Introduction

This course will explore the social structures and theories of identity and migration through the concept of diaspora, particularly, the Latina/o diaspora. Diaspora is commonly defined as the “dispersion of any people from their original homeland” and in itself is a controversial term, nebulous in its iterations and applications. This course will clarify that ambiguity with regard to the descendants of European colonization of Mexico, the Caribbean, Africa, and Central and South America emphasizing experiences of race in a global context of migration and contemporary political struggles. Using classic theories in political science such as the nation-state and citizenship alongside Latina/o political thought and other social science concepts such as racialization and coloniality, this intersectional and interdisciplinary course will understand a cross section of Latina/experiences in the U.S. and abroad. Additionally, this course has an artistic element to it as we will be reading various young adult Latina/o poets and novelists.

This course will also survey historical narratives of liberation and freedom in social movements and the negotiation of political rights across time and space. Using an intersectional lens of gender, race, and class, this course will shed light on how race can be inflected and altered by amalgamous identities and that these identities are fluid and dynamic across the world. Finally, racialized Latina/o identities are subject to marginalization due to the specifics of various geopolitics which will be surveyed here briefly to add texture and a sense of the contemporary problems facing diaspora studies. Guiding Questions throughout the course include:

- What constitutes Diaspora?
- What foundational theories can be used to explain the Latina/o Diaspora?
- How does racialization operate?
- What is the relationship between the state and race?
- How does socio-economic class, sexuality and/or gender influence individual and group experiences of being “Latina/o”? Of being a “citizen”?
- How do geopolitical situations affect and challenge notions of Latinidad and the Latina/o diaspora?
- How does literature capture the multifaceted elements of identity politics?

Texts:
- PDF articles available on course website
Grading:

- 20% Attendance/Participation
- 10% Online Response Postings
- 20% Interactive Class Presentation
- 50% Research Paper Project (Meeting, Outline, Annotated Bibliography, Final Paper)

Course Expectations:

You can expect me:

- To provide a safe and respectful learning environment
- To start and end class on time
- To reply to e-mails within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends.
- To give assignments and exams that adequately covers the material and meets the learning objectives of the course

I can expect you:

- To maintain a safe and respectful learning environment
- To come to class on time
- To be attentive and engaged in class
- To spend an adequate amount of time on assignments and readings each week, making an effort to critique and analyze the issues at hand
- To seek help when necessary

Class Policies:

- You must read all of the assigned readings for the entire week by the time we meet in class on the first day
- Bring course reading materials with you to class every day for reference
- Use technology appropriately
- Weekly reflections must be posted by Monday evening every week

Online Response Postings 10%: These postings respond to periodic questions posed by the professor. They must be at least one paragraph long and demonstrate an attempted argument/thesis using course ID concepts as well as evidence of understanding the readings. Posting due dates will be announced in class.

Interactive Class Presentation 20%:
In week one you will sign up to present in groups on all of the week’s articles (not Gonzalez or Beltran books) in a 15 minute presentation. You will discuss the articles’ main ideas and key concepts in a presentation that thoughtfully explains the authors’ arguments and how they relate to previous weeks. Your job is to get the class ready to discuss controversial points. Present this material however you like, but you must also do one of the following:
- Play a video clip or song that exemplifies one or more of the major debates at hand
- Have the class complete an activity that makes clear one or more of the major debates at hand
- Write a response to each author and share with the class
- Use a variety of images or art that exemplify this week’s readings

Research Paper Project 50%: Based on your interests in this course, you will write an 8 page research paper (not including bibliography) expanding on topics from the course using your own original thesis. Using our lectures and key concepts as a general guide, choose a topic to research further by investigating scholarly articles, books, and primary sources. You will be required to meet with me to discuss your topic ideas (10% of paper grade) and to submit a written topic outline by week 4 in class (20% of paper grade) as well as an annotated bibliography by week 8 (20% of paper grade).

Extra Credit (Choose ONE-- up to 3%):  
As extra credit, choose one of the following options (due on the last day of class week 10):
1. Complete a Critical Reading and Analysis form for all assigned readings for 3 weeks of your choosing and turn in all forms by the last day of class
2. Meet with the professor in office hours or an appointment to discuss your research interests so that she can suggest a book to read or you may present a relevant book title that you would like to read. Write a brief paper (3 pages) on the book’s main ideas, questions you have, and how it relates to our class.
3. Read one of the chapters from our assigned books NOT listed on the course syllabus and write a critical 3 page paper on its main ideas.

Reading Schedule
- Denotes course assigned book
- Denotes PDF article

Week 1: Introduction: Chicana/os, Diaspora, and Political Theories of Belonging  
Key Concepts: Latinidad, Racialization, Coloniality, Nation-State, Eurocentrism, Diaspora, Alienation, Citizenship

- Beltrán Introduction
- González Introduction

Week 2: Constructing Latinidad and Chicanísimo in the United States  
Key Concepts: Chicanísimo, Patriarchy, Class, Sleeping Giant
- González Ch. 2,5
- Beltran Ch. 1
- Klor de Alva “Aztlán, Borinquen, and Hispanic Nationalism in the United States”

**Office Hour Research Paper Sign Ups**
**Week 3: Caribbean Latinas/os**  
**Key Concepts:** Boricuas, Marielitos, Trujillo Regime, Transnationalism
- Gonzalez Ch. 4,6,7
- Clara Rodríguez “Summary of the Puerto Rican Migration to the U.S.”
- Gastón Fernández “Race, Gender and Class in the Persistence of the Mariel Stigma Twenty Years after the Exodus from Cuba”

**Week 4: Latinas/os and The Americas**  
**Key Concepts:** Indigenísmo, Sandinistas, Panama Canal, Salvador Allende  
**Writing Workshop Thursday**
- Gonzalez Ch. 8, 9
- Garcia Bedolla “Central Americans”

**Week 5: Historical Acts of Resistance**  
**Key Concepts:** Internal Colony Theory, Nationalism, Third World Left, Marxism  
**Tuesday Film:** P’alante, siempre P’alante
- Beltran Ch. 5
- Laura Pulido “The Politicization of the Third World Left.”
- Torres “Radical Activism in the Diaspora: The Puerto Rican Experience”

**Week 6: Solidarity and Community Organizations**  
**Key Concepts:** Solidarity, Life Chance, Cultural Parity
- Beltran Ch. 4
- Juliette Hooker (2009) “Mapping the Contours of Political Solidarity” Race and Political Solidarity
- James Early “An African American-Puerto Rican Connection”
- Daniel Widenor “Another City is Possible: Interethnic Organizing in Contemporary Los Angeles”

**Research Paper Outline Hard Copy Due Tuesday 5/5**

**Week 7: Expressions of Latinidad and Intersectionality**  
**Key Concepts:** Subjectivity, Agency, Infrapolitics, Patriarchy  
**Writing Workshop Thursday**
- Gonzalez Ch. 12
- Sánchez and Áviles “Ambiguous Identities! The Affirmation of Puertorriqueñidad in the Community Murals of New York City”
- La Ware “Encountering Visions of Aztlan: Arguments for Ethnic Pride, Community Activism, and Cultural Revitalization in Chicano Murals”
- Ricourt “The Added Burden for Dominican Women”
Week 8: Politics of Place and Capitalism
**Key Concepts:** Cultural Appropriation, Pedagogy, Postionality
Tuesday Film: Harvest of Empire
   ❖ Gonzalez Ch. 13
   • Cruz “The Changing Socioeconomic and Political Fortunes of Puerto Ricans in New York City 1960-1990”
   • Luis Guarnizo “Los Dominicanyorks: The Making of a Binational Society”

Week 9: Latinidad in the American Imagination and “Melting Pot” Politics in the Metropole
**Key Concepts:** Cultural Production, Latino Marketing, Essentialism, “Ghetto Nerd,” Pluralism, Gentrification
   ❖ Gonzalez Ch. 10
   • Junot Diaz Excerpts from The Brief Wondeorous Life of Oscar Wao
   • Piri Tomas Excerpts from Down These Mean Streets
   • Sandra Cisneros Excerpts from Caramelo

**Annotated Bibliography Hard Copy Due Thursday 5/28**

Week 10: The Political and Social Status of the Latina/o Diaspora Today
Key Concepts: Illegality, Foreignness
   • Jennifer Rudolph “Identity theft: Gentrification, Latinidad, and American Girl Marisol Luna”

**Extra Credit Due Tuesday 6/2**

**Final Research Paper Due Thursday 6/4 Week 10 by 4pm via email.**