C-ID Descriptor
Introduction to Chicana/o Studies

Descriptor Details

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General Description

This introductory-level course is designed to acquaint students with the most important social, political, economic, and historical aspects of the Chicana/o experience in the United States, utilizing the models and paradigms developed within Chicano studies viewed as an interdisciplinary area of study. Multidisciplinary examination of representation, ideologies, and material conditions of Chicanas/Chicanos, including colonialism, race, labor, immigration, poverty, assimilation, gender, queer, and patriarchy. Course provides a basis for better understanding of the socio-economic, cultural, and political conditions among Chicanas/os / Latinas/os and other minority groups through historical consideration of the creation and development of Chicana/o Studies, and Ethnic Studies programs in the United States. Emphasis on critical reading and writing skills.

Prerequisites

None

Corequisites

None

Advisories

None

Content

- Review of Chicana/o Studies terminology, research, history, and literature. Apply theory and knowledge produced by Native American, African American, Asian American, and/or Latina and Latino American communities to describe the critical events, histories, cultures, intellectual traditions, contributions, lived-experiences and social struggles of those groups with a particular emphasis on agency and group-affirmation.
- A review of early works and scholarship and their significance to the origins of Chicana/o Studies as a discipline (i.e., McWilliams, Acuna, Barrera). Critically analyze the intersection of race and racism as they relate to class, gender, sexuality, religion, spirituality, national origin, immigration status, ability, tribal citizenship, sovereignty, language, and/or age in Latina and Latino American communities.
- Analysis of the foundation of Chicana/o Studies. A review of the social, political context in which Chicana/o Studies emerged, as well as a study of the development of Chicana/o art, film, literature and various community organizations (i.e. UMAS, Teatro Campesino, Denver Youth Conference), around Chicana/o struggles for social justice, liberation, and decolonization.
- Instituting Chicana/o Studies: A review of the historical documents outlining the discipline of Chicana/o Studies.
- Critique of the relationship between academia and activism as it relates to the study of Chicanas/os and the historical struggle for social equality.
- Review of contemporary scholarship and discourse relevant to the study of Chicana/o Studies as an interdisciplinary field (e.g., Critical Race Theory, Feminist Theory, Cultural Studies, Ethnic Studies, and Resistance Theory.) Analyze and articulate concepts such as race and racism, racialization, ethnicity, equity, ethno-centrism, eurocentrism, white supremacy, self-determination, liberation, decolonization, sovereignty, imperialism, settler colonialism, and anti-racism as analyzed in any one or more of the following: Native American Studies, African American Studies, Asian American Studies, and Latina and Latino American Studies.
- A review of the development of Chicana feminist discourse and its contribution to the evolution of Chicana/o Studies.
- Determining the future of Chicana/o Studies in relation to issues facing Chicanas/os in contemporary American society. Review of increasing Chicano and Latino diversity in the context of paradigm shifts, changing immigration patterns and policies, and the need to rearticulate the field of Chicana/o Studies through comparative analysis of inter- and intra-group dynamics.

Lab Activities

The course may include a lab component.

Objectives

1 - Define basic Chicana/o Studies concepts and themes within the context of Ethnic Studies, necessary to the study of the discipline. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of histories of colonization, segregation, slavery, genocide, racialization, criminalization, persecution, and other forms of systematic dehumanization as experienced by Chicanas/os and Analyze and articulate concepts such as race and racism, racialization, ethnicity, equity, ethno-centrism, eurocentrism, white supremacy, self-determination, liberation, decolonization, sovereignty, imperialism, settler colonialism, and anti-racism as analyzed in any one or more of the following: Latina and Latino American Studies.

2 - Recognize the contributions of scholarship of to the formation of Chicana/o Studies and its contribution to Ethnic Studies Critically analyze the intersection of race and racism as they relate to class, gender, sexuality, religion, spirituality, national origin, immigration status, ability, tribal citizenship, sovereignty, language, and/or age in Latina and Latino American communities.

3 - Identify and discuss past and present social and political movements (i.e., education, labor, land) and the development of Chicana/o Studies scholarship, art and organization. Critically analyze issues of space and place fundamental to the foundation of Chicana/o Studies, including indigeneity, migration, diaspora, displacement, and nation, as endured by Chicanas/os.

4 - Critically analyze important works (i.e., El Plan de Santa Barbara and El Plan de Aztlan) and their significance to the implementation of Chicana/o Studies in secondary and higher education and its impact on theories in Chicana/o Studies and Ethnic Studies. Apply theory and knowledge produced by Latina and Latino American communities to describe the critical events, histories, cultures, intellectual traditions, contributions, lived-experience sand social struggles of those groups with a particular emphasis on agency and group-affirmation.

5 - Determine the relationship between scholarship and activism. Recognize education in general, and Chicana/o Studies in particular, as a form of agency and resistance, particularly in the context of majority-minority relations and asymmetrical power relations, and the formation of group self-identity and Apply theory and knowledge produced by Latina and Latino American communities to describe the critical events, histories, cultures, intellectual traditions, contributions, lived-experiences and social struggles of those groups with a particular emphasis on agency and group-affirmation.

6 - Compare and contrast Chicana/o Studies theory and discourse with similar fields of study (Ethnic Studies), including theories of racism and racialization as linked to social structures and institutional processes, and their intersections and constitutive relations with class, political economy, gender and sexuality, as they affect Chicanas/os.

7 - Critically analyze the intersection of race and racism as they relate to class, gender, sexuality, religion, spirituality, national origin, immigration status, ability, tribal citizenship, sovereignty, language, language, (Chicana/o) Latina and Latino American communities in order to Identify and discuss the works of leading Chicana feminist scholars and their significance to the study of Chicanas/os.

8 - Analyze the significance and purpose of Chicana/o Studies in an increasingly global, multicultural society through critiques of globalized capitalism, neoliberal free-market ideology, and global labor and social movements responding to effects of neo-colonialism and global racism such as educational inequities, labor exploitation, criminalization/incarceration.

Evaluation Methods

Multiple measures may include, but are not limited to:

1. In-class discussions and exercises
2. Individual/group writing projects
3. Written or oral quizzes
4. Field assignments
5. Journal reviews
6. Other writing assignments
7. Exams

Textbooks

- This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color Moraga, Cherrie and Anzaldua, Gloria, Eds. *2018*
- Critical Race Theory: An Introduction, Delagado Richard and Stefancic, Jean, Eds. 2017
- Critical Race Feminism, Second Edition: A Reader, Wing, Adrien Katherine, Ed. 2003
- The Chicano Studies Reader: An Anthology of Aztlán, 1970-2015 Noriega, C 2016
- Critical Ethnic Studies: A Reader Elia, Nada, Et.Al. 2016
- Autobiography without Apology, The Personal Essay in Chicanx and Latinx Studies Aztlán Anthology University of Washington Press 2020
- New Directions in Chicanx and Latinx Studies by Amber Rose González, Mario Alberto Viveros Espinoza-Kulick, Melissa Moreno, Lucha Arévalo, Eddy Francisco Alvarez Jr. (ASCCC Open Educational Resources Initiative (OERI)), 2023