

Sociology M155: Latinos in the United States:
The Racialization of Mexican-Americans/Chican@s
Summer 2010

Professor: Celia Lacayo

Email: celialacayo@gmail.com

Office Hours: Wednesday 2:00-3:00 p.m. or by appointment/ Bunche 7382

Course Description:

This course will focus on the incorporation and reception of Mexican immigrants as well as Chicanos who have resided in the United States for several generations. For the purpose of this class we will focus on Mexican-Americans in the Southwest. This course will trace how Mexicans have experienced racialization and racism throughout time and place. We will seek to find how Mexican-American's racial formation comes to be and its implications. These include, second-class citizenship, segregation, labor exploitation and discrimination. This course will also examine how Mexican-Americans understand and identify themselves when they experience exclusion and inequality. We will explore how the categories of race and ethnicity are important in addressing the Mexican-American experience. We will also examine how media and pop culture reflect stereotypes of Mexican-Americans. The course will also address how class, gender, sexuality and immigrant status affect Latinos.

The class begins with a historical overview and proceeds into current times to illustrate how Latinos continue to be negatively portrayed and how that affects Latino mobility. Understanding how and why Latinos are marginalized and racialized then and now can help us begin to solve the problems of discrimination.

Course Expectations & Requirements:

The authors you will be reading will be in conversation with one another regarding the weekly topic. Thus, you will be expected to understand their arguments and make your own deductions from their evidence and argumentation. You are required to attend every lecture and I encourage you to come by during office hours.

Please be respectful to your fellow classmates and refrain from inappropriate behavior (ex. rude comments, sleeping in class, talking out of turn, use of cell phones, reading outside material, etc.)

Grading:

Class Participation: 10%

Take Home Midterm: 40% (Due Monday July 12) No Late Midterms will be accepted.

In Class Final: 50% (Wednesday July 28 ONLY)

Required Materials:

Coursereader at UCLA Bookstore

Weekly Schedule:

Week 1: History of the “Mexican Problem”

Introduction, & Chapter 1 Gomez, Larua E. 2007. *Manifest Destinies: The Making of the Mexican American Race*. New York University Press.

Introduction, Chapter 1 & Conclusion. Flores, Richard. 2002. *Remembering the Alamo: Memory, Modernity and the Master Symbol*. University of Texas Press.

Introduction & Ch 3-5 Molina, Natalia. 2006. *Fit to be Citizen?: Public Health and Race in Los Angeles 1879-1939*. University of California Press.

“Always the Laborer, Never the Citizen, Anglo Perceptions of the Mexican Immigrant during the 1920’s” Gutierrez, David. 1999. *Between Two Worlds, Mexican Immigrants in the United States*. Scholarly Resources.

Week 2: Race, Citizenship and Immigration

Ch. Introduction, 2 & Conclusion Telles, Edward and Vilma Ortiz. 2008. *Generations of Exclusion: Mexican Americans, Assimilation, and Race*. Russell Sage Foundation.

Portes, Alejandro and Min Zhou. 1993. “The New Second Generation: Segmented Assimilation and Its Variants.” *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 530:74-96.

Huntington, Samuel P. 2004. “The Hispanic Challenge.” *Foreign Policy* March/April :30-45.

Fraga Luis R and Gary Segura. 2006. “Culture Clash? Contesting Notions of American Identity and the Effects of Latin American Immigration.” *Immigration and National Identity*. 279-287.

Week 3: Are Latinos a Racial or Ethnic Category?

Alcoff, Linda Martin. 2000. “Is Latina/o Identity a Racial Identity?” *Hispanics/Latinos in the United States: Ethnicity, Race, and Rights*. New York, NY. Routledge Press.

Barrera, Mario. 2008. “Are Latinos a Racialized Minority?” *Sociological Perspectives*, Vol 51 p305-324.

Chapter 1, 3 & 4 Hattam, Victoria. 2007. *In the Shadows of Race: Jews, Latinos, and Immigration Politics in the United States*. The University of Chicago Press.

Week 4: The "Latino Threat"

Garcia, Ruben. 1995. "Critical Race Theory & Proposition 187: The Racial Politics of Immigration Law." *Chicano/Latino Law Review* p118-154.

Cervantes, Nancy, Sasha Khokha, & Bobbie Murray. 1995. "Hate Unleashed: Los Angeles in the Aftermath of Proposition 187." *Chicano/Latino Law Review*. P1-23.

Murray, Mark. May 26, 2010. "On Immigration, Racial Divide Runs Deep." MSNBC.

Introduction, Ch1, 7 & Epilogue Chavez, Leo R. 2008. *The Latino Threat: Constructing Immigrants, Citizens, and the Nation*. Stanford University Press.

Week 5: Racial Construction of Latinos in the Media

Chapter 1, 4, & 8 Santa Ana, Ottoo. 2002. *Brown Tide Rising: Metaphors of Latinos in Contemporary American Public Discourse*. University of Texas Press, Austin.

Introduction, Ch 1 & 3 Berg, Charles Ramirez. 2002. *Latino Images in Film Stereotypes, Subversion, & Resistance*. University of Texas Press Austin.

Introduction, Ch 1, 2, & 4 Arrellano, Gustavo. 2007. *¡Ask A Mexican!* Scribner.

Introduction, Ch 1, & 3 Davila, Arlene. 2001. *Latinos Inc.: The Marketing and Making of a People*. University of California Press.

Week 6: Race, Gender and Sexuality

Introduction Chang, Grace. 2000. *Disposable Domestic: Immigrant Women Workers in the Global Economy*. South End Press.

Preface, Ch 1, 2, 8 Hondagneu-Sotelo, Pierrette. *Domestica: Immigrant Workers Cleaning and Caring in the Shadows of Affluence*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.

Introduction & Ch 1 Luibhéid, Eithné. *Entry Denied: Controlling Sexuality at the Border*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2002.