

RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

TOPICS IN LATINO & CARIBBEAN STUDIES, FALL 2018

Latinidades: Latin Images and Identities Seminar

Course Number: Topics in Latino and Caribbean Studies 01

Friday 9:50-11:10 AM at Murray Hall, Room 114 (CAC)

Instructor: Carlos A. Fernández, PhD
Office: Center for Latino Arts and Culture, 172 College Avenue (CAC)
Office hours: Monday and Thursday, 1-3 PM or by appointment
Email: cafernan@echo.rutgers.edu
Phone: 848-932-1263

OVERVIEW

Latinidades: Images and Identities is a seminar offered by the Department of Latino and Caribbean Studies in partnership with the Center for Latino Arts and Culture as a core requirement for all students residing in the Latin Images Living Learning Community (Latin Images LLC). The course is offered in both fall and spring with varying content each semester.

Students who participate in the seminar will critically explore the arts and culture of Latinx communities in the United States, as well as contemporary issues affecting various communities across the country and internationally. The seminar also integrates co-curricular programs focused on arts and culture, leadership and service, and networking and community building activities that enhance the overall student experience and support student inclusion, retention and success.

With a population of over 50 million people, Latinos have become the largest minority in the United States. Yet they constitute a diverse group socially, linguistically, culturally and politically: many are recent immigrants originating from nations of Central and South America and the Caribbean whose complex familial histories include Native American, European and African ancestry; others trace their heritage to that of populations inhabiting the southern and southwestern United States long before it became a nation.

The seminar will bring students together to explore these diverse experiences from a variety of disciplinary vantage points to identify common themes. Through small group interaction, discussions, faculty talks, readings, and educational exercises, and participation in out-of-class events, students will gain appreciation and knowledge about contemporary Latinx identities.

Goals

- Gain knowledge about the recent history of Latin American and Caribbean migration and settlement in the United States, cultural traditions and artistic practices within specific communities;

- Develop understanding of the field of Latino and Caribbean Studies from various theoretical perspectives and analytical approaches including history, religion, philosophy, comparative literature, anthropology and sociology;
- Build an intellectual community of peers and create connections with scholars, professionals, activists and artists;
- Enhance ability to communicate effectively and write persuasively through weekly discussions and brief written essays;
- Acquire grounding in study skills, time-management, and student support services and resources; and
- Engage and participate in campus-wide student leadership, cultural and social events.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Required Text

All required readings are listed in the syllabus, and will be available electronically on the course's Sakai site.

Grading System

Grading for the course is on a PASS/NO Credit basis; passing requires students to receive a C or better, while a D or F will yield a failing grade.

Evaluation

Knowledge acquired through the course will be assessed on the basis of class attendance and in-class discussions, weekly online submissions, and three short essays which draw on the full scope of course experiences.

Prepared reading and class participation (4 points each)	52%
Journeys: Past, Present and Future (3 essays, 8 points each)	24%
Event Reports (3 reports, 8 points each)	24%

Class Attendance and Participation

Attendance to class is required of all students. Given the small number of class meetings, any more than 3 unexcused absences will cause a failing grade. Lateness to class will adversely affect your grade. More than 10 minutes late, you will be deemed absent. If it is not possible to attend a particular class, you are responsible for contacting the instructor before class and for completing any in-class assignment and obtaining any important class-related information from that day.

All students are expected to be familiar with the university's Course Attendance policy and the institutional position concerning religious observances, available here:

(<https://policies.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/10.2.7%20-%20current.pdf>).

To avoid potential absence-related penalties, ***students of faith should notify the instructor during the first week of classes, in writing***, of anticipated absences due to religious or spiritual obligations.

You must use the University absence reporting website (<https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>) to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

Class participation grades are calculated from both the quality and quantity of your classroom participation in class discussions and demonstrated knowledge of the content of the readings.

Unless authorized as part of an in class assignment, use of electronic devices is not allowed in class as they are a cause for distraction. If you need to take an emergency phone call, please step out of the classroom.

Required Readings and Audio Visual Materials

Readings required for each day must be read BEFORE class. All readings are in PDF format, so you will need a PDF Reader to open them. Students are expected to come prepared to class by having read the required reading assignments in advance of the class meeting.

Audio visual materials will be screened during class sessions. They will also be placed on Alexander Library Course Reserves for continued access throughout the course. Whenever possible, they will be uploaded to the Course Sakai Website.

Journeys: Past, Present and Future

Each student will submit three (3) essays about their personal life. The first (Journey I) will recollect their family history, for example the experiences of a parent or grandparent, or other close relative, and salient traditions, values and ideas cultivated in the home and community. The project can include interviews, photos, or other media, and can take the form of a written or photo essay, a pechakucha presentation, or music video. The second essay (Journey II) will reflect on the student's personal identity, recent personal challenges and opportunities, and vocational and professional aspirations. The third essay (Journey III) takes an imaginary leap, imagining yourself ten or more years in the future, and can take the form of a drawing or painting, or a poem. Written essays will consist of no less than 500 words written double-spaced; other media should last no more than 5 minutes. All responses must be written in good English, with attention to punctuation, grammar and syntax. Late responses will be marked down a letter grade.

Plagiarism is strictly prohibited, as I wish to know what you think and not what anyone else does. Any student who is found to be plagiarizing her/his work will fail the assignment. Please refer to the Student Judicial Affairs Web site for the Academic Integrity Policy and the Code of Student Conduct, including the definition of plagiarism:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>

For a refresher, take a 20 minute interactive-tutorial on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity!

If you do wish to incorporate other people's ideas in your writing, please acknowledge them as follows:

- Write your own version of the author's main message, or thesis, or find a good quote from the reading that articulates the author's main point. If you do the latter, you must reproduce the quote in your response, with page number.
- You are encouraged to identify, review and reference primary sources (first person accounts, event observations and/or documentaries) or secondary sources (written by other scholars) in your essay. If you do, you must indicate the source (book, journal, article, internet, etc.) using standard citation format at the bottom or end of your essay.

Reports on Extra-Curricular Events

Students are expected to write three short reports about out of class events, including cultural and social events and personal development activities. (See attached list of event at the end of the syllabus for eligible events.) Event reports should cover aspects such as who organized the event or program, information about the presenter, performers and other participants in the event, where and when the event took place, what the program was about, and how the event is relevant to the topic of Latinidades seminar. Essays should be no less than 500 words, written in good English, with attention to punctuation, grammar and syntax. Proof of attendance may be requested to ensure participation. Event reports are due on the course's Sakai website a week after the event takes place; late essays will be marked down a letter grade.

RU Living Learning Communities Social Survey Assignment (Extra Credit, 2 points)

Due on the last day of class, this assignment will help Rutgers researchers understand how living-learning community members develop social connections, and how those connections affect student life. The survey is voluntary and takes 20 minutes to complete. Some parts of the study are used to advance social science, while others will help improve student residential and academic experiences. During the last few weeks of the semester, you will receive an e-mail that asks you to complete the survey. You will have 7 days to do so. Your survey responses will be confidential, and I will not see them. The only information I will receive is an automatically generated list with the names of students who have completed the survey. Members of living-learning communities who complete this survey will also be entered in a drawing for an iPad Mini and ten \$15 Amazon gift cards.

If you decide to opt out of the survey, you can still receive full points by completing an alternative assignment. Write and submit a 250-word answer to the following questions: *What is the most important concept or idea that you have learned in this course? How is that concept or idea applicable to your future professional life?*

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 INTRODUCTION

Friday, September 7 Culture, ethnicity, personal and intersectional identities

Week 2 Latino/a Culture and Festival in the United States

Friday, September 14 READING: Weaver, Thomas. "Culture of Latinos in the United States" in *Handbook of Hispanic Cultures in the United States: Anthropology*. Austin, TX: University of Texas, 1994: 15-38.

READING: Najera-Ramirez, Olga. "Fiestas Hispánicas: Dimensions of Hispanic Festivals and Celebrations," in *Handbook of Hispanic Cultures in the United States: Anthropology*. Austin, TX: University of Texas, 1994: 328-338.

**Bring family history materials to class!*

Week 3 Navigating Rutgers University/ Student Involvement and Activism

Friday, September 21 Sharing Student Resources at Rutgers: Cultural Centers, Student Organizations, Academic Support, Dean of Students, Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance (VPVA), CAPS, Residence Life, etc.

*Journey I Due

Week 4 LCS Faculty Presentation: **Regina Marchi** (Journalism/Latino and Caribbean Studies)

Friday, September 28 READING: Marchi, Regina. "Day of the Dead in the United States," in *Day of the Dead in the USA*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press: 2009. Pp. 34-55.

Week 5 Folklore and Ethnic Identity

Friday, October 5 Film: *La Ofrenda: The Days of the Dead* (Lourdes Portillo, 1988, 50 minutes). VHS-2-3103.

*First Event Report due

Week 6 Intersections of Gender and Ethnic Identities

Friday, October 12 READING: Davalos, Karen Mary. "La Quinceañera: Making Gender and Ethnic Identities" in *Velvet Barrios: Popular Culture &*

Chicana/o Sexualities. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2003. Pp. 141-162.

Week 7 Visit to Museo del Barrio in New York City

Friday, October 19 Bus leaves at 10 AM at CLAC @ 172 College Avenue, returns at 5 PM

*Journey II Due

Week 8 LCS Faculty Presentation: **Ulla Berg** (Anthropology/Latino and Caribbean Studies)

Friday, October 26 READING: Berg, Ulla. "Enframing Peruvianness: Folkloric Citizenship and Immigrant Personhood." *Mobile Selves: Race, Migration, and Belonging in Peru and the U.S.* New York: New York University Press, 2015. Pp. 177-208.

Week 9 LCS Faculty Presentation

Friday, November 2 Media: **Soy Andina**. (Mitch Teplitsky, 2008, 70 minutes). DVD-10-4063.

*Second Event Report due

Week 10 LCS Faculty Presentation: **Robert Ramos** (Music/Latino and Caribbean Studies)

Friday, November 9 READING: Cartagena, Juan. "When Bomba Becomes the National Music of the Puerto Rican Nation" *Centro Journal* 6 (1) (Spring 2004): 15-35.

Week 11 Music and Ethnic Identity

Friday, November 16 New Song Movement

*Journey III Essay due

Week 12 THANKSGIVING BREAK

Friday, November 23 **NO CLASS MEETING**

Week 13 Closing activity for LLC

Friday, November 30 Closing activity for LLC

*Final Event Report due

Week 14 Focus Group

Friday, December 7 Living Learning Community Focus Group

* LLC Social Survey Assignment Due

CLAC Events—Fall 2018

DROP-IN: Let's Talk

Wednesdays, 2-4 PM

CLAC @ 172 College Avenue, CAC

Let's Talk offers free and confidential, drop-in consultations with a professional counselor from Rutgers Counseling, ADAP and Psychiatric Services (CAPS). Not your traditional counseling session, consultations typically last 15 to 20 minutes and offer students the opportunity to explore immediate problem solving, along with other available support and resources.

For more information, call CAPS at 848-932-7884, extension 4.

Presented by CLAC and Rutgers Counseling, ADAP and Psychiatric Services (CAPS).

CAFÉ CON LECHE: Career Conversations

***Thursday, September 20, 1-2:30 PM**

***Friday, October 5, 1-2:30 PM**

***Thursday, October 18, 1-2:30 PM**

CLAC @ 172 College Avenue

In the process of clarifying your career path? Interested in preparing for internships and job opportunities? Join us for *Café con Leche*, our career-focused conversations with alumni professionals.

RSVP at clac.info@rutgers.edu.

SOY HOMBRE: Latinx Men's Mentoring Program

Friday, September 21, 12-1:30 PM

CLAC @ 172 College Avenue, CAC

***October 5**

***November 9**

***December 7**

CLAC launches a new mentoring program for Latinx freshmen and engaging upperclassmen and staff. Join us for conversations about balancing academics and social life, paying for college, positive masculinity, and other topics.

RSVP at cafernan@rutgers.edu.

SOLO EN ESPAÑOL: Spanish Conversation Café

Wednesday, September 26, 8-9 PM

CLAC @ 172 College Avenue, CAC

***October 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31**

***November 7 and 14**

Looking for opportunities to learn Spanish outside the classroom? Practice your Spanish with us! Activities will include dance workshops, games, and poetry night as well as other theme-based activities. ¿**RU** listo?

RSVP at clac.info@rutgers.edu.

OPENING CEREMONY: LATINO HERITAGE MONTH

Thursday, October 4, 8 PM

CASC Red Lion Café, CAC

The Latino Student Council (LSC) established **Latino Heritage Month** in 1990 to help bring recognition to the diverse histories, cultural traditions, and social and political experiences of U.S. populations originating from countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Presented by the Latino Student Council.

BODEGA: A Stage Reading and Conversation about Violence in the Latinx Community

Wednesday, October 10, 6-11 PM

College Avenue Student Center

Red Lion Café, CAC

Set in the 1980s, *Bodega* is a play by Federico Fraguada about a grocery store (bodega) owned by a Puerto Rican family whose members become the target of an armed robbery and sexual violence. Join us for a reading of the play, followed by a conversation about violence and the everyday struggles of the Latinx community.

Presented by the Office of Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance (VPVA).

NEW CLAC MURAL PROJECT:

Meet artist Lenny Correa

Friday, September 21, 4-6 PM

Thursday, October 11, 7-9 PM

CLAC @ 172 College Avenue

Now settled in its new home, CLAC is engaging the Rutgers community on October 16-21 to create a new mural with Ecuadorian-born artist and Rutgers alumn **Lenny Correa**. Working with students, Correa will produce the work during a two-week residency at the Center.

CASA ABIERTA/OPEN HOUSE: *Las Tres Hermanas* Exhibition

Friday, October 12, 12-3 PM

CLAC @ 172 College Avenue

Meet the staff, join us for lunch and tour our special exhibition, ***Las Tres Hermanas: Art, Education and Activism***, honoring Puerto Rican activists sisters Elba Cabrera, Lillian López, and Dr. Evelina Antonetty.

HEALTH: National Latino AIDS Awareness Day

Monday, October 15, 1-5 PM

CLAC @172 College Avenue, CAC

Learn how HIV and AIDS continue to impact our communities and what you can do about it!

Get free and confidential testing through Health Outreach, Promotion and Education (HOPE) at 8 Lafayette Street, CAC.

INFO SESSIONS: ASB in DR

October 17, 19, 22, 25 and 30

CLAC @ 172 College Avenue

Interested in traveling to the **Dominican Republic** during spring 2019? Developed in partnership with the Department of Latino and Hispanic Studies, this **Alternative Spring Break** engages students in learning about issues of social justice, race and gender in DR.

For more information, email silismar@rutgers.edu.

CONFERENCE: Navigating Insecurity: Crisis, Power, and Protest in Puerto Rican Communities

Friday-Sunday, October 26-28

Douglass Student Center, DC

While Hurricane Maria and the economic crisis have thrown into sharp relief the forms of insecurity that many Puerto Ricans on the archipelago and in the diaspora live with, this conference asks how insecurity may be considered a persistent aspect of Puerto Rican identity. *Presented by the Department of Latino and Caribbean Studies and the Puerto Rican Studies Association.*

RALLY: ANNUAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

Saturday, October 27, 11 AM-2 PM

Rutgers Institute of Health

112 Paterson St., New Brunswick

Take a stand and say no to domestic violence in our community!

For more information, email clac.info@rutgers.edu.

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS: A Festival of Remembrance

Tuesday, October 30, 1-5 PM

CLAC @ 172 College Avenue, CAC

The Mexican **Day of the Dead** is a three-day festival from October 31-November 2 that commemorates family and friends who have died. Join us for a talk and workshop by **Maria Vivar** about the tradition and learn to decorate sugar skull candy and make papel picado.

RSVP at clac.info@rutgers.edu.

WORKSHOP: Dress to Impress

Thursday, November 8, 6-8 PM

Livingston Coffee House, LIV

Getting ready for your first interview? Not sure what to wear? Join us in a workshop with **Dress for Success** professionals designed to help you gain confidence and learn how to dress the part.

RSVP at clac.info@rutgers.edu.

LAARU Mentorship Program Meet and Greet Social

Saturday, November 10, 1-3 PM

College Avenue Student Center

Graduate Student Lounge, CAC

Recipient of the 2010 McMahon Award, the **Latino Alumni Association at Rutgers University (LAARU) Mentoring Program** engages alumni to support our students in developing successful internships and professional careers.

For more information, contact Saskia Leo Cipriani at rulatinoalumni@gmail.com.

MANIFESTACIONES RETREAT

Friday-Sunday, November 16-18

YMCA Camp Bernie

Port Murray, NJ

This retreat targets first and second year students within the Latinx community who show great potential for leadership.

For more information, email clac.info@rutgers.edu.

CONCERT: YOSVANY TERRY AFRO CUBAN SEXTET

Friday, November 16, 8 PM

Nicholas Music Center

George Street, New Brunswick NJ

Yosvany Terry is known as a brilliant saxophonist, chekere (gourd shaker with netted beads) virtuoso, and visionary composer who masterfully melds the traditional sounds of his native Cuba with innovation, fiery post-bop, and sophisticated harmonies.

Inspired by the music of the Afro-Cuban ceremonial repertoire, Terry's **Afro-Cuban Sextet** writes a new chapter of Latin jazz by drawing on an endangered but deep branch of Afro-Cuban heritage: the Arará tradition, from the territory that is now in the African nation of Benin, formerly known as Dahomey.

In the region's Fon language, Ye-dé-gbé means "with the approval of the spirits," and the ensemble's music is indeed highly spirited and powerful.

Featuring the core of Terry's acclaimed Quintet augmented by Arará drums and collective vocal work, **Yosvany Terry & Afro-Cuban Sextet** brings the Arará culture to new life in exhilarating performances, blending influences from West Africa, Cuba, and American jazz into an organic, highly virtuosic, and irresistibly infectious mix.

Cosponsored by the Department of Music at Mason Gross School of the Arts and the Department of Latino and Caribbean Studies.

PARRANDA

Wednesday, December 12, 12-2 PM

CLAC at 172 College Avenue, CAC

Join us for our end-of-year recognition program for CLAC office assistants and collaborating partners.

Don't miss the Latin-style caroling and merry making, and our Caribbean food!

RESPIRA!

Thursday, December 13, All Day

CLAC at 172 College Avenue, CAC

Stretch, meditate, get a free massage and a healthy snack. Take a breather and prepare for

finals!

RSVP at clac.info@rutgers.edu.