

Professor Albert Sergio Laguna
Phone: 203-432-6333

Course # ER&M 217/AMST 284
Meets: MW 1:00-2:15 ROOM TBA

Office Hours, Mon 3-5 and by appointment.
35 Broadway, Rm 204

Section Times

Students will choose between 4 section times: Wednesdays at 4pm and 7pm and Thursdays at 1:30pm and 4pm.

Introduction to Latina/o Studies

Course Description:

This course provides students with a critical overview of some of the central themes and issues that have shaped the experiences of Latino/a populations in the U.S. The main areas of inquiry that this course will address include: U.S.-Latin American relations; the history of ethnic labels; the formation of transnational communities and identities; the politics of language and bilingualism; race, class, and ethnicity; gender and sexuality; political and social movements; geographic space and localities; and media and popular culture. In order to foster an interdisciplinary and hemispheric approach to Latino/a Studies, course materials will draw from the social sciences and the humanities, as well as from U.S. and Latin American scholarship and cultural traditions.

Course Materials:

The following titles are available at the Yale Barnes and Noble Bookstore and through a number of online retailers. Books available through the Yale University Library Catalog (ORBIS) as eBooks are also identified. **All pdfs and links can be found under “Resources” on classes*v2.** Consult the weekly reading schedule below for a detailed list of where materials can be found.

Arlene Dávila, *Latinos, Inc.* ORBIS

Wendy Roth Race *Migrations: Latinos and the Cultural Transformation of Race* ORBIS

Robert Holden and Eric Zolov, *Latin America and the United States: A Documentary History*

Junot Díaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*

Justin Torres, *We the Animals*

Luis Valdez, *Zoot Suit*

Américo Paredes, *With His Pistol in His Hand*

Helena María Viramontes *Under the Feet of Jesus*

Cristy C. Road, *Spit and Passion*

Sonia Nazario *Enrique’s Journey*

Course Requirements and Policies:

Attendance and Section Participation: Students are expected to attend all lectures, section meetings, and any scheduled film screenings. Students must come to class with the readings completed and ready to engage their section leader and fellow classmates in discussion. Your TF will closely monitor your attendance and participation and grade accordingly.

Critical Questions: Students must submit two (2) critical questions in response to the week's reading to their TF by **9pm on the Tuesday before lecture**. These questions should demonstrate a substantial and close engagement with the readings. They will be used to stimulate conversation in section and lecture and will also serve as a way for students to organize their thoughts around issues in the readings they found particularly compelling and/or confusing. We will discuss this in more detail in lecture.

Written Assignments: Students must complete 3 formal written assignments during the course of the semester: 2 papers and a final. Submit all written work to your Teaching Fellow for evaluation by the assigned due date. Late papers will be penalized.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade for the course. Students should become familiar with University-wide policies. For a definition of plagiarism, see <http://ctl.yale.edu/writing/using-sources/understanding-and-avoiding-plagiarism/what-plagiarism> If you are in doubt about the proper citation of sources and/or need help with any part of the writing process, I encourage you to get in touch with me, your teaching fellow, and/or the trained staff at the writing center: <http://ctl.yale.edu/writing>

Grade Percentages and Dates

Attendance and Participation: 15%

Critical Questions: 15%

Paper #1: 5-6 pages, 20% **Due Feb 25th**

Paper #2: 5-7 pages, 25% **Due April 13**

Final Paper: 7-9 pages, 25% **Due May 9th**

Week 1

Wed Jan 20: Why Latina/o Studies?

Fri Jan 22: (Monday Classes Meet) US-Latin American Relations

Readings: Holden and Zolov, "Preface," "Monroe Doctrine," "Roosevelt Corollary," "A US Official Interprets Latin America"

In-Class: Analysis of political cartoons

Week 2 Imaginaries Across the Américas

Mon Jan 25: 19th Century Latin American Intellectuals

Readings: Holden and Zolov, José Domingo Sarmiento, "The United States: An Inconceivable Extravaganza"

Simón Bolívar, "The United States: Destined to Plague America with Torments," José Enrique Rodó, "Ariel"

José Martí, "Our America" **classes*v2 pdf**

Wed Jan 27 Latin America in the US Popular Imagination

Readings: Holden and Zolov, "The Good Neighbor Policy"

Pablo Neruda, "La United Fruit. Co" **classes*v2 pdf**

Watch: Disney's *The Three Caballeros* ([available online](#))

In-Class Screening: Banana-centric clips from *The Gang's All Here* (1943) and commercials from the 1940s.

Week 3 Labels and the Media

Mon Feb 1 Hispanic? Latin@/o/a/x?

Readings: Juana María Rodríguez, "Latino, Latina, Latin@" in *Keywords in American Cultural Studies*

ORBIS ([link in classes*v2](#))

Arlene Dávila, Introduction and Chapter 2 of *Latinos, Inc.* (2012 version) **ORBIS**

Wed Feb 3 Media Representations

Readings: Frances Negrón-Muntaner "The Gang's Not All Here: The State of Latinos in Contemporary Media" **classes*v2 pdf**

Watch: *Superstore* (Ep3 "Shots and Salsa"), *Modern Family* [links on classes*v2](#)

In-Class: Clips from *I Love Lucy*

Week 4 Latinidad: Race and Sexuality

Mon Feb 8 Piri Thomas, selections from *Down These Mean Streets* **classes*v2 pdf**

Wendy Roth, "How Immigration Changes Concepts of Race" in *Race Migrations: Latinos and the Cultural Transformation of Race* **ORBIS**

Luis Urrieta, Jr. "Las Identidades También Lloran, *Identities Also Cry*: Exploring the Human Side of Indigenous Latina/o Identities" **classes*v2 pdf**

Wed Feb 10 Queer Latinidad

Readings: Cristy C. Road, *Spit and Passion*

Week 5 Zoot Suits and Brown Power

Mon Feb 15 Luis Valdez, *Zoot Suit*

Wed Feb 17 Alurista, "Plan espiritual de Aztlán" **classes*v2 pdf**

"The Plan of Delano" **classes*v2 link**

César Chávez, An Organizer's Tale **classes*v2 link**

David Sánchez, "Brown Beret National Policies" **classes*v2 pdf**

Cherrie Moraga, "Queer Aztlan" **classes*v2 pdf**

Week 6 The Poetics of Resistance

Mon Feb 22 Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales "I Am Joaquin" **classes*v2 pdf**

Helena María Viramontes, *Under the Feet of Jesus* (half)

Wed Feb 25 Finish *Under the Feet of Jesus*

*****PAPER #1 DUE FEB 25****

Week 7 Puerto Ricans in the City

Mon Feb 29 Puerto Rican New York

Watch: *West Side Story* (available online)

Readings: Jorge Duany, "The Nation in the Diaspora: The Reconstruction of the Cultural Identity of Puerto Rican Migrants" **classes*v2 pdf**

Wed March 2 Young Lords

Screening in class: *El pueblo se levanta* (1971)

Readings: Iris Morales, "Puerto Rican Young Lords" **classes*v2 pdf**

Pedro Pietri, "Puerto Rican Obituary" **classes*v2 pdf**

"Young Lords Party: 13 Point Program and Platform" **classes*v2 pdf**

Week 8 Puerto Rico Beyond *El Barrio*

Wed Mar 7 The Puerto Rican Debt Crisis in Context

Readings: Ed Morales, “The Roots of Puerto Rico’s Debt Crisis—and Why Austerity Will Not Solve It” *The Nation* [link on classes*v2](#)

Jonathan Mahler and Nicholas Confessore, “Inside the Billion-Dollar Battle for Puerto Rico’s Future” *The New York Times* [link on classes*v2](#)

Justin Torres, *We the Animals*

Mon Mar 9 Post-Nuyorican?

Readings: Justin Torres, *We the Animals*

Edgardo Vega Yunqué “Back by Popular Demand ”[classes*v2 pdf](#)

Week 9 The Cuban Diaspora

Mon Mar 28 Exiles and Beyond

Readings: Susan Eckstein, “Immigrants and the Weight of Their Past” [classes*v2 pdf](#)

Ana Menéndez, “In Cuba I Was a German Shepherd” [classes*v2 pdf](#)

¿Qué Pasa, U.S.A.? “Citizenship” [link on classes*v2](#)

In-class listening: Alvarez Guedes, *How To Defend Yourself From the Cubans*

Wed Mar 30 Cuba and Its Diaspora in the 21st Century

Readings: Peter Baker, *U.S. to Restore Full Relations With Cuba, Erasing a Last Trace of Cold War Hostility* *The New York Times* [link on classes*v2](#)

VOX, “This is Cuba’s Netflix, Hulu, and Spotify – All Without the Internet” [link on classes*v2](#)

Jennine Capó Crucet, “How to Leave Hialeah,” in *How to Leave Hialeah* **ORBIS**

Week 10 Between the Island and Nueba Yol

Mon Apr 4 Dominicans in the United States

Junot Díaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*

Wed Apr 6 *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*

Week 11 Central America:

Mon Apr 11 Readings: Sonia Nazario, *Enrique's Journey*

Sibylla Brodzinsk and Ed Pilkington, “US government deporting Central American migrants to their deaths” *The Guardian*, October 12, 2015. [Link on classes*v2](#)

Wed Apr 13 Central America and the Ties That Bind

Sonia Nazario, *Enrique's Journey*

PAPER #2 DUE APRIL 13th

Week 12 Sounding Latinidad

Mon Apr 18 Corridos: Songs of the Border

Readings: Américo Paredes, *With His Pistol in His Hand* Chapters 2 and 4 “Variant X” 154-58

In-class listening: Los Tigres del Norte

Wed Apr 20 Mambo to Hip-Hop

Readings: Lise Waxer, “Situating Salsa: Latin Music at the Crossroads” [classes*v2 pdf](#)

Juan Flores, “Puerto Rocks: Rap, Roots, and Amnesia” [classes*v2 pdf](#)

In-class listening/watching: clips from *Latin Music USA*

Week 13

Mon Apr 25

Section Reflection

Wed Apr 27

Final Exam distributed/Latin@ Studies today, Open Discussion

FINAL PAPER DUE MAY 9th