

Cultural Theory in the Americas

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"Art is not a mirror to reflect the world. Rather it is a hammer with which to shape it." Carrie Reichardt, [Power to the People](http://www.mosaicartnow.com/2015/01/power-to-the-people-carrie-reichards-mosaic-intervention-of-the-vas-facade/) (<http://www.mosaicartnow.com/2015/01/power-to-the-people-carrie-reichards-mosaic-intervention-of-the-vas-facade/>) (2014). Photo by Catherine S. Ramírez (2014).

LALS 100B

Cultural Theory in the Americas

Spring 2017

Tu/Th, 9:50-11:25am

Merill Academic 102

Catherine S. Ramírez, Ph.D.

cathysue@ucsc.edu (<mailto:cathysue@ucsc.edu>)

(831) 459-3020

Merrill 108

Office Hours: Tuesday, 12:00-1:30pm, and by appointment

Teaching Assistants

Juan Carlos Dávila Santiago (jdavilas@ucsc.edu) (<mailto:jdavilas@ucsc.edu>)

Section A: Mon, 5:20-6:25pm, Soc Sci 2, Rm 165 (*beginning the week of April 10*)

Section B: Mon, 6:40-7:45pm, Soc Sci 2, Rm 165 (*beginning the week of April 10*)

Mauricio Ramirez (meramire@ucsc.edu)

(<mailto:meramire@ucsc.edu>) Section C: Wed, 2:40-3:45pm, Soc Sci 2, Rm 165 (*beginning the week of April 10*)

Section D: Fri, 8:00-9:05am, Soc Sci 2, Rm 165 (*beginning the week of April 10*)

Modified Supplemental Instruction Leader

Andres Arias (aharias@ucsc.edu) (<mailto:aharias@ucsc.edu>)

Course Description

Focusing on key terms and approaches in the humanities, this course analyzes some of the cultural processes and products that shape social life, institutions, discourses, and identities in Latin@/x America and Latin America. We'll study a broad range of texts, including poetry, journalism, photography, painting, and film, paying attention to the conditions of their production. Above all, we'll highlight the ways in which cultural practices and products not only reflect, but generate and contest meaning and power.

Course objectives include (1) introducing LALS majors to salient concepts, approaches, debates, and questions in Latino and Latin American cultural studies; (2) showing them how discourse shapes and is shaped by our readings of cultural processes and products; and (3) drawing attention to Latin American and Latino studies as a discourse.

Required Texts

- *The DREAMers: How the Undocumented Youth Movement Transformed the Immigrant Rights Debate* (Stanford University Press, 2013), by Walter J. Nicholls
- *Salvadoran Imaginaries: Mediated Identities and Cultures of Consumption* (Rutgers University Press, 2014), by Cecilia M. Rivas
- *The Beast: Riding the Rails and Dodging the Narcos on the Migrant Trail* (Verso, 2014), by Óscar Martínez
- *Lynching in the West, 1850-1935* (Duke University Press, 2006), by Ken Gonzales-Day
- *Domestic Scenes: The Art of Ramiro Gomez* (Abrams, 2016), by Lawrence Weschler
- Mandatory online readings (available at Canvas in the "Files" folder)

All books are available at [The Literary Guillotine](http://www.literaryguillotine.com) [☞ \(http://www.literaryguillotine.com\)](http://www.literaryguillotine.com) (204 Locust Street, Santa Cruz) and on reserve at [McHenry Library \(https://library.ucsc.edu/digitalscholarship/digital-scholarship-commons\)](https://library.ucsc.edu/digitalscholarship/digital-scholarship-commons).

Films (all on reserve at the [Media Center at McHenry Library \(http://guides.library.ucsc.edu/mediacenter\)](http://guides.library.ucsc.edu/mediacenter))

- *Stuart Hall: Representation and the Media* (2002), dir. Sut Jhally (DVD9571)
- *María en tierra de nadie* (2010), dir. Marcela Zamora (DVD10272)
- *Zoot Suit* (1981), dir. Luis Valdez (DVD10234)
- *Sleep Dealer* (2008), dir. Alex Rivera (DVD7908)
- *The Couple in the Cage: A Guatinatei Odyssey* (1993), dir. Paula Heredia (DVD8493)

Requirements and Policies

1. Attendance and Participation: Faithful attendance **in lecture and section** is mandatory. Participation in section is crucial. The attendance portion of your grade will drop by 5 points (e.g., from 10 to 5) if you have *any* unexcused absences. **More than 2 unexcused absences in lecture or section will result in the failure of the attendance and participation portion of your grade and may result in failure of the entire course.** If you must miss class, please notify your Teaching Assistant (TA) in advance (i.e., *before* class). You will not, however, be excused from preparing the assignments.

Please arrive to class on time, with the assigned reading(s) in hand, and prepared to talk about them. If you don't participate in discussions of your own accord, expect to be called on.

2. Assignments: All students must complete one in-class midterm exam, one 3-5-page paper, one final exam, *and any assignments their TA*

gives in section. Expect at least 1 pop quiz. I do not accept late submissions, nor do I permit students to make up missed quizzes or exams. Guidelines for the 3-5-page paper and exams are posted at Canvas.

3. Academic dishonesty: Cheating on a quiz or test and claiming credit for work not done or done by others are not only immoral, but violations of university policy and will result in disciplinary action.
4. Students with DRC authorization should contact me **at the beginning of the term** to ensure that their needs are addressed promptly.

Grades

- Attendance in lecture & section: 10%
- Section participation & assignments: 10%
- Midterm Exam: 20%
- 3-5-page Paper: 20%
- Pop Quiz(zes): 10%
- Final Exam: 30%

Grades are determined by the following scale:

97-100: A+
94-96: A
90-93: A-
87-89: B+
84-86: B
80-83: B-
77-79: C+
74-76: C
70-73: C-
60-69: D

If you wish to contest a grade, you must provide me with a one-page justification explaining what grade you believe you deserve and why you deserve it within one week of receiving your grade. Please note that I reserve the right to raise or lower a grade issued by a TA or Course Reader.

Extra Credit

You can earn up to 5 extra credit points by attending the events highlighted in **yellow** below and submitting a one-page, single- or double-spaced, typed response to your TA by the following class meeting or a deadline determined by your TA (up to 2 points per event), and/or by participating in the [Modified Supplemental Instruction \(http://lss.ucsc.edu/\)](http://lss.ucsc.edu/) (MSI) program (up to 3 points).

Reading Schedule (subject to change)

Week 1-Introduction: The Subjects of LALS

Tu, Apr 4

Laviera: "AmeRícan"

[Laviera reads "AmeRícan"](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hi_fQi0nFNQ) [_ \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hi_fQi0nFNQ\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hi_fQi0nFNQ)



[_ \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hi_fQi0nFNQ\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hi_fQi0nFNQ)

"AmeRica" [↗ \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJ1jlyGfg5k\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJ1jlyGfg5k)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJ1jlyGfg5k>

[UC Santa Cruz Latin American & Latino Studies Department \(http://lals.ucsc.edu/about/index.html\)](http://lals.ucsc.edu/about/index.html)

Th, Apr 6

Mignolo: Excerpt from *The Idea of Latin America*

Mora: Excerpt from *Making Hispanics*

Allatson: Table of Contents (TOC), *Key Terms in Latino/a Cultural and Literary Studies*

Irwin & Szurmuk: TOC, *Dictionary of Latin American Cultural Studies*

Martínez-San Miguel, et al., eds.: TOC, *Critical Terms in Latin American and Caribbean Thought*

Burgett & Hendler, eds.: TOC, *Keywords for American Cultural Studies*

Szurmuk & Irwin: "Presentación," *Diccionario de estudios culturales latinoamericanos (optional)*

Week 2-Discourse, Representation, & Visuality

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL SECTIONS WILL BEGIN MEETING IN WEEK 2

Tu, Apr 11

Martínez-Echazábal: "Mestizaje and the Discourse of National/Cultural Identity in Latin America, 1845-1959"

Anzaldúa: Excerpt from *Borderlands/La Frontera*

[J. Paul Getty Museum: Elements of Art](http://www.getty.edu/education/teachers/building_lessons/formal_analysis.html) [↗ \(http://www.getty.edu/education/teachers/building_lessons/formal_analysis.html\)](http://www.getty.edu/education/teachers/building_lessons/formal_analysis.html)

[List of Descriptive Words to Critique Art](http://corbettharrison.com/documents/lesson-docs/Chasing-Vermeer/Art-Vocabulary.pdf) [↗ \(http://corbettharrison.com/documents/lesson-docs/Chasing-Vermeer/Art-Vocabulary.pdf\)](http://corbettharrison.com/documents/lesson-docs/Chasing-Vermeer/Art-Vocabulary.pdf)

Th, Apr 13

Hall: "The Work of Representation"

[Stuart Hall: Representation and the Media, Part I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sbYyw1mPdQ) [↗ \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sbYyw1mPdQ\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sbYyw1mPdQ)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sbYyw1mPdQ>

[Stuart Hall: Representation and the Media, Part II](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kwa1sR1hmdc&t=19s) [↗ \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kwa1sR1hmdc&t=19s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kwa1sR1hmdc&t=19s)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kwa1sR1hmdc&t=19s>

[Stuart Hall: Representation and the Media, Part III](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjVuE5Df_qA) [↗ \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjVuE5Df_qA\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjVuE5Df_qA)



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjVuE5Df_qA

[Stuart Hall: Representation and the Media, Part IV](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QC-MjlpcTnY) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QC-MjlpcTnY>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QC-MjlpcTnY>

(in-class screening)

Week 3-The Discourse of Immigration & Rights

Tu, Apr 18

3-5-PAGE KEYWORD ENTRY UPLOADED TO CANVAS AS A WORD OR PDF DOCUMENT BY 9:50AM. SEE "ASSIGNMENTS" AT CANVAS FOR THE PROMPT & GUIDELINES.

EXTRA CREDIT (2 PTS): "THE FLUIDITY OF STATUS," MUSEUM OF ART & HISTORY (705 FRONT ST., SANTA CRUZ), 6:30PM

<http://clrc.ucsc.edu/sawyer-seminar/sawyer-events/news-article-fluidity-of-status-non-citizenship-deportation-indentured-mobility.html>

Th, Apr 20

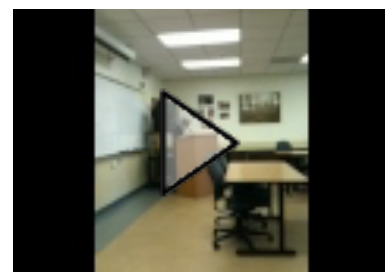
Nicholls: *The DREAMers*

Week 4-Nations & Nationalisms

Tu, Apr 25

Alurista: *El Plan Espiritual de Aztlán*

[Alurista reads El Plan Espiritual de Aztlán \(UCLA, September 23, 2010\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxmH_qqNReY) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxmH_qqNReY



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxmH_qqNReY

[Young Lords 13-Point Program and Platform \(November 1970\)](https://macaulay.cuny.edu/eportfolios/iklichfall13t/files/2013/09/Young-Lords.pdf) <https://macaulay.cuny.edu/eportfolios/iklichfall13t/files/2013/09/Young-Lords.pdf>

<http://www.elpuertoricanembassy.org/> Pietri: *El Manifiesto at El Puerto Rican Embassy* <http://www.elpuertoricanembassy.org/about-us.html>

Cuadros: "My Aztlán, White Place"

Th, Apr 27

IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAM

Week 5-Transnationalism

Tu, May 2

Rivas: *Salvadoran Imaginaries*

[Departamento 15](http://www.laprensagrafica.com/Departamento-15), [La Prensa Gráfica](http://www.laprensagrafica.com/Departamento-15) [. \(http://www.laprensagrafica.com/Departamento-15\)](http://www.laprensagrafica.com/Departamento-15)

Th, May 4

Salvadoran Imaginaries (continued)

GUEST LECTURE BY PROF. CECILIA RIVAS

Week 6-Mobility & Stasis

Tu, May 9

María en tierra de nadie (in-class screening)

Th, May 11

Martinez: *The Beast*

Week 7-Scopophilia & Surveillance

Tu, May 16

Gonzales-Day: *Lynching in the West*

[Ken Gonzales-Day: Lynching Sites Tour](http://kengonzalesday.com/los-angeles-lynching-sites-walking-tour/) [. \(http://kengonzalesday.com/los-angeles-lynching-sites-walking-tour/\)](http://kengonzalesday.com/los-angeles-lynching-sites-walking-tour/)

Th, May 18

Lynching in the West (continued)

[Ken Gonzales-Day: Erased Lynchings](http://kengonzalesday.com/erased-lynchings/) [. \(http://kengonzalesday.com/erased-lynchings/\)](http://kengonzalesday.com/erased-lynchings/)

[. \(http://kengonzalesday.com/erased-lynchings/\)](http://kengonzalesday.com/erased-lynchings/) [Ken Gonzales-Day: Hang Trees](http://kengonzalesday.com/hang-trees/) [. \(http://kengonzalesday.com/hang-trees/\)](http://kengonzalesday.com/hang-trees/)

Week 8-Subculture, Spectacle, & Style

Tu, May 23

Zoot Suit (in-class screening)

Valdez: *Zoot Suit*

Th, May 25

Zoot Suit (continued)

Montoya: "El Louie"

[José Montoya reads "El Louie" \(Occidental College, c.2011\)](https://vimeo.com/20187019) [. \(https://vimeo.com/20187019\)](https://vimeo.com/20187019)

EXTRA CREDIT: ZOOT SUIT, MAY 26-JUNE 4, UCSC MAINSTAGE [\(http://theater.ucsc.edu/season/2016/zoot-suit\)](http://theater.ucsc.edu/season/2016/zoot-suit)

Week 9-Chicanafuturism

Tu, May 30

Sleep Dealer (in-class screening)

Th, June 1

Sleep Dealer (continued)

[Interview with Alex Rivera](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rb3lykaKRi4) [. \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rb3lykaKRi4\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rb3lykaKRi4)



[\(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rb3lykaKRi4\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rb3lykaKRi4)

Ramírez: “*Deus ex machina*”

Week 10-Iconicity, Iconoclasm, & *lo rasquache*

Tu, June 6







Weschler: *Domestic Scenes*

Th, June 8

Final exam review (9:50-10:30am)

IN-CLASS FINAL EXAM TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 4:00-7:00PM.

Course Summary:

Date	Details
Tue Apr 18, 2017	 Keyword Entry (https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/352/assignments/9488) due by 9:50am
Thu Apr 27, 2017	 Midterm Exam (https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/352/assignments/9489) due by 11:25am
Tue Jun 13, 2017	 Final Exam (https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/352/assignments/9487) due by 7pm
	 Attendance & Participation in Section & Lecture (https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/352/assignments/9486)
	 Quiz (https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/352/assignments/9490)
	 Section Participation & Assignments (https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/352/assignments/9491)