

Ethnic Studies 23: Introduction to Chicanx and Latinx Studies

Section 2493 - Course Syllabus

Course Description:

In this Ethnic Studies course, students will study the Chicanx and Latinx communities and cultures in U.S. society from Indigenous civilizations to the present. Chicanx and Latinx contributions to U.S. society are examined by using an ethnic studies lens and interdisciplinary approach, including social and behavioral sciences, humanities, literature, art, and music.

Student Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Analyze and articulate theoretical concepts of racism, eurocentrism, ethnicity, and self-identity.
2. Describe historical events within their cultural expressions, intellectual traditions, and contributions of Chicanx and Latinx people into U.S. society.
3. Understand the self-determination and the struggle for equality of Chicanas and Latinas within their communities and U.S. society at large.



Instructor: Griselda Madrigal Lara,
M.A.
Email: gmadrigallara@santarosa.edu
Office Hours: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM in
person or virtual by appointment

In-person class meetings
Fridays, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
PC 693 Call Building
SRJC: Petaluma Campus

Course Web Site

Students will use the Canvas course web site for assignment instructions, submitting assignments, viewing classmate's work, sharing resources, and viewing grades.

Announcements

The instructor may use Canvas Announcements for urgent and important messages, so it's strongly suggested that you set your Canvas notification preferences for Announcement to "Notify me right away." See these Canvas help resources:

- [Notification Preferences \(Video\)](#)
- [How do I add contact methods to receive Canvas notifications as a student?](#)
- [How do I set my Canvas notification preferences as a student?](#)

Textbooks

- *Finding Latinx: In Search of the Voices Redefining Latino Identity* by Paola Ramos [ISBN-13:978-1984899095]
 - (E-Book available at SRJC Library)
- Other readings will be provided by instructor through Canvas

Important Dates for this class:

Day Class Begins	Friday, August 22, 2025
Day Class Ends	Friday, December 12, 2025
Day/Time of Final Exam	Friday, December 19, 2025 7:00 AM - 9:45 AM
Last Day to Add	Sunday, August 24, 2025
Last Day to Add with instructor's approval	Sunday, September 7, 2025
Last Day to Drop and be eligible for enrollment/course fee refund	Sunday, August 31, 2025
Last Day to Drop without a 'W' symbol	Sunday, September 7, 2025
Last Day to Drop with a 'W' symbol	Sunday, November 16, 2025
Last Day to Opt for Pass/No Pass	Friday, December 12, 2025
First Census Date	Monday, September 8, 2025
Mid-Term Dates	10/20/2025 - 11/16/2025

Dropping the Class

If you decide to discontinue this course, it is your responsibility to officially drop it to avoid getting no refund (after 10% of course length), a W symbol (after 20%), or a grade (after 60%). Also, for several consecutive, unexplained absences, the instructor may drop a student.

Pass-NoPass (P/NP)

You may take this class P/NP. You must decide before the deadline, and add the option online with TLC or file the P/NP form with Admissions and Records. With a grade of C or better, you will get P.

You must file for the P/NP option by Friday, December 12, 2025. Once you decide to go for P/NP, you cannot change back to a letter grade. If you are taking this course as part of a certificate program, you can probably still take the class P/NP. Check with a counselor to be sure.

Instructor Announcements and Q&A Forum

The instructor will post announcements on the “Instructor Announcements” page in Canvas throughout the semester. Canvas notifies students according to their preferred Notification Preferences as soon as the instructor creates an Announcement. A “Q&A Forum” is also on Canvas to ask for assistance of your classmates or of instructor.

Attendance

Students who fail to attend the first class (face-to-face courses) or do not log-in to an online class after the second week will be dropped from the class. It is strongly advised that if you need to miss more than one class/homework deadline in a row that you contact me to avoid being dropped from the class.

Late Policy

All assignments are due at midnight PST on the due date. A late submission will receive a 20% penalty. Submissions more than one week late are not accepted without prior arrangement. Late work will not be graded unless student sends instructor an email.

Exams

There will be midterm and final exams. The material used in exams comes from the textbook, class lectures and supplemental materials. If any exam is missed, a zero will be recorded as the score. It is your responsibility to turn in the exams by the due date.

Grading Policy

Visit the “Grades” in Canvas to keep track of your grades. I grade once a week and post grades and comments on the online Canvas gradebook.

Grades will be assigned as follows:

A	90%	90 points or more
B	80%	80 to 89 points
C	70%	70 to 79 points
D	60%	60 to 69 points

If taking Pass/No Pass you need at least 70% of the total class points and complete the midterm exam and the final exam to pass the class.

1. Writing: 60%

- Reflections (3 total, 500 words each): Each reflection analyzes a representative work. (20 points each)
 - a. Reflection #1: *"I Am Joaquín"* by Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales (poem)
 - b. Reflection #2: *Finding Latinx* (book)
 - c. Reflection #3: *Partying as Political* (article)

2. Exams/Projects: 20%

- **Midterm: Creative Project (5 points)**
 1. Create a project on a topic of your choice related to Chicanx and Latinx Studies. This project will be included in the collaborative e-magazine.
 2. Examples: a poem about migration, an art piece about Latinx life in the U.S., or a zine or collage representing a topic we've studied.
 3. Description: Include a 250-word description explaining what the piece represents and how it connects to Chicanx and Latinx Studies.
- **Final: Collaborative e-magazine (15 points total)**
 1. Creative Project: Revise your midterm project or create a new one on a different topic.
 2. Description: Up to 500 words, providing deeper analysis of the project's meaning and significance.
 3. Biography: 3-4 sentences. Share only what you're comfortable with.
 4. Submission to Canva e-Magazine: Add your materials to the collaborative Canva e-magazine. Only edit your own pages.
 5. Presentation of your topic with questions:
 - **What inspired your creative project?**
 - Why did you choose this topic, form (poem, art piece, collage, zine, etc.), or theme?

- **How does your project connect to Chicanx and Latinx Studies?**
 - Which concepts, histories, or themes from class does your piece engage with?
 - How does it respond to or build upon readings, discussions, or cultural works we studied?
- **What does your project communicate?**
 - What message, story, or perspective do you want the audience to take away?
 - How does your project reflect personal, community, or cultural experiences?
- **What process did you follow to create it?**
 - What choices did you make (materials, form, style, symbolism)?
 - Did your idea change as you worked on it?
- **What did you learn about yourself and/or the field through this project?**
 - How did this process deepen your understanding of Chicanx and Latinx communities, creativity, or identity?

3. Creative Work: 20%

- Creative reflection pages
- Zines
- Other in-class creative projects

4. Optional Extra Credit (1 point/ activity- 5 points max)

- Participate in cultural activities such as museum visits, concerts, poetry readings, lectures, or field trips.
- If you are interested, let me know so I can offer the opportunity to the entire class.

Standards of Conduct

Students who register in SRJC classes are required to abide by the SRJC Student Conduct Standards. Violation of the Standards is basis for referral to the Vice President of Student Services or dismissal from class or from the College. See the [Student Code of Conduct page](#).

Collaborating on or copying of tests or homework in whole or in part will be considered an act of academic dishonesty and result in a grade of 0 for that test or assignment. I encourage students to share information and ideas, but not their work. See these links on Plagiarism:

[SRJC Writing Center Lessons on avoiding plagiarism](#)
[SRJC's policy on Academic Integrity](#)

Special Needs

Students with disabilities who believe they need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Disability Resources (527-4278), as soon as possible to better ensure such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Schedule

If any changes are made to the class schedule during the semester, I will update this Schedule and post an Instructor Announcement on Canvas.

Week	Dates	Topic	Readings/ Media due
Week 1	August 22	What is Chicanx & Latinx Studies? Introductions, review syllabus & community agreements	-Review syllabus
Week 2	August 29	U.S. Occupation of the Southwest	-Harvest of Empire (On Canvas)
Week 3	September 5	Migration, Belonging, & Diaspora	-Finding Latinx: Intro & Chapter 1
Week 4	September 12	Labor, Farmworkers & Racial Formation	-Finding Latinx: Chapter 4 & 5 -Review this website: https://braceroarchive.org/about
Week 5	September 19	Chicano Movement	-“I Am Joaquín” by Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales (On Canvas) -Reminder: Reflection due next week!
Week 6	September 26	No Classes/District Closes: Native American Day	No reading due -Reflection #1 due by midnight
Week 7	October 3	Establishment & Advocacy for Ethnic Studies	*Midterm Proposal Due
Week 8	October 10	Midterm: Creative Workshop/ Class Check	-The Art of Protest (On Canvas)

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Week 9	October 17	Intersectionality	-Midterm Due by midnight Finding Latinx: Chapter 7
Week 10	October 24	Afro-Latinidad and Anti-Blackness	-Finding Latinx: Chapters 8 & 9 -Reminder: Reflection due next week!
Week 11	October 31	Gender, sexuality, and Chicana Feminisms	-Borderlands/La Frontera: Chapter 4 (On Canvas) -Reflection #2 due by midnight
Week 12	November 7	Immigration and Undocumented Lives	<i>The Undocumented Americans</i> , Intro + Ch. 1 (On Canvas)
Week 13	November 14	DREAMers, DACA, & Undocumented Resistance	-Partying as Political: Undocumented Activism and Nightlife Scene Productions as Alternative Forms of Organizing and Belonging (On Canvas) -Reminder: Reflection due next week!
Week 14	November 21	Contemporary Latinx Artistic & Cultural Expression	-A Love Letter to Puerto Rico: Reggaetón as a Platform for Anti-Colonial Protest and Bad Bunny's Advocacy for Indigenous Sovereignty (On Canvas) -Reflection #3 due by midnight
Week 15	November 28	No Classes/District Closes: Fall Break	No reading due
Week 16	December 5	Latinx Media Pop Culture Critique & Final Creative Journal Workshop	-Bring a piece of media to share and discuss in class (ex: tiktok, poem, film, music video, etc)
Week 17	December 12	Creative Finals Presentations Showcase & Celebration	-Collaborative e-magazine due by midnight -Final Presentations Due

Week 17.5	December 19	Official Final Exam Day- No class Meeting
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Community Agreements:

1. Use “I” statements when speaking about feelings, thoughts, reactions, and experiences
2. Keep an open mind
3. Participation is encouraged
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.