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 Aztlan, 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
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<tr>
<th>requirement</th>
<th>percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>participation/attendance</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>project 1</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>project 2</td>
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<td>proposal</td>
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<td>final paper</td>
<td>project</td>
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<td>extra credit book review</td>
<td>+5%</td>
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required texts
>> Course Reader: Available at the College of Education Copy Center.
suggested texts

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:

august 30 | the rise of modernism in Mexico
readings:


september 06 | muralistas mexicanas/os in the United States
readings:


september 13 | the cult of Frida
readings:


september 20 | immigration and el otro México
readings:


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


suggested:


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. Rochin and Dennis N. Valdés, eds., *Voices of a New Chicana/o History*, [East Lansing: Michigan State University, 2000].


suggested:

**October 11 | The Historical Origins of *Mestizaje***

Readings:


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.


**October 25 | Contemporary Art in México***

Readings:

**November 01 | ¿Fine, Folk or What the F••• Are You Talking About?***

Readings:


**November 08 | Lucha libre as performance**

readings:


suggested:
Heather Levi, “Sport and Melodrama: The Case of Mexican Professional Wrestling”, *Social Text* 50 [Spring, 1997], 57-68.


**November 15 | Performativity and the performance of performing**

readings:


suggested:

**November 22 | Galleries, museums and the reification of mexicanidad**

readings:


**November 29 | Rasquachismo + Domesticana**

Readings:

**December 06 | Being and Belonging**

Readings:
- Jennifer A. González and Michelle Habell-Pallan, "Heterotopias and Shared Methods of Resistance: Navigating Social Space and Spaces of Identity", *Inscriptions* 7 [n.d.].