

ANTH 458/LATS 488 - Senior Seminar: Latino Cultures in the U.S.
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Dr. Carole Counihan
Office Hours: Tu 1:30-3:30
Th 1:30-2:30
F 9:30-11:30

Senior Seminar: Latino Cultures in the U.S.

The course

ANTH 458/LLATS 488 - "Senior Seminar: Latino Cultures in the U.S." is open to all anthropology and sociology majors and minors and Latino Studies minors, and other students with permission of the instructor. It is a research seminar and colloquium on the experience of Latinos in the United States. Students will read a common body of literature from two edited collections composed of social science essays and autobiographical narratives that explore different ways of knowing and representing the Latino experience. Students will apply these two approaches in their own major individual or group research project on some aspect of Latino cultures. Students will work on their own projects all semester long and share their growing expertise with the class.

Course goals

1. Students will learn about the experience of Latinas and Latinos in the United States.
2. Students will learn about diverse social science approaches in cultural analysis.
3. Students will construct, carry out, and write up a major individual or group project as a capstone to their education in anthropology, sociology, and/or Latino Studies.
4. Students will improve their writing, oral communication, and critical thinking.

Required Books: Bring books to class every day

Latina Feminist Group. 2001. Telling to Live: Latina Feminist Testimonios. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. (TTL on syllabus)

Suárez-Orozco, Marcelo M. and Mariela M. Páez, eds. 2002 Latinos: Remaking America. Berkeley: University of California Press. (Latinos on syllabus)

Requirements

1. **Class attendance** (25 points). This course is a capstone seminar where students are expected to share their knowledge, questions, and perspectives with each other and the professor in a community of learners. Attendance is important and students will lose one point for every class missed.
2. **Group reading discussion** (10 points each, 20 points total). Participate twice in a group presentation of one day's assigned readings.
3. **Dr. Sonia Nieto** (5 points). Attend and write a one-page summary of the Latino Celebration lecture by Dr. Sonia Nieto on April 7, 7:30 pm, Lehr.
4. **Reading summaries portfolio** (5 points each, 75 points total). Write a word-processed 200-300 word summary of and response to 15 total articles: one per week of the assigned chapters in Latinos for a total of 10, and any 5 of the assigned chapters in Telling to Live. Write your responses to favorite articles throughout the semester and keep them in a portfolio which you hand in with at

least 5 summaries on Thurs, 2/12 and with 15 summaries on Thurs, April 8. Include a table of contents listing the articles.

3. Research Project (75 points). Complete a major research project on Latinos in the United States. This could be a research project based on primary source materials from archives, ethnographic fieldwork carried out by students, analysis of some of my ethnographic data, or original analysis and/or performance of a body of work such as music, drama, dance, film, or literature. This project could also be a service learning project, an internship, a digital narrative, or an applied project. Students could conduct a life history of an undocumented Mexican immigrant and present it as a short digital narrative as well as a written paper. Students could work on a voter registration drive directed at Latinos and write up a an educational brochure for use in future drives. Students could explore a body of Latino music and plan a performance as well as writing an analysis of the music. Students will work on this project all semester long and fulfill the following:

- * Thurs, 1/22 – one paragraph statement of research topic due
- * Thurs, 1/29 – revised one paragraph statement of research topic due
- * Thurs, 2/5 – 2-4 page research design and bibliography due
- * Tues 2/24 – revised 2-4 page research design due
- * Tues, 3/23 – 1-3 page data report due
- * Tues, 4/13 – 10-20 page research paper due
- * Weds, 4/28 – 10-20 pp. revised research paper AND first draft with my comments

* The research design should be 2-4 pages, word-processed doubled spaced. It describes the problem or topic that you are investigating, explains why it is important, briefly discusses what others have done on this topic and cites the relevant literature, describes the population you will study, and defines your methods in detail. If you are using participant-observation, e.g., you should state who, where, when and what you will be observing. If you are collecting life histories, you should state the topics and questions that you hope to get your informants to respond to. If you are doing interviews, include a list of interview questions. If you are studying Latino film, literature or music, define the body of work and methods of analysis. Conduct a brief review of the literature to place your own project in a broader research context.

* The data report should be a 1-3 page description of your data and how you plan to organize and analyze them. The data report should also contain copies of the raw data, such as: notes on readings, interview notes or transcriptions, participant observation notes, maps, genealogies, photographs, music, etc.

* The research paper should be 10-20 pages, word-processed, double spaced, with at least 1” margins all around. It should include the following sections:

- Abstract: 100-200 word summary of your paper
- Acknowledgments: thanks to those who were helpful in your project
- Introduction: statement of the research question or problem

- Methodology: description of who and what you studied and the methods you used to gather data. (Include interview questions or other details in Appendix).
- Findings: organized description of what you found out
- Significance: discussion of what your findings mean and point to
- Problems: discussion of problems you encountered in either conceptualizing or conducting your research and how you would remedy them in the future; what you would do differently if you were to do this project over again
- Conclusion
- Appendices (optional): inclusion of information not in body of paper (e.g. list of informants, interview questions, glossary of key terms, filmography, discography, etc.)
- Bibliography which should contain only works cited in the paper

Summary of requirements and grading scale:

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| Attendance | 25 | A | 180-200 |
| 2 group reading discussions | 20 | B | 160-179 |
| Dr. Sonia Nieto lecture | 5 | C | 140-159 |
| Reading portfolio | 75 | D | 120-139 |
| Term project | <u>75</u> | F | below 120 |
| TOTAL | 200 | | |

Syllabus

Date topic and assignment

1/13 the course, Latino cultures, your projects

1/15 Overview of Latinos in the US
 READ - Latinos “Introduction: The Research Agenda”

1/20 Telling to live: narratives of Latino culture
 READ - TTL “Introduction. *Papelitos Guardados*: Theorizing *Latinidades* through *Testimonio*”
 - TTL 27-32

1/22 Latinos in the New Millennium * **Research topics due—discussed in class**
 READ - Latinos chap 1, “Y tú, ¿qué?” (Y2K)
 - TTL 33-42

1/27 Caribbean Latinos
 READ - Latinos chap 2, Flores, “Islands and Enc laves”
 - TTL 69-85

1/29 “Golden” immigrants?—Miami Cubans * **Revised topics due—discussed in class**
READ - Latinos chap 3, Stepick and Stepick, “Power and Identity, Miami Cubans”
- TTL 185-191

2/3 Los Angeles Latinos and the appeal of street gangs
READ - Latinos chap 4, Vigil, “Community Dynamics and the Rise of Street Gangs”
- TTL 192-195

2/5 Research, writing, and presentation
* **2-4 page research design and bibliography due—peer review exercise**

2/10 Mexican Americans at school and work
READ - Latinos chap 5, Smith, “Gender, Ethnicity and Race in School and Work Outcomes”
- TTL 104-113

2/12 Latinos and labor unions * **portfolio with at least 5 summaries due**
READ - Latinos chap 6, Trumpbour & Bernard, “Unions and Latinos: Mutual Transformation”
- TTL your choice

2/17 Latinos and Religion
READ - Latinos chap 7, Levitt, “Two Nations Under God?”
- TTL 231-237

2/19 Latino immigration and public responses
READ - Latinos chap 8, Cornelius, “Ambivalent Reception”
- TTL 114-122

2/24 Research issues and concerns * **revised 2-4 page research design and bibliography due**

2/26 Latino immigration and US Immigration Reform
READ - Latinos chap 9, Hogan and Rodriguez, “Resurrecting Exclusion”

3/2 Issues in health care for Latinos
READ - Latinos chap 10, Hayes-Bautista, “The Latino Health Research Agenda... 21st Century”
- Latinos chap 11, Brown & Yu, “Latinos’ Access to Employment based Health Insurance”

3/4 Issues confronting Latino Families
READ - Latinos chap 12, Hondagneu-Sotelo, “Families on the Frontier”
- TTL 294-301

Spring Break

3/16 Issues confronting Latino Families
READ - Latinos chap 13, Falicov, “Ambiguous Loss: Risk and Resilience in Latino Families”
- TTL 169-176

3/18 Language and Latinos

READ - Latinos chap 15, Pearson, “Bilingual Infants”
- Latinos chap 16, Zentella, “Latin@ Languages and Identities”

3/23 Language and Latinos ***1-3 page data report due**

READ - Latinos chap 17, Gándara, “Learning English in California”
- TTL 149-155

3/25 Latinos and Education

READ - Latinos chap 18, Moll and Ruiz, “The Schooling of Latino Children”
- TTL 139-147

3/30 Latinos and Education

READ - Latinos chap 19, Chapa, “Affirmative Action, X Percent Plans, and Latino Access to Higher Education”
- TTL 177-184

4/1 Latinos and Politics

READ - Latinos chap 20, DeSipio and de la Garza, “Forever Seen as New” Latino Participation in American Elections”
- TTL 207-211

4/6 Latinos and Politics

READ - Latinos chap 21, Montoya, “Gender and Citizenship in Latino Political Participation”
- TTL 348-355

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| Required: Wednesday, April 7, 7:30 pm, Lehr, Dr. Sonia Nieto |
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4/8 Latinos: Towards the Future * **portfolios with 15 summaries due**

READ - Latinos epilogue, Torres-Saillant, “Problematic Paradigms: Racial Diversity and Corporate Identity in the Latino Community”
- TTL 114-122

4/13 *oral presentations* * **10-20 page research paper due**

4/15 *oral presentations*

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| Sunday, April 18, 7 pm, Myers Aud., McComsey, Women’s Film Series Presents: <i>Real Women Have Curves</i> (2002, Patricia Cardoso. 90 minutes). |
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4/20 *oral presentations*

4/22 *oral presentations*

Wednesday, April 28, 2:45-4:45 FINAL * **Revised 10-20 page research paper due handed in with first draft with my comments**