

Manuel Pastor, Jr.
Winter 2007

Introduction to Latin American and Latino Studies

In the last several years, we have seen a burst of interest in both Latin America and the Latino population of the United States. That interest ranges from economics to politics to popular culture – witness the concerns about financial meltdowns and social upheavals in Argentina, Venezuela, and Mexico, the increasing claim on indigenous identity as one way to move progressive politics in Bolivia and Ecuador, and the growing popularity of *salsa*, *rock en español*, and other Latin sounds throughout the Americas. Within the U.S. itself, Latinos have become the largest minority group, with the importance of immigration as a driver of this demography dramatically symbolized by the massive protest marches of spring 2006, a phenomenon some see as a threat to the U.S. and others see as a new source for revitalization of urban areas, the U.S. labor movement, and racial and electoral politics.

This class is an introduction to a field in flux. In the not-too-distant past, universities separated Latin American (or area) Studies from Latino (or ethnic) Studies. Such separation will no longer serve: with a majority of Latinos in many urban areas foreign-born and with remittances from workers in the U.S. now the largest source of foreign exchange earnings for countries like El Salvador, transnational thinking is the order of the day. This course seeks to impact that understanding in a very different way: we will start with the U.S. Latino experience, then work our way back to understand both origins and the state of contemporary Latin America, before returning again to U.S. Latinos and the increasing importance of transnational ties.

Required Reading: You may purchase these at the Bay Tree Bookstore

Winn, Peter. *Americas*, hereafter referred to as Americas.

Romero, Mary, Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, & Vilma Ortiz, eds. *Challenging Fronteras: Structuring Latina and Latino Lives in the U.S.*, hereafter referred to as Fronteras.

Martinez, Ruben. *Crossing Over: A Mexican Family on the Migrant Trail*, hereafter referred to as Crossing.

Also required are articles and other readings, which will be placed on electronic reserve.

Course requirements: In addition to regular attendance of scheduled classes, there are four other basic assignments for this course:

1. A take-home mid-term will be given around the 5th week of the course.
2. Choose a topic (a country or an issue) to track during the course. You will be expected to determine ways to keep up to date on the topic, including news and Web sources, and be expected to report to your section at least once and prepare a short (4-

- 5 page) paper on the topic before the end of the course. This may be done in collaboration with one other student.
3. A final comparative essay that may be completed in collaboration with one other student in the course.
 4. Regular attendance at discussion sections with participation in the conversation indicating evidence of having completed the reading.

LALS 1. Winter 2007 – Course Outline

Thursday, January 4

Introduction

- “Hispanic Nation,” *Business Week*, 3/15/04 (reserve)
- “America’s Divide,” *Newsweek*, 4/10/06 (reserve)
- “Optimism in Latin America,” *San Jose Mercury News*, 12/10/06 (reserve)
- Llosa, “The Return of Latin America's Left” (reserve)
- Martinez, “The Other Side” (reserve)

Recommended:

- Laboy, “Salsa is Sound of Success at LA Club” (reserve)
- “Living La Vida Buena in Georgia” *Los Angeles Times*, 12/29/99 (reserve)
- “Relearning a Lost Language” *Los Angeles Times*, 5/26/97 (reserve)

Tuesday, January 9

Where We Are

- Nelson and Tienda, “The Structuring of Hispanic Ethnicity: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives. In Fronteras, Chapter 1
- Morales, “Latinos and the ‘Other Race’ Option” (reserve)
- Americas, Chapters 1 & 6

Recommended:

- Klor de Alva, “The Invention of Ethnic Origins and the Negotiation of Latino Identity,” in Fronteras, Chapter 3
- Suro, et al. *Hispanics: A People in Motion* (reserve)

Thursday, January 11

In the Beginning: The “Encounter”

- Americas, Chapter 2
- Crossing, Prologue and Chapter 1

Recommended:

- Gonzalez, *Harvest of Empire*, Chapter 1 (*reserve*)

Tuesday, January 16

Beginnings Count

- Americas, Chapter 3
- Crossing, Chapters 2-4

Recommended:

- Stein and Stein, “The Economic Base of Neo-colonialism” (*reserve*)

Thursday, January 18

Race Matters

- Americas, Chapters 7 & 8
- Ojito, “Best of Friends, Worlds Apart” (*reserve*)
- Greene, “Incas, *Indios*, and Indigenism in Peru” (*reserve*)

Recommended:

- Whitten and Torres, “Blackness in the Americas” (*reserve*)
- Oboler, “So Far From God, So Close to the United States: The Roots of Hispanic Homogenization.” In Fronteras, Chapter 2

Tuesday, January 23

Creeping Westward: Encounter II

Guest lecture: Larry Trujillo, Community Studies

- Gonzales, *Harvest of Empire*, Chapter 2
- Barrera, “The Establishment of a Colonial Labor System,” In *Race and Class in the Southwest* (*reserve*)

Recommended:

- Sanchez, “Introduction to Becoming Mexican-American” (*reserve*)
- Sanchez, “Farewell Homeland” (*reserve*)
- Hondangneu-Sotelo, “The History of Mexican Undocumented Settlement in the United States” In Fronteras, Chapter 6

Thursday, January 25

You Are What You Were – But Not Exactly

- Gutierrez, “*Sin Fronteras?: Chicanos, Mexican Americans, and the Emergence of the Contemporary Mexican Immigration Debate, 1968-1978*” (*reserve*)
- Santiago, Chapter 13 & 32, From *Famous All Over Town* (*reserve*)
- Romero, "Life as the Maid's Daughter" In *Fronteras*, Chapter 11
- Crossing, Chapters 6, 7, & 8

Recommended:

- Chavez, “The Organizer’s Tale”
- De Los Angeles Torres, “Transnational Political and Cultural Identities”

Tuesday, January 30

Legacies: Development & Debt in Latin America

- Americas, Chapters 4 & 5

Thursday, February 1

The New Chicano Groove: Culture and Continuity

Guest lecture: Larry Trujillo, Community Studies

- Crossing, Chapter 5
- Martinez, “Corazón del Rocanrol” (*reserve*)

Tuesday, February 6

“If You’re So Smart . . .”: The Mexican Meltdown, the Argentine Crisis and the Decline of Neoliberalism

- Pastor, “Pesos, Policies, and Predictions” from Wise, *Post-NAFTA Political Economy* (*reserve*)
- Gutmann, “For Whom the Taco Bells Toll: Popular Responses to NAFTA South of the Border” (*reserve*)
- Pastor and Wise, “From Poster Child to Basket Case” (*reserve*)

Recommended:

- Salas, “The Decline of the Decent Job” (*reserve*)
- Green, “Child Workers of the Americas,” (*reserve*)
- National Geographic, “Tango-Soul of a Nation” (*reserve*)

Thursday, February 8

A Chastened Phoenix?: The “Left” Rises Again

- Oxhorn, “From Allende to Lula” (*reserve*)
- Villas, “The Left in Latin America and the Resurgence of National-Popular Regimes” (*reserve*)
- Parenti, “Venezuela’s Revolution and the Oil Company Inside” (*reserve*)

Recommended:

- Lopez Montaña, “People First: Standing Up to the Washington Consensus” (*reserve*)
- Chincilla and Haas, “De Protesta a Propuesta: The Contributions and Challenges of Latin American Feminism” (*reserve*)
- Zibechi, “New Challenges for Radical Social Movements,” (*reserve*)

Tuesday, February 13

Samba and Social Democracy: Brazil Faces the Future

Guest lecture: Helen Shapiro, Sociology

- The Economist, “Love Lula If You’re Poor, Worry If You’re Not” (*reserve*)

Recommended:

- Rocha, Jan “Lula Win Raises Hopes in Brazil” (*reserve*)
- Skidmore and Smith, “Brazil: Development for Whom?” (*reserve*)

Thursday, February 15

A World Without Revolution: Cuba Faces the Future

- Americas, Chapter 13
- Zimbalist, “Whither the Cuban Economy?” (*reserve*)
- Brenner and Jimenez, “U.S. Policy on Cuba Beyond the Last Gasp,” (*reserve*)

Recommended:

- Olavarria, “Rap and Revolution: Hip-hop comes to Cuba.” (*reserve*)
- Hodge, “Colonization of the Cuban Body” (*reserve*)
- Hernandez, “Frozen Relations: Washington and Cuba After the Cold War” (*reserve*)

Tuesday, February 20

Transnationalism, Gender, and Family

Guest lecture: Pat Zavella, LALS

- Zavella, “Engendering Transnationalism in Food Processing” (*reserve*)
- Del Alba Acevedo, *Papelitos Guardados: Theorizing Latinidades through Testimonio* Chapter 1 (*reserve*)

Recommended:

- Americas, Chapter 9
- Anzaladua, “La conciencia de la mestiza” (*reserve*)
- Nieto Gomez, “La Feminista” (*reserve*)
- Zavella, “Reflections on Diversity Among Chicanas” in Fronteras, Chapter 10

Thursday, February 22

Back North: The New Latino

- Americas, Chapter 14
- Pastor, "Economic Inequality, Latino Poverty, and the Civil Unrest in Los Angeles" (*reserve*)
- Crossing, Chapter 9

Recommended:

- Valle and Torres, “Latinos in a ‘Post-Industrial’ Disorder” (*reserve*)
- Cooper, "The Two Worlds of Los Angeles" (*reserve*)

Tuesday, February 27

Making the Americas: Mexican Migrant Civil Society

Guest lecture: Jonathan Fox, LALS

- Bada, Fox, and Selee, *Invisible No More: Mexican Migrant Civic Participation in the United States* (*reserve*)

Recommended:

- Suro, et al. "Billions in Motion: Latino Immigrants, Remittances And Banking" (*reserve*)
- “Rocío Sáenz” (*reserve*)
- Binford, “A Generation of Migrants” (*reserve*)

Thursday, March 1

Latinidades: New York, Miami, y Que

- Flores, “Nueva York – Diaspora City: U.S. Latinos Between and Beyond”
- de Los Angeles Torres, “Beyond the Rupture: Reconciling with Our Enemies, Reconciling with Ourselves” (*reserve*)
- Yudice, “Miami: Images of a Latinopolis” (*reserve*)

Recommended:

- “Miami’s Generation of Exiles Side by Side, Yet Worlds Apart” *The New York Times*, 2/11/99 (*reserve*)
- Flavio Risech, "Political and Cultural Cross-Dressing: Negotiating a Second Generation Cuban-American Identity" (*reserve*)
- Acosta-Belén and Santiago, “Postwar Migration Patterns” (*reserve*)

Tuesday, March 6

Central America: Revolutions and Migrations

Guest lecture: Susanne Jonas, LALS

- Jonas, "Transnational Realities and Anti-Immigrant State Policies" (*reserve*)
- Americas, Chapter 13, pp. 515-536

Recommended:

- Hamilton, Nora and Norma Stoltz Chinchilla, "Central American Migration." In Fronteras, Chapter 4
- Americas, Chapter 10
- Repack, Terry A., "New Roles in a New Landscape." In Fronteras, Chapter 14

Thursday, March 8

Back to the Future: Latinos and the New Economy

- Pastor, “Rising Tides, Sinking Boats” (*reserve*)
- Valle and Torres, “Class and Culture Wars in the New Latino Politics” (*reserve*)

Recommended:

- “María Elena Durazo” (*reserve*)
- Hayes-Bautista and Rodriguez, “A Tale of Two Migrations” (*reserve*)

Tuesday, March 13

New “Encounters”: What Is the Latino/Latina Agenda?

- Klor de Alva, Shorris, and West, “Our Next Race Question: The Uneasiness Between Blacks and Latinos” In *Latino Studies Reserve: Culture, Economy and Society*. ed. Antonio Darder and Rodolfo D. Torres (*reserve*)
- Jones, “On Being Black at a Latino March” (*reserve*)
- Point-Counterpoint: Shulman, Mass Immigration, African Americans, and the “Rainbow Coalition” and Pastor, “Somewhere Over The Rainbow? Immigration and African Americans,” (*reserve*)

Recommended:

- Pastor, “Interdependence, Inequality, and Identity: Linking Latinos and Latin Americans” (*reserve*)

Thursday, March 15

A New Transnationalism? New Issues?

- Americas, Chapter 12
- Huntington, “The Hispanic Challenge,” *Foreign Policy*
- Chavez, “Immigration Reform and Nativism: The Nationalist Response to the Transnationalist Challenge” (*reserve*)

Recommended:

- Bacon, “Stories from the Borderlands” (*reserve*)
- Brysk, “Globalization: The Double-edged Sword” (*reserve*)
- Kawell, JoAnn, “Drug Economies of the Americas” (*reserve*)
- Andreas, “Borderless Economy, Barricaded Border” (*reserve*)
- Nathan, “Work, Sex, and Danger in Ciudad Juárez” (*reserve*)

Extra Readings on Various Topics (for consideration when doing final essays)

Latinos and Urban Space

- Godfrey, “Barrio Under Siege: Latino Sense of Place in San Francisco” (*reserve*)
- Curtis, “Barrio Space and Place in Southeast Los Angeles” (*reserve*)
- Kandel and Parrado, “Hispanics in the American South” (*reserve*)

Cross-border Issues

- Sharpe and Spencer, “Refueling a Doomed War on Drugs” (*reserve*)
- Rosen, “The Underside of NAFTA: A Budding Cross-Border Resistance” (*reserve*)
- Kelly, “The Politics of Toxic Waste” (*reserve*)
- Lovato, “Latinos in the Age of National Insecurity,” (*reserve*)
- Delgado, “Solidarity in Cyberspace: Indigenous People on Line”
- Delgado, “The Makings of a Transnational Movement” (*reserve*)

Immigration

- Durand and Massey, "The Costs of Contradiction: US Border Policy 1986-2000" (*reserve*)
- Gutierrez, “Migration, Emergent Ethnicity, and the ‘Third Space’: The Shifting Politics of Nationalism in Greater Mexico” (*reserve*)
- Rivera-Salgado, “Binational Organizations of Mexican Migrants in the United States” *Social Justice* Vol. 26 No. 3 (*reserve*)
- Bacon, “Transplanted Expectations” (*reserve*)
- Gordon, “Immigrants Fight the Power,” *The Nation*, 1/3/00 (*reserve*)
- Tafoya, "Shades of Belonging: Latinos and Racial Identity" (*reserve*)
- Flores, “The Diaspora Strikes Back” (*reserve*)
- Pastor, “Somewhere Over the Rainbow?” (*reserve*)

Race and Ethnicity

- Cadena, “Reconstructing Race” (*reserve*)
- Gueso, Rosero, and Escobar, “The Process of Black Community Organizing in the Southern Pacific Coast Region of Colombia” (*reserve*)
- Rodriguez, “The Real ‘New World Order’: The Globalization of Racial and Ethnic Relations in the Late Twentieth Century” (*reserve*)
- De la Fuente, “The Resurgence of Racism in Cuba” (*reserve*)
- Varese, “Think Locally, Act Globally” (*reserve*)
- Muwakkil, “The African-American Exception” (*reserve*)

Political Economy and Political Change

- LeFranchi, "Life in Argentina's Free-fall Economy" (*reserve*)
- Fox, "The Challenge of Democracy: Rebellion as Catalyst" (*reserve*)
- Pastor and Wise, "The Fox Administration and the Politics of Economic Transition" (*reserve*)
- Wise, "NAFTA, Mexico, and the Western Hemisphere" (*reserve*)
- Monsiváis, "Mexico's Cultural Landscapes" (*reserve*)
- *Business Week*, "Venezuela: Killing the Golden Goose?" (*reserve*)
- Kraul and Rotella, "Latin Economies Soar, Stumble with Reforms" (*reserve*)
- Vanden, "Brazil's Landless Hold Their Ground" (*reserve*)
- Smith, "Bush and Cuba: Still the Full Moon," (*reserve*)
- Pettavino, "Cuban Sports: Saved by Capitalism" (*reserve*)
- Jonas and Walker, "Guatemala: Intervention, Revolt, and Negotiated Transition" (*reserve*)
- Chavez, "An Anatomy of Violence in El Salvador," (*reserve*)
- Robinson, "The New Right and the End of National Liberation," (*reserve*)
- Bendaña, "The Rise and Fall of the FSLN" (*reserve*)
- Schultz, Jim, "A New Day for Bolivia" (*reserve*)
- Salas, "Mexico's Haves and Have-Nots: NAFTA Sharpens the Divide" (*reserve*)
- "Kirchner and Krugman: A Conversation" (*reserve*)
- Trigona, "The Making of Piquetero Television" (*reserve*)