Cesar E. Chavez Department of Chicana/o Studies
CS 143

*Mestizaje*: History of the diverse racial and cultural roots of Chicanas and Chicanos

Summer Session C: 2013

Professor Robert Chao Romero
University of California, Los Angeles

Hours: MW, 10 a.m.-12:05 p.m.
Classroom: Bunche 3178
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Course Description: This course provides an historical examination of the diverse racial and cultural roots of Chicanas and Chicanos. A large emphasis will be placed upon the analysis of *films* as a tool to explore course themes.

Utilizing the theoretical frameworks of “mestizaje,” “Aztlán,” “indigenismo,” “La Raza Cósmica,” and “la tercera raiz,” this course examines some of the important groups who have contributed to the formation of Mexican national culture. The first half of the course traces the development of race relations in México during the colonial period, and focuses on an analysis of the Nahuas (Aztecs), Mixtecs, Spaniards, and African slave population. The second part of the course analyzes Asian immigration to México and California during the national period, specifically examining the migration and adaptation experiences of the Chinese.

Course Readings:

Readings for the class will be comprised of a course reader. The reader will be available for purchase in the UCLA Bookstore.

Course Requirements:

1. Film Critique (60%). Students will be required to write a 6-8 page paper analyzing one of five films in light of Chicana/o racial theory. These five films are the 1995 Gregory Nava film, “Mi Familia (My Family), “Apocalypto,” the
classic Mexican film, “Maria Candelaria,” from 1944, “La Otra Conquista (The Other Conquest)” (2000), and “Quilombo.” This paper will be worth 60% of the final course grade.

2. Reflection Journal (30%). As a second requirement for the course, students will be required to keep a reflection journal in which they respond to weekly prompts given by the professor. Prompts will require students to reflect upon the weekly readings, lectures, and films. Weekly journal entries will be 1-2 double spaced pages in length.

3. Participation (10%). As a final component, students will be graded upon their participation in weekly discussions of course materials.

Course Syllabus:

Week One: August 5, 7
Introduction
Chicana/o Social Identity

Readings:

I Am Joaquin

El Plan de Aztlan


Film: “Mi Familia” (My Family)

Week Two: August 12, 14
Mexico Indigena: The Nahuas and Maya

Readings:


Film review of “Apocalypto”
Robert Fish

Film: “Apocalypto”
Week Three: August 19, 21  
The Conquest and Chicana/o Racial Identity  
Indigenous, Hispanic, and Chicano Views of the Conquest

Readings:


Film: “La Otra Conquista”

Week Four: August 26, 28  
*El Sistema de Castas:* Race and Caste in Colonial Mexico  
*The Third Root:* The Forgotten African Presence in Mexico

Readings:

“Social Dimensions of Race: Mexico City, 1753”  
Patricia Seed

“Negro Slave Control and Resistance in Colonial Mexico, 1519-1650”  
David M. Davidson

Film: “Quilombo”

Week Five: September 2 (No class, Labor Day Holiday), 4  
*Race and the Mexican Revolution:* Indigenismo, Mestizaje, and La Raza Cosmica


Film: “Maria Candelaria”
Week Six:  September 9, 11
*The Forgotten 4th Root:*  The Chinese in Mexico

Readings:


Films: “La Cuarta Raiz” and “Golden Venture”

*Film critiques due, last day of class, September 11*