

## Syllabus - Summer 2026

\*Syllabus information may be subject to change. The most up-to-date syllabus is located on HuskyCT.

### Course and Instructor Information

**Course Title:** Latino Literature, Culture, and Society

**Credits:** 3

**Format:** Online

**Professor:** Katerina Gonzalez Seligmann

**Professor's email:** [kgonzalez.seligmann@uconn.edu](mailto:kgonzalez.seligmann@uconn.edu)

My preferred method of contact: please send messages via email. You can generally expect a 24-hour response time Monday-Friday and a 48-hour response time on weekends from me.

**Office Hours:** I am available to meet virtually by appointment; just email me to set it up.

### Course Materials

**Required Book:** Gonzalez, Juan. *Harvest of Empire* (Penguin 2011, c. 2000).

This book is available for order online. There is also a digital edition available on the UCONN library website.

**Readings:** All other required readings will be available on pdf through HuskyCT

**Films:** Whenever possible, required films for this course will be made available to screen on HuskyCT. Other films will be available on streaming platforms online, and links will be provided on HuskyCT.

**Audio Recordings:** Required course lectures will be provided in audio format.

### Course Description

This course focuses on critical approaches to Latinos/as and cultural representation, production, and agency, as impacted by globalization and local dynamics. We will engage the value and function of race, gender and sexuality in popular culture, literature, film, music, digital culture, visual arts, and urban culture. This course is taught in English. Knowledge of Spanish is not required.

### Course Objectives

Students who successfully complete course requirements will be able to:

- Locate Latino/e experiences as an integral part of US history, society, and culture.
- Discuss the social, cultural, and political significance of major events in Latinx history
- Identify specific socio-cultural issues of distinct Latino/e groups (i.e., Chicanx/Mexican-Americans, Nuyoricans/Boricuas/Puerto Ricans, Cuban-Americans, Dominicans, Salvadorans...)
- Explain the intersections between racial ideologies in Latin America and those of the United States that shape U.S. Latino/e experience.
- Examine how race, class, gender, sexuality, national origin, and other themes are expressed through literature, film, and other cultural products.

## Course Outline

Modules (Mod)	Dates
Mod 1: U.S. Empire in Latin America and Migrations from Latin America	June 1-2
Mod 2: The Imaginary of Latinidad	June 3-4
Mod 3: Puerto Ricans: Citizens Yet Foreigners	June 5
Mod 4: Nuyorican Poetry Movement	June 6-7
Mod 5: Writing Assignment 1	June 8-9
Mod 6: Mexican North/U.S. Southwest	June 10
Mod 7: The Chicano/x Cultural Movement	June 11-12
Mod 8: The Borderlands	June 13-14
Mod 9: U.S. Intervention in Dominican Republic	June 15
Mod 10: Reclaiming Afro-Latinidad	June 16-17
Mod 11: Writing Assignment 2	June 18-20
Mod 12: Cubans: Special Refugees	June 21
Mod 13: Cuban-American Life on the Hyphen	June 22-23
Mod 14: Central American Interventions	June 24
Mod 15: Representing Migration	June 25-26
Mod 16: NAFTA to Border Wall	June 27
Mod 17: Contemporary Voices	June 28-30
Mod 18: Final Exam	July 1-2

## Course Requirements and Grading

<p><b>Perusall Annotations</b></p>	<p><b>15%</b></p>	<p>Students will complete 4 instructor-prompted <b>discussion post assignments</b>. You will respond to prompts in a discussion post of <b>1-2 paragraphs (150-200 words) including one required quote from course readings</b> (MLA format). While it will not be required to use other sources in discussion posts, if you do, you will be required to cite these sources. You will also <b>respond to 2 discussion posts by other students (approx. 50 words)</b>. Responses can include questions, appreciative statements, and elaborations of other student's ideas. No critiques please.</p>
<p><b>Weekly KLM posts</b></p>	<p><b>10%</b></p>	<p>At the end of each week, you will be expected to <b>post to the weekly KLM discussion board</b>. KLM stands for Know, Learning, &amp; More. Each week <b>your post should include 3 items</b>: 1 fact or idea from the course you feel confident that you <b>know</b>; 1 fact or idea you feel like you are <b>learning</b> about; and 1 question about something you would like to know <b>more</b> about.</p>
<p><b>Quizzes</b></p>	<p><b>25%</b></p>	<p><b>Each learning module will include one quiz (12 will count out of 15--lowest grades will be dropped or you can skip up to 3)</b>. The questions will be based on assigned materials for that module and are intended to guide your learning for each module.</p>
<p><b>Writing assignments</b></p>	<p><b>30%</b></p>	<p>Students will <b>complete two short writing assignments</b> (300-800 words) that respond to course materials and lectures. The prompts for these assignments will be based on the course objectives. You will be graded based on how you respond to assigned reading, films, and course lectures for your answers.</p>
<p><b>Exam</b></p>	<p><b>20%</b></p>	<p>Students will <b>complete one exam</b> at the end of the course that will require responding directly to assigned texts, films, and lectures. The exam will be cumulative and based on the course objectives. You will be graded based on how you respond to assigned reading and course lectures for your answers.</p>

**\*Writing assignments and exam will be completed using Respondus Lockdown Browser**

# Course Policies and Expectations

**Inclusive Rigor:** The professor and students in this course will be held to the highest standard of both inclusivity and rigor. The course will strive to create space for everyone to bring their full selves and experience to the learning process so that the social space we construct together online may permit us to practice the kinds of dialogue and understanding we wish to see in the world around us. We will regularly discuss issues concerning interpersonal, political, and social mechanisms of power, including the histories of identity-based violence that undergird the presents and places we inhabit. Students are challenged to discuss issues of violence of colonial, racial, gendered, classed, sexual natures that begin with accounting for the humanity of those who survive such violence and proceed as if they were present in the discussion, understanding that in some cases, survivors and descendants of survivors of such violence are indeed present in classes like this one. The professor will lead discussions about these issues in ways oriented toward dismantling hierarchies and undoing identity-based violence.

**A Question's Worth a Thousand Claims:** This course will be primarily inquiry-based, and you will be encouraged regularly to pose questions and to reformulate claims into questions. Please share your questions on the discussion posts; use questions productively in your writing assignments, and please ask questions over email or in office hours about anything you would like to know related to the course.

**Due Dates and Grace Period:** Due dates for all assignments are noted in the course schedule, and if they change, you will be given ample notice. Each assignment will have a 2-day grace period (no points deducted for two days after deadline). If the grace period is not sufficient for completing your assignment, complete your work as soon as possible, and let the professor know when you have completed your work. Depending on the circumstances, you may face point deductions. **This course a judgment-free zone, however, so there is no need to divulge personal information, to apologize, or to express guilt in any form when communicating with your professor.**

**Feedback and Grades:** Your professor will make every effort to provide feedback and grades in a timely manner within 7 days of the deadline. To keep track of your performance in the course, refer to My Grades in HuskyCT. If you seek additional feedback or clarification, please email the professor to schedule a virtual meeting.

**Weekly Time Commitment:** You should expect to dedicate 25.2 hours a week to this course. This expectation is based on the various course activities, assignments, and assessments and the University of Connecticut's policy regarding credit hours. More information related to hours per week per credit can be accessed at the [Online Student website](#).

**Student Authentication and Verification:** The University of Connecticut is required to verify the identity of students who participate in online courses and to establish that students who register in an online course are the same students who participate in and complete the course activities and assessments and receive academic credit. Verification and authentication of student identity in this course will include: Secure access to the learning management system using your unique UConn NetID and password.

**Copyright:** All materials for this course are copyright protected and may not be distributed in any form.

## University Policies

### Student Conduct and Protocols:

As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are held to certain standards and academic policies. In addition, there are numerous resources available to help you succeed in your academic work. Review these: important [standards, policies and resources](#), which include:

- The Student Code
  - Academic Integrity
  - Resources on Avoiding Cheating and Plagiarism
- Copyrighted Materials
- Netiquette and Communication
- Adding or Dropping a Course
- Academic Calendar
- Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Inappropriate Romantic Relationships
- Sexual Assault Reporting Policy

### Academic Integrity Policy:

Please refer to the following website:

[http://www.community.uconn.edu/academic\\_integrity.html](http://www.community.uconn.edu/academic_integrity.html)

**Equal Access:** Below is a partial excerpt of the college's policy on equal access for students:

*The University of Connecticut is committed to protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities and assuring that the learning environment is accessible. Students who require accommodations should contact the Center for Students with Disabilities, Wilbur Cross Building Room 204, (860) 486-2020 or <http://csd.uconn.edu/>.*

**Additional Support Services:** You are encouraged to view, as resources, the many available student support services including the Dean of Students' Office, the Institute for Student Success, the Writing Center, and the Office for Diversity and Inclusion: <https://diversity.uconn.edu/resources/>