Class Description and Objectives

Los Angeles as a global city, as a migrant city, as a city in transformation is rich in ethnic identity, culture, and urban space use. Understanding some of the causes and consequences that make Los Angeles an ethnic and culture urban milieu will be explored, including demography, immigration, history, community formation, labor, civic society, and space. Our class will explore Los Angeles through film, guest lectures, readings, community trips, and discussions. The class is broken up into two modules, with the first three weeks mostly focused on “classroom” learning and the last three weeks focused on exploring Los Angeles outside of the classroom.

Description and Objectives for Module 1 (Weeks 1-3 of Summer Session A)

Los Angeles is one of the most popular immigrant destinations in the world and as a result of constant flows of new arrivals; the city takes its form. We will spend the first half, more or less, exploring the history, community development, and many contributions of various immigrant groups in Los Angeles. Readings, guest lectures, film, and community trips (exploration) will anchor our learning and class discussions will delve into matters of race relations: tensions as well as collaborations across ethnic and racial lines, particularly as they take place in the realm of labor, immigrant rights, and community.

Description and Objectives for Module 2 (Wks. 4-6 of Summer Session A):

The main objective of this module is to introduce students to the historical relationship between ethnic identity, cultural expression and the urban built environment. To that end, this module is organized around three walking tours of three different parts of the city: The Great Wall of Los Angeles in the San Fernando Valley; Olvera Street and La Plaza de Cultura y Arte (the new Mexican-American museum); and the recent extension of the Metro Gold Line to East Los Angeles and Hollenbeck Park. In a final class meeting, we will discuss our recent adventures to see if we can draw some conclusions about Chicanos, Chicanas, and their place in L.A.’s built environment.

Required Readings:

Online Access to all Required Readings through the Course Website: https://moodle2.sscnet.ucla.edu/course/view/131A-CHICANO191-2

(click on the links to the left of the page for each week of the quarter)
ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS

Grading Policy

1. Participation 35%
2. Attendance 25%
3. Mini-Ethnography & Photographic Essay on Immigrant Community 20%
4. 8-10 page final project or exam (instructions forthcoming) 20%

COURSE OUTLINE

*Week 1: Introduction & Class Overview
*Week 2: Immigrant Los Angeles
Week 3: The Great Wall of Los Angeles
*Week 4: In-Class Discussion
  Week 5: Civic Representation and Contestation: Olvera Street and La Plaza de Cultura y Artes
  Week 6: Infrastructure and Community Development: Metro Gold Line, Boyle Heights and Hollenbeck Park

*Meet at UCLA, 3170 Bunche Hall

WEEK 1: Introduction and Course Overview: Professor Abel Valenzuela

For Class Discussion: Come prepared to share with the class how you understand, experience, relate to, and are shaped by Los Angeles.

Also, come prepared to share with the class what you know about immigrant communities in Los Angeles. Who lives where? Do you feel at home in any of these communities? Why or why not?

Required Readings:


WEEK 2: Immigrant Los Angeles
Required Readings:


WEEK 3: The Great Wall of Los Angeles

Please visit the website for the Social and Public Arts Resource Center (SPARC), and read about the Great Wall of Los Angeles and its history: www.sparcmurals.org.

On L.A. River and its history, see: www.laep.org/target/units/river/tour/hist.html

See also: www.theriverproject.org/history.html

Note: This site is more difficult to reach then the other two sites. In the next week or so, we will provide travel options to you to reach this destination.

Week 4: In-Class Discussion

Video screening: “Street of Yesteryear,” 1938

Required Readings:


WEEK 5: Civic Representation and Contestation: Olvera Street and La Plaza de Cultura y Artes
Meet at three at main entrance of Union Station (800 N. Alameda Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. From there we will walk through Olvera Street and to La Plaza de Cultura y Artes (see website: www.lapca.org).

NOTE: Admission to the museum is free. Reaching this site is very easy via public transportation. We will provide you with transportation options as we get closer to this date.

**Week 6: Infrastructure and Community Development: Metro Gold Line, Boyle Heights and Hollenbeck Park**

Meet at BACK entrance Union Station (at Patsouras Plaza); MTA Building Headquarters, Gold Line ride to Mariarchi Plaza, Walk to Hollenbeck Park.

NOTE: You will need approximately $3-5 to cover price of a round-trip metro Ticket
Mini-Ethnography and Photographic Essay on Immigrant Community

For this assignment, students need to choose an immigrant community they do not already know and where they are not members. You will have to step out of your comfort zone to talk to people and find out how they perceive their community and their place in the grand city of Los Angeles.

After spending several hours at this location (you should attempt multiple visits) talking to at least five members of that community, students will write a 5-7 page, double-spaced reflection and analysis of the immigrant community and its role in the city. The following are some questions you may want to ask (you are welcome and encouraged to ask different questions. This list is just to get you started).

1. Where are you from?
2. When people ask you where is your home, what usually comes to mind?
3. How long have you lived in Los Angeles?
4. Has the city been welcoming to you?
5. How often do you leave your community?
6. How do you use public space (e.g., parks, sidewalks, schools, streets)?
7. What other communities do you come into contact with?
8. What does Los Angeles mean to you?
9. Have you been able to achieve everything here that you wanted? If so, how? If not, what has stood in your way?
10. What do you love most about Los Angeles?
11. What would you change about Los Angeles?

Your paper should include a brief historical background of this community in the city, a justification for choosing to do your research there, and your findings about the community based on their own words.
Guided by your respondents’ descriptions and stories, find 2-5 images that you feel represent their experiences and their view of the city. Include these in the text of your paper to illustrate your points. Please note that images will not count toward the 5-7 page requirement.

Conclude with your analysis about what your findings suggest about Los Angeles as an immigrant destination.

**A few points:**

**Submitting Assignment.** Please bring a hard copy of your assignment to class on its due date: Wednesday, July 17. We will not accept online submissions for this assignment.

**Re-Writing.** After you submit your assignment, re-write are not an option. Please start working on this assignment early enough to have ample time to revise, get feedback from writing tutors and friends, and revise again.

**Due Dates and Late Papers.** Due dates are not negotiable. We do not accept late papers. Any paper that arrives after the set deadline will be considered late. Absolutely no exceptions. Excuses for late papers that involve computer problems are also unacceptable.