

# **Chicana/Chicano Studies 10A:**

**History, Culture and Identity**

**Fall 2013, U.C.L.A.**

**M and W: 12:00 – 1:50 pm**

**Broad 2160E**

**Professor Eric Avila**

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**Office Hours: M, W 2:00 – 3:30pm (no exceptions).**

## **Course Description:**

This course is an introduction to the history of Chicana and Chicano culture in the region known as the Borderlands. The purpose is to familiarize students with the diversity and complexity of the Chicana/o experience and to introduce some basic issues central to that experience. Beginning with the initial contact between European colonizers and indigenous peoples, we will emphasize the formation of Chicana/o identity through the ongoing cultural process of *mestizaje* in historical and contemporary contexts.

Subsequently, we'll explore the changing configurations and diverse expressions of Chicana/o identity across space and time. Because this is a humanities-based course, the emphasis of readings and lectures is upon culture and its relation to the historic development of political, economic and sexual inequalities. Culture is defined here basically as the expression of social identity in both material and non-material ways. Therefore, throughout the quarter, we will examine the ways in which Chicanas and Chicanos have invented, transformed, subverted, resisted, adopted and appropriated various cultural forms. Additionally, because of our location within the nation's largest "Mexican metropolis," we will emphasize the cultural history of Chicanas and Chicanos in Los Angeles and their impact upon the social landscape of urban southern California.

## **Course Requirements:**

Midterm	25% (blue-book exam written in lecture)
Final	40% (typed, take-home, comprehensive)
Quizzes (2)	20% (10% each, given in lecture)
Attendance and Participation	15% (includes discussion and in-class activities)

## **For 10A Honors Section (no quizzes):**

Midterm	20% (same as above)
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Final	40% (same as above)
Research Paper	30% (8 - 10 pg. research paper)
Attendance and Participation	10% (same as above, includes library work)

### Required Texts:

1. Michael Dear, *Why Walls Won't Work: Repairing the U.S.-Mexico Divide*
2. Eric Avila, Chon Noriega, Karen Mary Davalos, Chela Sandoval and Rafael Perez-Torres, eds. *The Chicano Studies Reader: An Anthology of Aztlán* (henceforth written as "CSR")
3. Chon Noriega, Terezita Romo and Pilar Tompkins Rivas, eds. *L.A. Xicano: Art Along the Hyphen*
4. Helena Maria Viramontes, *Their Dogs Came With Them: A Novel*

**PLEASE NOTE:** Books #2 and 3 can be purchased from the Chicano Studies Research Center (Haines Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor). Books #1 and 4 are available at the ASUCLA Bookstore (Ackerman Union).

### Discussion Sections:

1A	W	4:00-4:50--Honors - Restricted	Ocampo	Bunche 2156
1B	W	3:00--3:50	Fuentes	Bunche 3150
1C	W	4:00--4:50	Rivera	Bunche 3156
1D	R	9:00 --9:50 am	Zamora	Bunche 3211
1E	R	10:00--10:50 am	Zamora	Geology 4660
1F	R	11:00--11:50 am	Hidalgo	Pub Aff 2325
1G	R	3:00--3:50	Gonzalez	Bunche 3178
1H	R	1:00--1:50	Caraves	Pub Aff 2319
1I	R	4:00-4:50	Gonzalez	Bunche 3150
1J	R	2:00-2:50	Hidalgo	Pub Aff 2232
1K	R	5:00-5:50	Rivera	Bunche 1221A
1L	F	10:00—10:50 am	Mendez	Royce 156
1M	F	11:00—11:50 am	Mendez	Royce 164
1N	R	12:00—12:50	Caraves	Bunche 3211
1O	W	5:00—5:50	Fuentes	Pub Aff 2238
1P	R	5:00—5:50	Ocampo	Pub Aff 2242

**Your T.A. will hold two office hours per week in 7339 Bunche Hall (or other specified location), check with him or her for exact times.**

### Absences:

You are required to attend both lectures and discussion section on a regular basis. Failure to do so will result in a lower grade. You will be allowed **1 free absence** from your discussion section. After the first absence, each unexcused absence will lower your course grade by 1/3 of a grade (for example, B- to C+). I expect you to demonstrate your

commitment to the course by attending every lecture class. If you fail to show up for lecture (and it's quite obvious in the course of discussion who has not been to lecture) or if you consistently come in late or leave early, your participation grade will be lowered. If an emergency comes up that will require an extended absence from the course (more than one), you must inform your T.A. beforehand. It will not do you any good to let us know after the fact, unless it's a medical emergency and you have a doctor's note or some other document to excuse your absence.

### **Participation:**

Participation is a subjective grade, based on how much you engage in class discussions and on the quality of your engagement. If, for example, you're never absent from section, but say nothing at all, your grade will be lower than someone who missed class but joins in on the discussion the rest of the time. Likewise, you can be very talkative and still get a lower grade than someone who speaks up less often than you do but who contributes more substantially to the discussion by sticking to the topic and focusing on the texts. Personal anecdotes are illuminating and often serve to show the connections between your life experiences and the readings; however, they should not become the reason for discussion, nor should the discussion be made to accommodate everyone's personal story. **Discussion and analysis of course material (readings and lectures) is primary!**

### **The Take-Home Final:**

This is not a research paper, but an in-depth, well-written response to a prompt that will ask you to analyze the readings and issues brought up in lecture throughout the term. The assignment will be given out in Week 10, so you won't have time to catch up on readings you did not do during the quarter. THEREFORE, DO NOT FALL BEHIND IN THE READINGS! The final is due to **TURN-IT-IN.COM** on **Monday, December 9, by 4p.m.** **LATE FINALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. No exceptions.**

### **Quizzes and Makeup Exams:**

Two reading quizzes will be given during the quarter which will cover the reading assigned for the week on which each quiz is scheduled and possibly earlier readings as well. The point: keep up with your reading! The only exam that can be made up, and only because of a documented medical or family emergency, is the midterm. If this situation arises, and I hope it doesn't, you must see me immediately to make arrangements. Quizzes cannot be made up.

### **The Grade of Incomplete:**

Please note the following quote from a memo from the Office of the Dean: "The grade of Inc. should be assigned only when a student's work is of passing quality but is incomplete for a good cause. This normally means that only a small portion of the work of the course -- term paper, some laboratory experiment, or examination -- remains to be

completed.” To be eligible for an Incomplete, you need a passing grade on the majority of the work assigned for the quarter. No make-up or late submissions are allowed. No exceptions.

### **A Final Point to Keep in Mind:**

Some of the issues we’re going to discuss during the course are sensitive topics for some of us. Because they form the basis of our identities, these topics are close to the heart, and for some, difficult to discuss. Mutual respect for each other’s differences is the key to an open mind, and an open mind is the sign of a truly educated individual. Therefore, it is imperative that we avoid remarks that are, or could be, considered racist, sexist, homophobic, or otherwise insensitive to difference. I look forward to a productive, rewarding quarter and to meeting many of you in person.

### **Schedule of Lectures:**

**NOTE: Each week’s readings are to be discussed in section for that particular week. So, for example, make sure that you complete (and comprehend) the readings for week one in preparation for section during week one.**

#### **Week One:                    Introductions**

M      9-30-13            Introduction; Syllabus review

W      10-2-13            Border Culture, Border Consciousness

Readings:                Noriega, “The Dissension of Other Things,” in The Chicano Studies Reader (CSR); Avila, “Decolonizing the Territory,” in CSR; Peñalosa, “Toward an Operational Mexican American, CSR

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#### **Week Two:                    History and Identity**

M      10-7-13            First Conquest: The Spanish Colonizing Organism

W      10-9-13            The Sexual Politics of Conquest

Readings:                Gomez-Quíñones, “Toward a Perspective on Chicano History,” CSR; Saragoza, “Recent Chicano Historiography,” CSR. Gutierrez, “Unraveling America’s Hispanic Past,” in CSR;

Dear, Chapters 1-4

#### **Week Three:                    More History**

M 10-14-13 Second Conquest: Guadalupe Hidalgo and Its Aftermath

W 10-16-13 Becoming Mexican American  
**QUIZ #1 (in class)**

Readings: Dear, Chapters 5-7

**Week Four:**

M 10-21-13 **Video presentation:** Chicano! The Mexican American Civil Rights Movement: “Quest for a Homeland,” “The Struggle in the Fields.”

W 10-23-13 Guest Lecture, T.B.A.

Readings: Dear, Chapters 8-10; *L.A. Xicano*, Introduction, Romo and Davalos

**Week Five**

M 10-28-13 **MIDTERM**, in-class

W 10-30-13 The Chavez Ravine: Loving “Los Doyers,” Hating Their Stadium

Readings: *L.A. Xicano*, Saldivar, de la Loza, Gamboa Jr.

**Week Six:**

M 11-4-13 **GUEST LECTURE: Moctesuma Esparza**

W 11-6-13 Un-Becoming Mexican American: Running Towards Whiteness.

Readings: Sosa Riddell, “Chicanas and El Movimiento,” CSR, 359-370; Segura and Pesquera, “Beyond Indifference and Apathy,” CSR, 389-410. *L.A. Xicano*, Noriega and Tompkins-Rivas

**Week Seven:**

M 11-11-13 **NO CLASS: Veterans’ Day Holiday**

W 11-13-13 Running Away from Whiteness: The Movement and the Sixties

Readings: Gonzalez, “Chicana Identity Matters” CSR, 411-426. Baca Zinn, “Political Familism,” 455-472; Davalos, “Chicana/o Studies and Anthropolgy,” in CSR, 585-617.

Viramontes, Pt. I

**Week Eight**

- M 11-18-13 "Chicana/o:" Just what does that slash mean and why is it there?
- W 11-20-13 **QUIZ #2 (in class)** The Politics of Culture: Representing the other vs. representing the self

Readings: Goldman, "Mexican Muralism," CSR, 281-300; Turner, "Mexican American Home Altars," CSR, 327-344; Roman, "Latino Performance and Identity," CSR, 427-444. Paredes, "Folklore, Lo Mexicano, and Proverbs," CSR, 271-280.

Viramontes, Pt. II

**Week Nine: Culture and Identity**

- M 11-25-13 Chicana/o Art: Before and After the Movement
- W 11-27-13 **GUEST LECTURE: Jose-Manuel Aguilar**

Readings: Davalos, "Performing Politics: Introduction," in CSR, 243-252; Huerta, "Chicano Teatro," CSR, 253-270; Perez-Torres, "Remapping the World: Introduction," in CSR, 447-454. Sanchez, "Mapping the Spanish Language," CSR, 515-566.

Viramontes, Pt. III

**Week Ten: Mas Cultura**

- M 12-2-13 Making the Barrio: Boyle Heights
- W 12-4-13 Conclusion

Readings: Viramontes, Pt. IV, Avila, "The Folklore of the Freeway," CSR, 567-583.

**Final Due on Monday, December 9. Deliver it to main office of Chavez Center, 7349 Bunche Hall between 11:30 and 2:30 p.m. NO FAXED, EMAILED OR HANDWRITTEN FINALS ACCEPTED.**