Syllabus Fall 2008
Race, Gender, & Ethnicity in Contemporary U.S. Latina/o Literature
AML 4685  SEC 5824
Tues 3:00-4:55; Thurs 4:05-4:55
TUR 2318
Professor: Tace Hedrick
Office: 302 Ustler Hall
Office Hours: 1:00-2:00 Tues; 2:00-3:00 Thurs

NOTE: From time to time I may add other readings (optional or not) to this syllabus. In addition, if required the reading schedule may be changed.

Required Texts:
Cuba-Dominican Republic-United States
Monkey Hunting Cristina Garcia
Dirty Blonde and Half Cuban Lisa Wixon
The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao Junot Diaz

Mexico-United States
The Devil’s Highway 2005 Alberto Urrea
The Burning Plain Michael Nava
Zigzagger Manuel Muñoz

Latin@s in the United States (Girls just wanna have fun)
Dirty Girls Social Club Alisa Rodriguez
Sex and the South Beach Chicas Caridad Pineiro
Happy Hour at Casa Dracula Marta Acosta
Honey Blonde Chicas Michelle Serros

Course Description:
In this course, we will be reading across genres as well as across various groups of Hispanophone heritage living in the United States. We will be looking at their histories as well as at how, in the past 10 years or so, authors from these groups have negotiated their sexual, class, and racial identities; and at how history, context, genre and style shape the choices that authors make in telling their stories.
**Late Policy/Absences:** For every 3 times that you are late 10 minutes or more to class, I will deduct two points from your total score at the end of the semester. I allow three unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence after the first three will result in the loss of two points from your total end-of-semester score.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

**Reading Quizzes:** I will be giving quick reading quizzes. More than one wrong answer (out of five) will take .25 from your final score.

**3 Papers:** These papers will be short (minimum five pages) and focused on particular questions which I will provide.

**Grading:** Grading is done on a point scale. Each assignment will be worth a possible 11 points (an A). Always make sure that you check the grading scale below; a 7 or 8, for example, does NOT mean a failing grade.

**Grading:**

- **A**= excellent; unusually outstanding; good writing (one or less writing errors per page) and original thinking: that is, thinking critically beyond what you have read and discussed in class. You use reading and class discussion, as well as other sources if needed, to back up your ideas so that you are not just giving an opinion but an informed argument. You think of yourself as a writer interested in her ideas and interested in sharing them.
- **B**= above average; only a few (on average, two or so per page) writing errors, a standard (not original) argument for the subject, though you should work harder on contributing your own ideas about the subject.
- **C**= average based on general class performance; several writing errors (on average, 3-4 per page); you understand the subject but you tend to repeat and/or merely summarize what has already been said in the readings or in class discussion.
- **D**= below average; you don’t understand the subject and/or you have enough writing errors that your argument cannot be followed.
- **F**= incomplete or failing to meet the requirements of the assignment.

**Grading: (6-point spread within every grade)**

- 11 = A 33-28
- 9  = B+ 27-22
- 7  = B 21-16
- 5  = C+ 15-10
- 3  = C 9-4
- 1  = D 3
- 0  = F 0

3 5-page papers: 33 points @ 11 points each
August
Week 1
T  26  Class Introduction, Policies, etc.
Th 28  Discussion: Chicana/o, U.S. Latina/o: What’s in a Name?

September
Week 2
T  2  Online: Cynthia Pope, “The Political Economy of Desire: Geographies of Female Sex Work in Havana, Cuba,” Journal of International Women's Studies 6, no. 2 (June 2005).
http://www.bridgew.edu/SoAS/jiws/Jun05/Pope.pdf
Lisa Wixon, “Cuba for Dummies” WashingtonPost.com
Sunday, August 6, 2006; Page B07
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/08/04/AR2006080401373.html
Optional reading: “Housing Policy in Castro’s Cuba”
http://74.125.45.104/search?q=cache:r1cLLPNyn5IJ:www.jchs.harvard.edu/education/outstanding_student_papers/kapur_smith_cuba_02.pdf+Cuban+policies+on+housing+and+education&hl=en&ct=cln&cd=2&gl=us
“Health and Education: Cuba vs. the United States”
“Health Care in Cuba more Complicated than on Sicko”
http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N15193062.htm

Th  4  Wixon Dirty Blonde and Half Cuban pp 3-124
Optional reading: Interview with Wixon on her webpage:
http://www.lisawixon.com/home1.html

Week 3
T  9  Wixon Dirty Blonde and Half Cuban pp 125-end
Course Reserve: from Harvest of Empire, “Cubans: Special Refugees”
Th 11 Murphy, Jessica “The Nature of Inheritance”
“Chinatowns in Latin America” Wikipedia.org

Week 4
T 16  Garcia, Monkey Hunting
Th 18  Garcia, Monkey Hunting

Week 5
T 23  Course Reserve: Harvest of Empire, “Dominicans”
Diaz, The Brief and Wondrous Life
Th 25 Diaz, The Brief and Wondrous Life

Week 6
T 30  Urrea, The Devil’s Highway
Course Reserves: from Translation Nation “Where Green Chiles Roam” and “Brother Citizen, Brother Alien”

October
Th  2  Urrea, The Devil’s Highway

Paper #1 DUE

Week 7
T  7  Course Reserves: Gonzalez Harvest of Empire “Mexicans: Pioneers of a Different Type”
Course Reserves: Anaya, The Anaya Reader “Aztlan”

Week 8
T 14  Nava, The Burning Plain
Th 16  Manuel Muñoz “Bio” and “Q&A” http://www.manuel-munoz.com/bio.html
University of Texas at Austin “The Life and Legacy of César Chávez”
http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/cesarchavez/legacy.php

Week 9
T 21  Manuel Muñoz, Zigzaggar
Th 23  Paper #2 Topics

Week 10
T 28  Course Reserves: “Shopping for Men”; From Reading the Romance: "Language and Narrative Discourse: The Ideology of Female Identity"
Th 30  Alisa Rodriguez, Dirty Girls Social Club
Paper #2 DUE

November
Week 11
T  4  Alisa Rodriguez, Dirty Girls Social Club
Th  6  TBA

Week 12
T 11  Course Reserves: from Chick Lit: The New Woman’s Fiction “Tradition and Displacement in the New Novel of Manners”
Acosta, Happy Hour at Casa Dracula
Th 13  Happy Hour

Week 13
T  18  Pineiro, *Sex and the South Beach Chicas*
Th 20  Sex and Serros, *Honey Blonde Chicas*

**Paper #3 Topics**

**Week 14**
T  25  Discussion
Th 27  Thanksgiving

December

**Week 15**
T  2   TBA
Th  4  Paper #3 DUE
     Th  4  Wrap-up Discussion

**Week 16**
T  9   Last Day of Class
Policies and rules

Late or Make-Up Assignments
You may take an exam early or receive an extension on an exam or essay assignment only in extraordinary circumstances and with prior approval from the instructor. If an extension is not granted, the assignment will be marked down 1/2 grade (e.g., from B+ to B) for each day late.

Honor Code
On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The university specifically prohibits cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation, bribery, conspiracy, and fabrication. For more information about the definition of these terms and other aspects of the Honesty Guidelines, see http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~itl/honor.html. Any student(s) demonstrated to have cheated, plagiarized, or otherwise violated the Honor Code in any assignment for this course will fail the course. In addition, violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines shall result in judicial action and the sanctions listed in paragraph XI of the Student Conduct Code.

Attendance and Participation
Class attendance is required. Poor attendance will harm your course grade. Students should arrive on time and prepared to discuss the day’s readings.

Common Courtesy
Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off during class. Students who receive or make calls during class will be asked to leave. No computers in the classroom unless you have a medical reason for needing one (see below, Accommodation for Disabilities). The instructor also reserves the right to ask any student engaging in disruptive behavior (e.g., whispering, reading a newspaper) to leave the class.

Conferences
Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor during office hours or by appointment.

Accommodation for Disabilities
Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Counseling Resources
Resources available on-campus for students include the following:
1. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling;
2. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling;
3. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling;
4. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.

Non-required Reading:

For Dirty Blonde and Half Cuban/ Monkey Hunting
“Housing Policy in Castro’s Cuba”
http://74.125.45.104/search?q=cache:r1cLLPNyn5IJ:www.jchs.harvard.edu/education/ou
standing_student_papers/kapur_smith_cuba_02.pdf+Cuban+polices+on+housing+and+e
ducation&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=2&gl=us

“Health and Education: Cuba vs. the United States”

“Health Care in Cuba more Complicated than on Sicko”
http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N15193062.htm

“Chinatowns in Latin America” Wikipedia.org