MA/BBL 2023 Latino Cultural Expressions

Course Description: An introductory overview of Hispanic visual, performing, and folk arts from their origins in the Iberian peninsula, through the later blending of cultures and their parallelism during revolutionary periods, to contemporary Latino expressions in the United States.

Course Objectives: In this introductory course, student will:
1. Understand the origins and dynamics of Latino cultural expressions through visual art, performance, dance, literature, music, and multi-media.
2. Analyze the social, political, and cultural forces that have given rise to Chicana/o and Latina/o cultural production, with particular attention to the ways in which cultural, historical/collective, family, and personal memory shape these expressions.
3. Explore the concept of memory—cultural, historical/collective, family, and personal—in relation to Latina/o cultural production, identity, power, and resistance.

Course Description: Readings, lectures, films, group discussions, active class participation, and cultural events are central features of this course. This course will introduce students to the study of cultural expressions through different disciplinary lenses and various genres, and more importantly, culture as live experience.

Required Texts:

Additional Texts From:


### Policies

#### Grade calculation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation/Pop Quizzes</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Event Response Paper (total of 5)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Reflections (total of 5)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
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#### Major Grading

**Attendance**

Attendance and punctuality is required. I will take daily attendance; it is your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet. Tardiness or leaving early (by 15 minutes) will be considered an absence. Excessive absences may result in an “F” in the course.

**Dialogical Participation**

In order to participate in classroom discussions and do well in you exams, you’ll need to have completed the reading(s) before class.

You should check WebCT often for course syllabus updates, readings, and announcements. I will also post information on cultural events so that you may attend, but please feel free to post information about cultural events on WebCT.
Please turn off all electronic devices (i.e. cell phones, ipods) except for those used as learning aids.

**Quizzes**  
If I feel you are not reading I reserve the right to give unannounced pop quizzes any time during the semester.

**Cultural Event Response Paper (2-3 pages)**  
Attendance and participation at five cultural events that connects classroom content to personal experience is required. The response paper should relate to the readings and make connections with concepts presented in class. If the cultural event is not mentioned in class, you should check for relevance before proceeding with the event. You should attend the entire event, take notes, and if possible, interview the staff and/or patrons. Before attending the event, I encourage you to conduct a pre-visit or do some background research on the event so that you are familiar with the event and have some expectations or allay your preconceptions. The type-written 2-3 page response paper should include a summary of the major points of the event and your personal response to them. The first section of the essay should include a summary of the major points discussed and/or highlighted in the event. The second section should establish the connection between the topics covered in the event and those covered in class. The final and longer section should include your personal reaction to the event. You should reference at least one of the readings for the course. Use APA format.

**Critical Reflections (2-3 pages)**  
In these short reflection pieces, you will extract the major arguments and assumptions of course readings and other texts (e.g. films). Your essays and critical reading responses will be graded on critical thinking and synthesis of class material, including specific from the assigned readings, class discussions, films or cultural events. Assignments must be typed and submitted and turned in at the end of the period, when they are due. (No late paper will be accepted.)

You will be evaluated on the following criteria:  
- **Discussion** – A thorough description and discussion of the topic.  
- **Analysis** – Did you go beyond description of the topic? Have you extracted the arguments and assumptions in the course material? Have you linked the topic of the assignment to course material to support your ideas.  
- **Organization** – Is your critical reflection well-organized? (i.e. introduction, conclusion, etc.). Have you organized your ideas so that they are coherent and clear for the reader?  
- **Style** – Have you edited your work for spelling and grammar? Have you used APA style?

**Final Exam**  
This will be an oral exam, so please come prepared to share what you have learned in the class. Be sure to draw from readings, lectures, and films in the course. No make-ups will be allowed.