Oberlin College
Department of History

History 270: Latina/Latino Survey
Fall 2011
TTH 9:30-10:50 AM, King 123

Instructor: Pablo Mitchell
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Office Hours: W 11:15-12:00, TH 11-12 (and by appointment)

Beginning in the 16th century and stretching to the present, this class will map the varied terrains of Latina/o history, exploring the Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Cuban American, Dominican American, and Central American experiences in the United States. Major themes will include the intimate details of conquest and resistance, immigration, work, and the creation of racial and sexual differences within and between Latino/a communities.

The class will begin with a section on the interactions between Native Americans and Spanish colonists in the 16th century. Subsequent sections will investigate Chicana/o, Puerto Rican, Cuban American, Dominican American, and Central American histories in detail. Major topics will include the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, land dispossession, the Spanish-American War, forms of resistance and endurance, and the creation of diverse Latina/o communities. Case studies will cover barrios in the Southwest, migratory work routes to the Midwest, and the creation of multi-ethnic communities in the Northeast. The course will also focus on shared Latina/o identity and changing images of Latina/os within American popular culture.

Note: This course counts toward the GSFS major.

Required Texts:
Vicki L. Ruiz, From Out of the Shadows
Carmen Teresa Whalen, Víctor Vásquez-Hernández, eds., Puerto Rican Diaspora
Virginia Sánchez Korrol, Vicki L. Ruiz, eds., Latina Legacies
Textbooks are available for purchase at the college bookstore. Readings are available through Blackboard.

Grading:
Class Participation/Attendance 20 points
Quizzes 30 points
Paper #1 50 points
Paper #2 50 points
Paper #3 50 points
Final Grade will be out of 200 total points.

Class Participation:
Regular attendance and thoughtful, prepared, respectful participation in classroom discussion are required features of the class. Discussions will alternate between small groups and the entire class. Please be prepared to discuss the readings on the assigned date. Students will also be required to turn in book or essay reviews (1-2 pages in length) describing the assigned readings at the beginning of the scheduled discussion section (Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 1).

Attendance (and absences) will be considered in determining your final grade. Students will be allowed one absence, excused or unexcused, over the course of the semester without affecting the final grade for the course. The second absence will result in a loss of two points from the participation grade. Students missing three or more classes can receive no higher than a B+ for the course. Students who miss five or more classes will not receive credit for the course. Under special circumstances (prolonged illness, death in the family, etc),
exceptions can be arranged through consultation with the instructor and the Dean of Students’ office.

Quizzes
Scheduled reading quizzes (see below for dates) covering the readings and lecture material will focus on critical events, individuals, and locations in Latina/o History.

Written Assignments:
The major written assignments for the course will consist of three 5 page papers. Students will choose one of several essay topics (to be provided by the instructor) based on selected primary and secondary sources. Papers must be legibly typed or word-processed, with reasonable fonts, double-spacing, and 1 inch margins. Please attempt to stay within the assigned page limits. Late papers will be penalized 2 points for every 24 hour period the papers are late. Papers more than ten days late will not be accepted. Students must complete all written assignments (including book reviews) in order to receive credit for the course.

Honor Code
All work in this class is governed by the Honor Code of Oberlin College. The honor code is available at: http://new.oberlin.edu/students/policies/2011-2012/11-Policies-Honor.pdf. If you have questions about how the code applies to any assignment or work done for the class, please feel free to consult the instructor.

Schedule and Reading Assignments:

September 6  Introduction

September 8  Shared Roots in Latina/o History
Vicki Ruiz, From Out of the Shadows, Introduction, xi-xv; Epilogue, 147-165.
Puerto Rican Diaspora, Chap. 1, 1-42.

September 13  Chicana/o History: 1530-1820
Latina Legacies, Chap. 1, 19-38.

September 15  Chicana/o History: 1820-1910
Vicki Ruiz, From Out of the Shadows, Chap. 1, 3-32.
Latina Legacies, Chap. 2, 39-58; Chap. 4, 72-83.

September 20  Chicana/o History: 1910-1930
Vicki Ruiz, From Out of the Shadows, Chaps. 2, 33-50.
Latina Legacies, Chap. 6, 97-119, Chap. 8, 135-147.

September 22  Chicana/o History: 1930-1945

September 23  Latina/o Heritage Month Event: Ana Lara (4:30, Location TBD)
September 27  Chicana/o History: 1945-1960  
Vicki Ruiz, From Out of the Shadows, Chap. 4, 72-98.

September 29  Chicana/o History: 1960-1980, Part I  
Introductory Paragraph Paper #1 Due, Discuss Paragraphs in Class

Ist paper due Monday, October 3, 2011 by 11am.

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October 4  Chicana/o History: 1960-1980, Part II  
Vicki Ruiz, From Out of the Shadows, Chap. 5, 99-126.  
Horacio Roque Ramírez, “That’s My Place” (available on Blackboard)

October 6  Book Discussion: From Out of the Shadows, entire book  
Bring Ruiz Book Review to Discussion Section

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October 11  Puerto Rican History: 1800-1848  
Puerto Rican Diaspora, Chap. 10, 227-244, Chap. 2, 43-67.

October 13  Puerto Rican History: 1848-1898  
Reading Quiz #1

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October 18  Puerto Rican History: 1898-1945  
Latina Legacies, Chap. 7, 120-134.  
Puerto Rican Diaspora, Chap. 3, 68-87, Chap. 4, 88-105.

October 20  Puerto Rican History: 1945-1970  
Puerto Rican Diaspora, Chap. 5, 106-127, Chap. 8, 174-199, Chap. 9, 200-226.  
Iris López, Matters of Choice, Introduction, ix-xxv, Chap. 4, 61-77 (available on Blackboard).

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October 25, 27  Fall Break, no class.

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November 1  Puerto Ricans in the Midwest, 1945-1970  
Puerto Rican Diaspora, Chap. 6, 128-150, Chap. 7, 151-173.  
Gina Pérez, “An Upbeat West Side Story” (available on Blackboard)

November 3  Book Discussion: The Puerto Rican Diaspora, entire book.  
Bring Book Review to Discussion Section

November 3  Latina/o Heritage Month Event: Iris López (4:30, Location TBD)
November 8   Cuban American History: 1800-1898  

November 10  Cuban American History: 1898-1959  
Introductory Paragraph Paper #2 Due, Discuss Paragraphs in Class

2nd paper due Monday, November 14, 2011 by 11am.

November 15  Cuban American History: 1959-1990  
Latina Legacies, Chap. 14, 225-239.  
Susana Peña, “‘Obvious Gays’ and the State Gaze” (available on Blackboard)

November 17  Dominican American History: 1915-1965

November 22  Dominican American History: 1965-1990  
Reading Quiz #2

November 24  Thanksgiving: No Class

November 29  Central American History: 1965-1990  
Latina Legacies, Chap. 12, 193-208.

December 1   Book Discussion: Latina Legacies, entire book  
Bring Book Review to Discussion Section

December 6   Latina/os in Popular Culture  
Frances Aparicio, “US Latino Expressive Cultures.”

December 8   Shared Roots in Latina/o History  
Reading Quiz #3

December 13  Class Summary

3rd paper is due Tuesday, December 13, 2011 by 5pm.