

The University of New Mexico | Fall 2006

Honors 221.004

UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR | art and culture of the mexican diaspora, 1930-present

instructor dylan miner
class time W 10:00-12:30
office hours W 9:00-10:00 + TR 4:30-5:30
email miner@unm.edu

course description

The discourses of Mexican art and culture are often contentious and confusing. The history of Chicana/o cultural studies has an equally difficult trajectory. For instance, what equates to 'Mexican' art prior to 1848, becomes 'American' with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. For the undergraduate student, Latina/o visual and cultural studies can often be a difficult area to try to engage with. This undergraduate seminar will approach the history of Chicana/o and mexicana/o cultural practices by breaking down the barrier between Mexico and the United States. As such, students will address the most important issues related to mexicana/o and Chicana/o art: *mestizaje*, hybridity, the border, nationalism, popular culture, and Aztlán, among others. This course will not gloss over dominant themes, but rather force students to critically investigate cultural practice with an analytical 'eye.' With this course, we will be discussing Mexico as a diasporic community [*México sin fronteras*] beginning with the Mexican muralists and Frida Kahlo and ending with current cultural practices and events. In between, *lucha libre*, popular music and other forms of expression are fare play for discussion and exploration. ¡Buen provecho!

class requirements

participation/attendance	30%
project 1	25%
project 2	25%
proposal	5%
final paper project	15%
extra credit book review	+5%

required texts

- >> Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* (San Francisco: Aunt Lute, 1987).
- >> Karen Mary Davalos, *Exhibiting Mestizaje: Mexican (American) Museums in the Diaspora* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico, 2001).
- >> Rubén Gallo, *New Tendencies in Mexican Art*. (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004).
- >> José David Saldívar, *Border Studies: Remapping American Cultural Studies* (Berkeley: University of California, 1997).
- >> Course Reader: Available at the College of Education Copy Center.

suggested texts

>> Rubén Gallo. *Mexican Modernity: The Avant-Garde and the Technological Revolution* (Cambridge: MIT, 2005).

>> Linda Tuhiwai Smith, *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Communities* (London: Zed, 1999).

readings

Students must attend all classes, as well as, read all required readings. Readings will be assigned each week, according to the schedule of classes, from one of the course texts. The readings listed for each respective class period should be completed *prior* to the class period. Because many of the readings engage complicated theoretical arguments, we will spend a significant amount of each class period discussing the text.

SYLLABUS

august 23 | introduction > decolonizing knowledge

readings:

Linda Tuhiwai Smith, *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Communities* (London: Zed, 1999).

august 30 | the rise of modernism in Mexico

readings:

David Craven, "The Latin American Origins of 'Alternative Modernism'", eds. Rasheed Araeen, Sean Cubitt and Ziauddin Sardar, *The Third Text Reader on Art, Culture and Theory* (London: Continuum, 2002). 24-34.

Rubén Gallo, *Mexican Modernity: The Avant-Garde and the Technological Revolution* (Cambridge: MIT, 2005). Introduction + Epilogue.

Jacqueline Barnitz, "The Avant-Garde of the 1920s: Cosmopolitanism or National Identity?" *Twentieth-Century Art of Latin America* (Austin: University of Texas, 2001). 42-56.

september 06 | muralistas mexicanas/os in the United States

readings:

Renato González Mello, "Orozco in the United States: An Essay on the History of Ideas," In Renato González Mello and Diane Miliotes, eds., *José Clemente Orozco in the United States, 1927-1934* (Hanover, NH: Hood Museum of Art [Dartmouth University]), 22-61.

Dylan Miner, "El renegado comunista: Diego Rivera, la Liga de Obreros y Campesinos and Mexican Repatriation in Detroit," *Third Text*, November 2005, 647-660.

Alberto Híjar, "The Latin American Left and Diego Rivera's Political Contribution," *Third Text*, November 2005, 637-646.

september 13 | the cult of Frida

readings:

Judd Tully, "The Kahlo Cult," *ArtNews* April 1994 (93:4): 126-133.

Holly Barnet-Sánchez, "Frida Kahlo: Her Art and Life Revisited," *Latin American Research Review* 32:3 (1997): 243-257.

Marta Zarzacka, "'Now I Live on a Painful Planet': Frida Kahlo Revisited," *Third Text* 20:1 (January 2006): 73-84.

Isabel Molina Guzmán and Angharad N. Valdivia, "Brain, Brow, an Booty: Latina Iconicity in U.S. Popular Culture," *The Communication Review* 7 (2004): 205-221.

september 20 | immigration and *el otro México*

readings:

Jorge Durand and Douglas S. Massey, "Mexican Migration to the United States: A Critical Review," *Latin American Research Review* 27:2 (1992): 3-42.

María Rosa García-Acevedo, "The Forgotten Diaspora: Mexican Immigration to New Mexico," In Erlinda González-Berry and David R. Maciel, eds., *The Contested Homeland: A Chicano History of New Mexico* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico, 2000), 215-238.

Juan R. García, "Mexican Immigration to the United State, 1900-1917," *Mexicans in the Midwest, 1900-1932* (Tucson: University of Arizona, 1996), 3-24.

september 27 | *la frontera*: theorizing the US-Mexico border

readings:

José David Saldívar. *Border Studies: Remapping American Cultural Studies*. Berkeley: University of California, 1997. Chapter 1 + Chapter 7.

Guillermo Gómez-Peña, "The Border Is...", *Warrior for Gringostroika* (Saint Paul, MN: Gray Wolf, 1993), 43-44.

Judith L. Huacuja, "Borderlands Critical Subjectivity in Recent Chicana Art", *Frontiers* 24: 2 & 3 (2003), 104-121.

suggested:

Mary Pat Brady, "The Fungibility of Borders", *Nepantla: Views from the South* 1:1 (2000), 171-190.

Norma Iglesias, "Reconstructing the Border: Mexican Border Cinema and its Relationship to its Audience", in eds. Joanne Hershfield and David R. Maciel, *Mexico's Cinema: A Century of Film and Filmmakers* (Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, 1999), 232-248.

october 04 | *la frontera*: critiquing the paradigm

readings:

Dennis N. Valdés, "Region, Nation, and World-System: Perspectives on Midwestern Chicana/o History", in Refugio I. Rochín and Dennis N. Valdés, eds., *Voices of a New Chicana/o History*, (East Lansing: Michigan State University, 2000).

Robert McKee Irwin, "Toward a Border Gnosis of the Borderlands: Joaquín Murrieta and Nineteenth-century U.S.-Mexico Border Culture", *Nepantla: Views from the South* 2.3 (2001), pp. 509-537.

Patricia Penn-Hilden, "How the Border Lies: Some Historical Reflections", eds. Arturo J. Aldama and Naomi H. Quiñonez, *Decolonial Voices: Chicana and Chicano Cultural Studies in the 21st Century* (Bloomington: University of Indiana, 2002), 152-176.

suggested:

Deena J. González, "Gender on the Borderlands: Re-textualizing the Classics", *Frontiers* 24: 2 & 3 (2003), 15-29.

october 11 | the historical origins of *mestizaje*

readings:

John Nieto-Phillips, "Spanish American Ethnic Identity and New Mexico's Statehood Struggle," *The Contested Homeland: A Chicano History of New Mexico*, in Erlinda González-Berry and David R. Maciel, eds., (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico, 2001), 97-142.

Martha Menchaca, "Racial Formation: Spain's Racial Order," *Recovering History, Reconstructing Race: The Indian, Black, and White Roots of Mexican Americans*, Austin: University of Texas, 2001. 49-66.

Rosa Linda Fregoso, "Haunted by Miscegenation", *meXicana encounters: The Making of Social Identities on the Borderlands* (Berkeley: University of California, 2003), 126-147.

Anne Doremus, "Indigenism, Mestizaje, and National Identity in Mexico during the 1940s and the 1950s", *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos* 17:2 (2001), 375-402.

october 18 | *la raza cósmica*: the political uses of *mestizaje*

readings:

José Vasconcelos, *La Raza Cósmica* (Los Angeles: Chicano Studies Department, California State University, Los Angeles, 1979). 1-38.

Stacie Widdifield, "Resurrecting the Past: The Embodiment of the Authentic and the Figure of the Indian" and Assimilation and the Body of the Nation: Mestizaje and Gender," In *The Embodiment of the National in Late Nineteenth-Century Mexican Painting* (Tucson: University of Arizona, 1996), 78-162.

Gloría Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* (San Francisco: Aunt Lute, 1987).

Introduction [1-13] + The Homeland Aztlán/El otro México [23-35] + La conciencia de la mestiza/Towards a New Consciousness [99-113].

october 25 | Contemporary Art in México

Readings:

Rubén Gallo. *New Tendencies in Mexican Art*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004. Introduction + Chapter 4 + Chapter 5.

november 01 | ¿Fine, Folk or What the F... Are You Talking About?

readings:

Néstor García Canclini, "Entrance" and "From Utopia to the Market", in *Hybrid Cultures: Strategies for Entering and Leaving Modernity*, trans. Christopher L. Chiappari and Silvia L. López (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota), 1-40.

Ticio Escobar, "Issues in Popular Art", in ed. Gerardo Mosquera, *Beyond the Fantastic: Contemporary Art Criticism from Latin America* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1996).

José Pablo Villalobos, "Mapping Border Music: Sonic Representations of la frontera," *Studies in Latin American Popular Culture* 23 (2004): 69-82.

november 08 | *lucha libre* as performance

readings:

Roland Barthes, "The World of Wrestling", *Mythologies* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1972).

Carlos Monsiváis, "The Hour of the Mask as Protagonist: El Santo versus the Skeptocs on the Subject of Myth," In editor Nicholas Sammond, *Steal Chair to the Head: The Pleasure and Pain of Professional Wrestling* (Durham, NC: Duke, 2005). 88-95.

Heather Levi, "The Mask of the Luchador: Wrestling, Politics, and Identity in Mexico," in Nicholas Sammond, ed., *Steal Chair to the Head: The Pleasure and Pain of Professional Wrestling* (Durham, NC: Duke, 2005). 96-131.

suggested:

Heather Levi, "Sport and Melodrama: The Case of Mexican Professional Wrestling", *Social Text* 50 (Spring, 1997), 57-68.

Robert Neustadt., "[E]Facing the Face of Nationalism: Wrestling Masks in Chicano and Mexican Performance Art", *Studies in Twentieth-Century Literature* 25:2 (Summer 2001), 416.

november 15 | performativity and the performance of performing

readings:

Allan Kaprow, "The Education of the Un-Artist" and "Just Doing", in *Essays on the Blurring of Art and Life*, Expanded ed. (Berkeley: University of California, 2003), 110-126, 247-252.

Maris Bustamante, "Non-Objective Arts in Mexico, 1963-1983" in Coco Fusco, ed., *Corpus Delecti: Performance Art of the Americas* (London: Routledge, 2000), 225-239.

suggested:

C. Ondine Chavoya, "Orphans of Modernism: The Performance Art of Asco", in Coco Fusco, ed., *Corpus Delecti: Performance Art of the Americas* (London: Routledge, 2000).

november 22 | galleries, museums and the reification of *mexicanidad*

readings:

Karen Mary Davalos, *Exhibiting Mestizaje: Mexican (American) Museums in the Diaspora* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico, 2001). Chapter 2 [13-32] + Chapter 5 [107-156].

Olivier Debroise , "Dreaming on the Pyramid: Responses to Globalism in Mexican Visual Culture",
Discourse : Berkeley Journal for Theoretical Studies in Media and Culture 23:1 (2001), 44-61.

Mari Carmen Ramírez, "Beyond 'the Fantastic': Framing Identity in US Exhibitions of Latin American Art",
in Gerardo Mosquera, ed., *Beyond the Fantastic: Contemporary Art Criticism from Latin America*
(Cambridge, MA: MIT, 1996), 229-247.

november 29 | rasquachismo + domesticana

readings:

Amalia Mesa-Bains, "Domesticana: The Sensibility of Chicana Rasquache," In Trisha Ziff, ed., *Distant Relations: Chicano, Irish, and Mexican Art and Critical Writing* (Santa Monica: Smart Art, 1996), 156-163

Tomás Ybarra-Frausto, "Rasquachismo: A Chicano Sensibility," In *Chicano Art: Resistance and Affirmation* (Los Angeles: Wight Art Gallery, 1991), 155-164.

december 06 | being and belonging

readings:

Renato Rosaldo. "Cultural Citizenship, Inequality, and Multiculturalism", eds. William V. Flores and Rina Benmayor, *Latino Cultural Citizenship: Claiming Identity, Space, and Rights* (Boston: Beacon, 1997), 27-38.

Jennifer A. González and Michelle Habel-Pallan, "Heterotopias and Shared Methods of Resistance: Navigating Social Space and Spaces of Identity", *Inscriptions* 7 (n.d.).