ANT 324L: U.S. Latino/a Ethnographies

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Spring 2013 Tuesdays/Thursdays 11-12:30 p.m. SAC 4.118

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Office Hours: T 2-3:30 p.m., W 5-6:30 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

As interpreters and translators of culture, ethnographers produce authoritative representations of other people's lives. This course will explore the everyday lived realities of U.S. Latinos/as, the nation's largest ethnic minority group, through the lens of ethnography, the anthropologist's method. Through close readings of ethnographic texts representing a diversity of issues and geographic regions, we will examine the structural. cultural and historical conditions and discourses that structure Latino/a social life along lines of race and ethnicity, gender and sexuality, class, language, and citizenship, as well as how individuals resist, negotiate or subvert them in the everyday making of their lives. Some themes include: identity and identity formation; migration, transnationalism and diaspora; expressive culture and performativity; media, politics and representation; and health and the body. At the same time, we will reflect on the practice of fieldwork and ask critical questions about how ethnographic texts are produced – that is, what relationships of power and epistemologies (forms of knowing) shape and help build ethnographic authority. Students will develop their own ideas for an ethnographic study in the Austin vicinity and execute it in consultation with the professor and through small peer groups.

TEXTS:

Dávila, Arlene. *Latinos Inc.: The Marketing and Making of a People.* (University of California Press, 2001)

Decena, Carlos Ulises. *Tacit Subjects: Belonging and Same-Sex Desire Among Dominican Immigrant Men.* (Duke University Press, 2011)

Mendoza-Denton, Norma. *Language and Cultural Practice among Latina Youth Gangs*. (Blackwell Publishing 2008)

Garcia, Angela. *The Pastoral Clinic: Addiction and Dispossession along the Rio Grande*. (University of California Press 2010)

Course Reader (available at IT Media Copy, 512 W. MLK Blvd.)

GRADING:

Class Discussion and Participation – 15%
Discussion Leadership – 15%
Representation and Discourses Assignment – 10%
Reflective Essay (3-5 pp.) – 25%
Ethnography Project (8-10 pp.) – 35%

OTHER MATTERS:

Attendance Policy: You are expected to attend every class barring personal and medical emergencies or critical travel. If you have to miss, please notify the professor in advance whenever possible. After four absences, every absence will lower your final grade by two percentage points.

<u>Classroom Conduct:</u> Please be prepared to contribute to class discussion and to respect all viewpoints expressed by your peers. Laptop use is not allowed in class unless you are making a presentation or have prior authorization from the professor.

<u>Communicating with the Professor:</u> To consult with the professor about your project or reading materials, please visit during office hours or schedule a meeting in advance. Email should be reserved for small questions and class matters.

Scholastic Dishonesty: The University takes a strong posture in cases of scholastic dishonesty, which include "cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts," and anything else that violates "the basic standard of academic integrity" – including submitting the same paper to two professors without permission. Further details about expectations and consequences are detailed on this Dean of Student's website: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/.

<u>Students with Disabilities:</u> Upon request, the University will make appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Please alert me in confidence of any special needs you have and visit http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd for additional information.

WEEKLY TOPICS, THEMES AND READINGS:

(CR = Course Reader)

Week 1: Introduction

Jan. 17 First class

Week 2: Identity, Borderlands and Ethnography

Jan. 22

Readings:

Paredes, A. "Ch 2: The Problem of Identity in a Changing Culture" (CR)

Jan. 24

Readings:

Paredes, A. "Ch 4: On Ethnographic Work among Minority Groups: A Folklorist's Perspective" (CR)

Week 3: Identity, Borderlands and Ethnography (cont.)

Jan. 29

Readings:

Ballí, C. "The Second Battle of Goliad." (CR)

Ballí C. "The True Meaning of the Tejano Monument" (CR)

Jan. 31 No class, group meetings

Readings:

Dávila, A. "Introduction," Latinos Inc.

Week 4: Discourses of "Latinidad" in the Hispanic Marketing and Advertising Industry

Feb. 5

Readings:

Dávila, A. "Ch 1: 'Don't Panic, I'm Hispanic," Latinos Inc.

Feb. 7

Readings:

Dávila, A. "Ch 2: Knowledges," Latinos Inc.

Week 5: Discourses of "Latinidad" in the Hispanic Marketing and Advertising Industry (cont.)

Feb. 12

Readings:

Dávila, A. "Ch 3: Images," Latinos Inc.

Ballí, C. "Pueblo Nuevo" (CR)

Feb. 14

Readings:

Villenas, S. "Diaspora and the Anthropology of Latino Education" (CR) Alvarez, R. "The Mexican-US Border: The Making of an Anthropology of Borderlands" (CR)

Week 6: Gender, Identity and Cultural Poetics in Texas

Feb. 19

Readings:

Limón, J. "Ch 6: Carne, Carnales and the Carnivalesque" (CR)

Feb. 21

Readings:

Limón, J. "Ch 7: The Native Dances" (CR)

Week 7: Gender, Identity and Cultural Poetics in Texas (cont.)

Feb. 26

Readings:

Kotarba, J., Fackler, J. and Nowotny, K. "An Ethnography of Emerging Latino Music Scenes" (CR)

Ballí, C. "King of the Accordion" (CR)

Feb. 28 No class, group meetings

Readings:

García, A. "Introduction" (only "Badlands," pp. 21-26) and "Ch 1: Graveyard," *The Pastoral Clinic*

Week 8: Drug Addiction, Land Dispossession and Affect in Hispano New Mexico

Mar. 5

Readings:

García, A. "Ch 2: The Elegiac Addict," The Pastoral Clinic

Mar. 7

Readings:

García, A. "Ch 3: Blood Relative," The Pastoral Clinic

Week 9: SPRING BREAK

Week 10: Migration, Sexuality and Race in Dominican New York

Mar. 19

Readings:

Decena, C. "Introduction," Tacit Subjects

Mar. 21

Readings:

Decena, C. "Part I: Leaving/Living in the Mental Island" and "Ch 2: Moving Portraits," *Tacit Subjects*

Week 11: Migration, Sexuality and Race in Dominican New York (cont.)

Mar. 26

Readings:

Decena, C. "Part II: Body Languages" and "Ch 4: Eso Se Nota," Tacit Subjects

Mar. 28

Readings:

Decena, C. "Ch 5: Code Swishing," Tacit Subjects

Week 12: Language, Schooling and Identity in California Youth Gangs

Apr. 2

Readings:

Mendoza-Denton, N. "Introduction" and "Ch 1: La Migra," Homegirls

Apr. 4

Readings:

Mendoza-Denton, N. "Ch 2: Beginning Fieldwork," Homegirls

Week 13: Language, Schooling and Identity in California Youth Gangs (cont.)

Apr. 9

Readings:

Mendoza-Denton, N. "Ch 4: Hemispheric Localism," Homegirls

Apr. 11

Readings:

Mendoza-Denton, N. "Ch 5: 'Muy Macha," Homegirls

Take-home reflective essay

Week 14: Labor, Migration and Legality/Illegality

Apr. 16 Take-home reflective essay due

Readings:

Spener, D. "Ch 2: Clandestine Crossings at the Beginning of the Twenty-first Century" (CR)

Apr. 18

Readings:

Wortham, S., Mortimer, K. and Allard, E. "Mexicans as Model Minorities in the New Latino Diaspora." (CR)

Week 15: U.S. Latinos/as Today

Apr. 23

Readings:

Huntington, S. "The Hispanic Challenge." (CR)

Ballí, C. "Twins Peak." (CR)

Ballí, C. "The Julián Castro I Knew – And How He's Changed" (CR)

Apr. 25 Group Presentations

Readings:

Sandoval, J.S. and Ortiz, G. "Toward a U.S. Analytic Latino Concept" (CR)

Week 16: U.S. Latinos/as Today (cont.)

Apr. 30 Group Presentations

May 2 Group Presentations

MAY 10 FINAL PAPERS (ETHNOGRAPHY PROJECTS) DUE BY 10 AM