**FIAT LUX SEMINAR 19 (Sem 2)**

César E. Chávez Department of Chicana/o Studies

Sproul Lecture Room (Sproul 110A)

Tuesdays, 4-4:50

**Latinx Arts in the 21st Century**

This course examines the various ways in which cultural producers formulate their own understanding of “Latinx” through artworks. We will explore short stories, performances and visual art, spoken word, film, video games, graphic novels, and the music industry in order to highlight the complexity of the Latinx experience. We seek to understand how Latinx cultural producers use their artwork to frame their narrative, create a platform to speak out against oppression, or demand space for their existence. Specific topics will include the shift from Latina/o and Latin@ to Latinx, the role of the artist in articulating cultural identity, the place of politics in artwork, the intersections between gender and sexuality, afrolatinidad, and recreating the “canon.” We examine all these topics through the lens of the arts, motivated by a belief in the power of the arts and humanities to articulate human experience in powerful and inimitable ways.

**Learning Objectives and Outcomes:**
Students will learn about diverse cultural producers’ approaches to articulating latinitad. Various analytical codes will be learned for evaluating visual art, performance art, video, video games, music, and dance. Students will learn different ways to think about their own identities in relation to artistic practices.
Course Requirements
Course requirements include weekly attendance, preparation of required readings, and participation in class discussion. Students will be asked to bring a personal item to the final class for discussion.

Required Readings (15 pages total):
Yesika Salgado, “Las Locas,” “In Our Family”
Tomás Rivera, *Y no se lo trago la tierra*, p. 97

Plus other suggested optional readings

All materials found on the course website

Week 1. Introduction to the Course: Thinking about “Latinx”
Jan 8

Optional Readings:

Week 2. Latinx Spoken Word: Language, Legacies, Identity
Jan 15

Hoodprofet, “Chicano 2.0,” 2015
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l9-RhKZ0BZo

Melissa Lozada Oliva, “My Spanish,” 2015
Week 3. Performative Perspectives on Afro-Latina Hip Hop  
Jan 22

Princess Nokia, *Brujas*, 2017  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUcAPCxrSQs

Jessie Reyez, *Great One*, 2017  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uweEDKsAhxg

Week 4. Love in Latinx Film  
Jan 29

Clips from *Mosquita & Mari: Love in Southeast LA*, written and directed by Aurora Guerrero

Week 5. Latinx Graphic Novels and Video Games  
Feb 5  
Guest Speaker (via skype), Gonzalo Alvarez, TX  
https://gonzzink.com/

Feb 12  
Guest Speaker, Sandy Rodriguez  
*Class to be held at the Chicano Studies Research Center, 144 Haines Hall*

Week 7. Latinx Fiction and Short Story: Feminist Perspectives  
Feb 19

Required Reading:  

Week 8. Latinx Poetry: Reflections on Family  
Feb 26

Required Readings:  
Yesika Salgado, “Las Locas,” “In Our Family”  
Tomás Rivera, *Y no se lo trago la tierra*, p. 97

**Week 9. Latinx Performance Artists: Recent Developments in LA**
March 5
Guest Speaker, Christal Perez, UCLA

Artists to be considered include Rafa Esparza, Sebastián Hernández, Nao Bustamante

**Week 10. Final Culmination: Considerations on Art and Identity**
Mar 12

**Final Assignment:**
Students should bring a personal object, an image, or quote (e.g., poetry, song lyric, etc.) to class and be prepared to discuss it and their own identity