ES 254: Introduction to Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies  
Spring 2014 ~ CRN 38772  
195 Anstett Hall ~ Monday and Wednesday 12pm - 1:20 pm

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Office and hours of consultation: 303 Alder. Friday 12pm – 2:50pm and by appointment.

**THIS SYLLABUS WILL BE UPDATED TO REFLECT CHANGES THROUGHOUT THE TERM. THE UPDATED VERSION WILL ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE ON BLACKBOARD.**

**Course description**  
This course is designed to introduce students to the field of Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies. Drawing on a variety of historical, literary, ethnographic, and visual texts, this course will serve as a foundation for students wishing to pursue more advanced courses in Chicana/o, Latina/o, and Ethnic Studies. Thematically, this course will give emphasis to the following key topics: historical foundations and political concerns regarding contemporary Latina/o experiences, metaphor as basis for the construction of identity, and the conventional representations of Latinas/os and their challenges.

**Required Texts/Materials**

1. All the readings available on Blackboard.  
   YOU MUST PRINT EVERYTHING AND CREATE A FOLDER.

**Assignments**

All **assignments AND readings** should be submitted PRINTED unless otherwise noted.

**Grading**

This class is graded out of 1000 points.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Blackboard responses (4)</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation—including unannounced quizzes</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework (metaphor profile, making a metonymic</td>
<td>250</td>
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<td>person, photography project)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metaphorical Criticism Essay (5 pages)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revised Metaphorical Criticism Essay (6-7 pages)</td>
<td>400</td>
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**TOTAL**  
1000

**Reading**

To help us think about our essays from multiple perspectives and deepen our own thinking, we will read several articles. When you read, identify the questions that the essay is raising and notice the possible answers and rebuttals to such questions.

There will be a number of quizzes about the readings over the course of the term. The quizzes will test how well you read and understood the reading and prepare you for class discussion, and thus, will count as part of your PARTICIPATION grade. These quizzes WILL NOT BE ANNOUNCED. Each should last 5-7 minutes. For the quizzes, be prepared for either of these:

- Writing 2-3 thoughtful questions you have about the reading
- Describing one of the main ideas of the reading
- Answering specific questions about the general themes of the reading
Blackboard Responses
You will write a total of 4 blackboard posts, each as a response to one of the readings assigned. They should be up to ONE page long.

- This response should first consist of 2-3 sentences indicating an issue raised for you by the reading and why you found that issue compelling or interesting.
- The body of your response should expand on this and reference a specific section of the text.
- The response should also evidence that you understand what the article’s thesis is.
- The final section should include a question you would like our class discussions to answer. Your question should engage critically with the text.

These posts must showcase your critical reading skills at their most thoughtful and sophisticated. We will workshop some of the responses in class and learn to write better posts.

**NOTE that your Blackboard response must be posted 24 hours prior to our class discussion of the text you wrote about. For instance, if you write about an article we will discuss on Monday at noon, I'd expect that you post it by Sunday at noon. Otherwise, your post will be considered late.**

**NOTE that the first response needs to be done by week 2.**

**NOTE that you must BOTH post the response to blackboard AND bring a print out for me to formally grade it.**

Metaphorical Criticism Essay
Further instructions for content and requirements of formal essays will be provided in class, including the RUBRIC I will use to grade these.

These are some guidelines you must consider: Failure to write a first essay, which is worth 100 points and which will be the basis for a thorough revision, will significantly and automatically lower your Revised Essay grade (30%).

This means that if you don't turn in your “Metaphorical Criticism Essay,” the highest grade you can earn on your “Revised Metaphorical Criticism Essay” will be a C.

Course Policies

Attendance
Discussion-based classes, such as this one, depend on every student being present, prepared, and engaged. Therefore, absenteeism, tardiness, and unpreparedness will negatively affect your grade.

- **Attendance is required.** If you miss more than 2 class periods each additional absence will subtract 5 points of your final grade.

  **Attendance** implies that you will arrive on time to class and leave at the exact hour it is dismissed. **Leaving in the middle of class and not returning is not acceptable, unless you have informed me ahead of time of the pressing reasons why you must, and I have allowed it.**

- Excused absences include travel for athletic competitions, serious illness or family emergency. However, this is not automatic. For such absences to be considered “excused” you must inform us that you will be absent prior to the class meeting in question (when possible). Talk to me in person, or e-mail me about it.

  If you will be participating in University athletic competitions, you must bring a letter from your program to inform me of your absences ahead of time up until the end of week two. Be advised that I can excuse a maximum of three (3) absences related to athletics.

- Chronic lateness will also be noted, and I will require meeting with you in order to address this problem, and figure out an appropriate grade.
**Participation**

Participation will be evaluated based on the following parameters:

- Your performance on the reading quizzes.
- Your performance during our class discussions.
- Your commitment to the positive improvement of our class environment. As a student of this class, I expect you to be respectful of both your classmates and your instructor, and to contribute constructively to the course. Disrespect will not be tolerated and your participation will be graded accordingly.
- Your compliance with the required meetings as outlined in this syllabus, and with any other meeting your instructor may ask you to attend.

**Electronics**

YOU ARE PERMITTED TO USE ONLY PEN AND PAPER IN THE CLASSROOM. USING COMPUTERS, CELL PHONES, TABLETS, ETC. IS BANNED. THEREFORE, PLEASE TURN THEM OFF BEFORE COMING TO CLASS.

**Class Materials**

For each class, bring your PRINTED ESSAYS, a notebook, and your printed homework when it's due.

**Late work**

All essays must be turned in on time. Late work will be lowered one letter grade per day it is late unless we have special arrangements in advance.

**Incompletes**

Requests for the grade "Incomplete" must be done in advance of the end of the quarter. Such approval will be granted only in cases when some minor but essential aspect of the course cannot be completed by students through unforeseen circumstances beyond their control.

**Email Policy for this Course**

- Questions that have already been addressed in the syllabus will not be answered. For all other inquiries, expect a reply only on weekdays, during regular work hours.
- EMAIL ETIQUETTE: When writing to me or any of your college instructors, please employ a formal greeting, explain courteously the reason of your message, and close with a goodbye and your name. Any emails that fail to follow this format will not be answered.

**Office Hours**

You are encouraged to take advantage of available office hours. This is a source of support and you should make the most of it. Please come see me to clarify any subject treated class, if you are working on one of the assignments, etc. Do come prepared, and bring any pertinent notes, reading passages, drafts, etc.

**Academic Honesty**

All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented. For a definition of plagiarism and information on documentation please refer to the summary of the Code of Student Conduct on the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards website. In cases where academic dishonesty has been clearly established, the award of an F for the final course is the standard practice. Please see me if you have any questions about your use of sources.

**Access**

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me in week one if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You may also wish to contact Disability Services in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155.

disabsrv@uoregon.edu.