recognize that people have very different styles of participation and different levels of comfort with speaking in section. Your participation/discussion grade will reflect not how many times you speak in section, but how you share in developing a lively and respectful conversation. **If you miss a discussion section you will receive no Participation/Discussion grade for that day.**

*Unit Quizzes (30%):* We will have three unit quizzes over the course of the semester. Each quiz will cover material (reading and lectures) from the previous Unit. In other words, Unit Quiz I will cover material from Unit One: Histories; Unit Quiz II will cover material from Unit 2: Migrations, and Unit Quiz III will cover material from Unit 3: The Latino Condition. Please refer to the class schedule for Quiz dates.

*Final Project (40%):* You have three options for your final project. Each of these projects involves a series of short preparatory assignments (3 total) spaced at regular intervals throughout the semester. The short assignments will help you to get an early start on your final project so that you aren't scrambling to finish at the end of the semester. You must decide which final project you want to undertake by the third week of class and submit your decision to Ctools by **Sunday, September 28**. The descriptions below are brief overviews of your final project options. For more detailed information please consult the AC213 Website: <http://www.umich.edu/~ac213>.

**Option #1: Web-based Project (collaborative project):** Form a group of 3 students. Create a website that addresses some aspect of the Latina/o experience (your web content should be comparable to a 10-12 page paper). See the [Web Project Resources](#) page on our class website for more detailed information on project guidelines and resources.

**Option #2: Advocacy Project (group project):** Form a study group of 3 students within your discussion section. Each study group will then work together to identify a specific social problem or issue that affects and/or disadvantages Latina/os in the U.S. Over the course of the semester, study groups will research the issue, conduct an interview with a local activist and/or scholar involved in advocacy on the issue, develop a specific plan of action to address the issue, and write a final report (10-12 pgs) summarizing your experiences. See the [Advocacy Project Guidelines](#) page on our class website for more detailed information on project guidelines and resources.

**Option #3: Community Service Learning Project (individual experiential project):** Volunteer with PALMA, the Real Media Literacy Project, The Washtenaw County Worker Center, or an organization of your choice (it must be an organization that serves Latina/os and you must obtain prior permission from instructor). Write a final paper (8-10 pgs.) that reflects on your experience and draws from class readings & lectures. See the [Community Service Project Guidelines](#) page for more detailed information on project guidelines and resources. Remember that in order to complete this project, you will have to spend at least 2 hours per week working on-site at the community service organization.

*Class Activities:* There are two class-related events for which attendance is mandatory. On **Saturday, November 1**, the class will take a field trip to Southwest Detroit (lunch provided). On **Tuesday, November 18 (7:00 - 9:00 pm)** there will be a film screening of the feature length film, *A Day Without a Mexican*. Attendance at both of these events is required. Should you miss either of these events, one point will be deducted from your overall attendance grade.

*Extra Credit Opportunities:* You will have a number of opportunities to increase your final grade throughout the semester. Here's how it works: 1) attend any lecture, performance, or event having to do with the U.S. Latina/o experience (you must get approval from the course instructor first); 2) write a 1-2 page reflection paper about the event and/or your experiences; 3) submit your paper to the GSI. You must submit your reflection paper to the GSI within two weeks of the event and no later than the last class meeting of the term in order to receive extra credit. For each event attended/reflection paper you will receive an "extra" 0.5 points added to your final grade. You are limited to five (5) extra credit opportunities.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS LATINA/O STUDIES?

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#### Wednesday, Sept. 3 - Introduction to the Course

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#### Monday, Sept. 8 – Latinos: What's in a name?

Professor Maria Cotera

#### Readings

- "Demography and the Shifting Boundaries of Community," David Gutierrez
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### UNIT ONE: HISTORIES

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#### Wednesday , Sept. 10 – Legacy of Conquest

Professor Maria Cotera

#### Readings:

- "Conquerors and Victims," Harvest of Empire, Juan González
  - Review "*Casta* Paintings" Website
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#### Monday, Sept. 15 – 1848 and the Creation of the Borderlands

Professor Anthony Mora, History Department

#### Readings:

- "The Spanish Borderlands and the Making of an Empire (1810-1898)," Harvest of Empire, Juan González
  - Selections from the Treaty of Guadalupe
  - "We Called Them Greasers," Gloria Anzaldúa
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#### Wednesday, Sept. 17 – 1898 and the Caribbean Diaspora

Professor María Cotera

#### Readings:

- "Migrations Before World War II," Puerto Ricans in the U.S., Edna Acosta-Belén & Carlos E. Santiago
  - "A Vindication of Cuba," José Martí
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#### Monday, Sept. 22 – Gaining a Voice: The Emergence of Latina/o Politics (Part 1)

Professor Maria Cotera

#### Readings:

- "The Politics of Race and Assimilation" The League of United Latin American Citizens 1929-1940," Benjamin Marquez
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**Wednesday , Sept. 24 — Gaining a Voice: The Emergence of Latina/o Politics (Part 2)**

Professor María Cotera

**Readings:**

- "The Growth of the Puerto Rican Community in New York," Puerto Ricans in the U.S., Edna Acosta-Belén & Carlos E. Santiago

**Sunday, September 28: submit Final Project Proposal to CTools by 5:00pm**

**Monday, Sept. 29 — The Sixties and the Rise of Nationalism I: The Young Lords**

Professor María Cotera, Film Screening "Pa'lante, Siempre Pa'lante" (in class)

**Readings:**

- "Establishing an Identity in the 60's," Suzanne Oboler
- "Young Lords Party 13-Point Platform"
- "Puerto Rican Obituary," Pedro Pietri

**Wednesday, Oct. 1 — The Sixties and the Rise of Nationalism II: Chicano Power**

Professor María Cotera

**Readings:**

- "*El Grito del Norte*" Newspaper (only on Ctools)
- "*El Plan Espiritual de Aztlán*"
- "*Yo Soy Joaquin*" Corky González
- "Chicanas Speak Out!" Mirta Vidal
- "Notes From a Chicana Co-ed," Bernice Zamora

**Monday, Oct. 6 – UNIT ONE QUIZ**

**UNIT TWO: LATINA/OS ON THE MOVE — MIGRATION AND INVISIBILITY**

**Wednesday, Oct. 8 — Alien-nation: Fear of an Immigrant Planet**

María Cotera, Film Screening "*Animaquiladora*" and "*Día de La Independencia*"(in class)

**Readings:**

- "The Founding Immigrants," Kenneth Davis (New York Times Op-Ed)
- "Rethinking the Last 200 Years of Immigration Policy," Aristide Zolberg
- "Immigration," Economic Report of the President

**Monday, Oct. 13 — Latinos in Michigan**

Professor Jesse Hoffnung-Garskof, History

**Readings:**

- "Michigan," Jesse Hoffnung-Garskof (in Latinos in America State by State)
- Selections from the President's Commission on Migratory Labor

**Assignment #1 due in class (Monday, October 13)**

### **Wednesday, Oct. 15 – Cuban Immigrants: Revolution and Return**

Professor Silvia Pedraza, Sociology

#### **Readings:**

- "Cuba's Refugees: Manifold Migrations," Silvia Pedraza
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### **MONDAY, OCT. 20: FALL STUDY BREAK**

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### **Wednesday, Oct. 22 – Central Americans: Changing Communities**

Kristine Molina, PhD student, Personality & Social Contexts/Women's Studies

#### **Readings:**

- "Being Somebody": Central American Immigrants in U.S. Inner-City Schools," Marcelo Suarez Orozco
  - "The Writers" Izote Vos, Salvadoran American Writing (only on Ctools)
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### **Monday, Oct. 27 – Im/migration Wrap-up**

Maria Cotera, film screening: Fear and Learning at Hoover Elementary (in class)

#### **Readings:**

- "The Continuing Latino Quest for Full Membership and Equal Citizenship," Kevin R. Johnson
  - Review Website: "Journey to The Border"
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**Detroit Field Trip, (Saturday, Nov. 1, 10:00-5:00)**

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### **WEDNESDAY, OCT. 29 UNIT TWO QUIZ**

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## **UNIT THREE: THE LATINA/O CONDITION**

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### **Monday, Nov. 3 – The Politics of Language (Assignment #2 Due in class)**

Professor Teresa Satterfield, Romance Languages & Linguistics

#### **Readings:**

- "Is 'Spanglish' the Third language of the South?: Truth and Fantasy about U.S. Spanish," John Lipski
  - "Jose Can You See?: Latina/o Responses to Racist Discourse," Ana Celia Zentella
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### **Wednesday, Nov. 5 – Latino Sexuality**

Professor Larry La Fountain Stokes, Romance Languages & Latina/o Studies

#### **Readings:**

- "Chicano Men: A Cartography of Homosexual Identity and Behavior," Tomas Almaguer
- "Playing with Fire: The Gendered Construction of Chicana/Mexicana Sexuality," Patricia Zavella
- Sylvia Rivera's talk At LGMNY

## **Monday, Nov. 10 – Latina/o Children**

Professor Robert Ortega, School of Social Work

### **Readings:**

- "Latinos and Child Well-being," Robert Ortega

**Assignment #2 Due in Class (Monday, Nov, 10)**

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## **Wednesday, Nov. 12 – Latina/o Youth Literacy, Culture, and Identity**

Professor Elizabeth Moje, School of Education

### **Readings:**

- "Powerful Spaces," Elizabeth Moje

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## **Monday, Nov. 17 – Mobilizing Latina/o Youth Through Community Activism**

Professor Lorraine Gutierrez, School of Social Work

### **Readings:**

- "Latino Leadership Development: Beginning on Campus," Marco A. Davis
- "Young People as Competent Citizens," Barry Checkoway, et al.
- Please take a look at the following websites before Dr. Gutierrez' lecture:  
<http://www.swop.net/> and <http://www.youthec.org/youthforce/> (on ctools)

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**Film Screening: A Day Without a Mexican (Tuesday, Nov. 18, 7:00-9:00)**

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## **Wednesday, Nov. 19: Latina/o Media Arts and Performance**

Professor Amy Carroll, English

### **Readings:**

- "*Rasquachismo*: A Chicano Sensibility," Tomas Ybarra-Frausto

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## **Monday, November 24: Latina/o-Chicana/o Children and Globalization**

Isabel Millan, PhD Student, American Culture

### **Readings:**

- Stuart H. D. Ching, "Multicultural Children's Literature as an Instrument of Power,"
- Rosa Linda Fregoso, "Cross-Border Feminist Solidarities," MeXicana Encounters
- "Patlatonalli, Making Change in Mexico" in Threads (select pages from the Astrea Lesbian Foundation for Justice Newsletter)

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**Thanksgiving Break (Wednesday, Nov. 26)**

**Monday and Wednesday, Dec 1 & 3 – Latina/o Health: Stereotypes & Struggles for Equity**  
Professor Alexandra M. Stern, History Department & Center for the History of Medicine

**Readings: (Readings must be completed by Monday)**

- "Sterilized in the Name of Public Health: Race, Immigration, and Reproductive Control in Modern California," Alexandra Minna Stern
- "Latinos ACT UP: Transnational AIDS Activism in the 1990s," M. Alfredo Gonzalez.
- CDC Fact Sheet on HIV/AIDS among Hispanics

**Assignment #3 Due in Class (Monday, Dec. 1)**

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**Monday, Dec. 8 — Semester Wrap-up**  
Maria Cotera

**Final Assignment Submission: Monday, December 15, 5:00pm**

**UNIT THREE QUIZ Thursday, December 11 (4:00-6:00pm)**