



Study abroad.

SYLLABUS

THE RHETORIC OF MIGRATION IN MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES

Instructor: Dr. Emily Plec

Contact Hrs: 40

Language of Instruction: English

MORELIA, MEXICO

Course Description

This course involves examination of communication about the complex and important dynamics of migration across national borders. Students will apply critical and rhetorical theories and methodologies to public and private discourse about Mexican migration, including communication about forced migration, migrant narratives, and the Mexico – U.S. border as well as the rhetoric of immigration in the United States. Students will analyze the discursive frameworks used by organizations and individuals who engage migration and immigration issues and conduct an examination of local, regional, and national attitudes and ideas about the causes, conditions, and consequences of migration across national borders.

Course Objectives

By the conclusion of this course, students will strengthen their abilities to

- critically examine discourse about pressing issues
- understand migration as a cultural, social, economic and political issue
- conduct research and access local resources regarding migration within and from Mexico and immigration to the U.S.
- engage in meaningful and constructive dialogue about the issue of migration
- identify and address common discursive patterns that shape migration rhetoric

Instructional methodology

Class meetings will consist of a combination of lecture, discussion, and analysis activities.

Several films, excursions, and guest speakers will be included in the class schedule.

Assignments include reading forms (see last page for format) summarizing assigned readings from the course packet, formal analytical essays, and a final individual or group paper and presentation. Late assignments will be docked one letter grade per class period past due. Late presentations and final papers will not be accepted.

Method of Evaluation (Grading)

Reading Forms	=	20%
Analytical Essays	=	40%
Final Paper	=	30%
Final Presentation	=	10%

Course Readings

- Course readings will be selected from the following works.
- 1. Calavita, K. (1992). *Inside the state: The Bracero Program, immigration and the I.N.S.* New York: Routledge.
- 2. Calafell, B. M. & Delgado, F. (2004). Reading Latino/a images: Interrogating Americanos. *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, 21, 1-21.
- 3. Chavez, Leo R. 1992. *Shadowed Lives: Undocumented Immigrants in American Society.* Fort Worth, Texas: Harcourt Brace.
- 4. Chavez, L. R. (2001). *Covering Immigration: Popular images and the politics of the Nation.* Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- 5. Delgado, F. P. (1995). Chicano movement rhetoric: An ideographic interpretation. *Communication Quarterly*, 43, 446-465.
- 6. Gutierrez, D. G. (1995). *Walls and mirrors: Mexican Americans, Mexican immigrants, and the politics of identity.* Berkeley: University of California Press.
- 7. Hondagneu-Sotelo, P. (1994). *Gendered Transitions: Mexican Experiences of Immigration.* Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- 8. Johnson, K. (2003). *The "Huddled masses" myth: Immigration and civil rights.* Philadelphia: Temple University Press.
- 9. Joseph, G. M. & Henderson, T. J. (Eds.). (2002). *The Mexico reader: History, Culture, Politics.* Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- 10. Martinez, R. (2002). *Crossing over: A Mexican family on the immigrant trail.* New York City: Henry Holt.
- 11. Nevins, J. (2002). *Operation Gatekeeper: The rise of the "illegal alien" and the making of the U.S. – Mexico boundary.* New York: Routledge.
- 12. Ono, K. A. & Sloop, J. M. (2002). *Shifting borders: Rhetoric, immigration, and California's Proposition 187.* Philadelphia: Temple University Press.
- 13. Rothenberg, D. (1998). *With these hands: The hidden world of migrant farmworkers today.* Berkeley: University of California Press.
- 14. Saldivar, J. (1997). *Border matters: Remapping American cultural studies.* Berkeley: University of California Press.
- 15. Sanchez, G. J. (1993). *Becoming Mexican American: Ethnicity, culture and identity in Chicano Los Angeles, 1900-1945.* New York: Oxford University Press.
- 16. Sanchez, G. J. (1999). Race and immigration history. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 42, 1271-1275.

17. Santa Ana, O. (2002). *Brown tide rising: Metaphors of Latinos in contemporary American public address*. Austin: University of Texas Press.
18. Siems, L. (Ed.). (1993). *Between the Lines: Letters Between Undocumented Mexican and Central American Immigrants and Their Families and Friends*. Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press.
19. Suárez-Orozco, M., Suárez-Orozco, C. & Qin-Hilliard, D. (Eds.). (2005). *The New Immigration: An Interdisciplinary Reader*. New York and London: Routledge.
20. Yans-McLaughlin, V. (Ed.). (1990). *Immigration reconsidered: History, sociology, and politics*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Course Schedule

Week 1

The Migrant Experience: Rhetorical, Cultural, Historical, and Popular Perspectives

Week 2

Rhetorical Criticism: An Overview

The Immigrant Experience: Perspectives on Immigration to the U.S.

Week 3

Understanding Migration and the Creation of National Borders **Essay 1 due**

Week 4

Civic Rhetoric of Migration and Immigration

Week 5

Metaphors and Dominant Logics in Civic Discourse **Essay 2 due**

Week 6

Vernacular Rhetoric of Migration and Immigration

Week 7

Nativism in U.S. Immigration Rhetoric **Essay 3 due**

Week 8

Beyond Words: Analyzing (Im) Migration Images

Week 9

Final Paper Presentations

Week 10

Final Paper Presentations **Final Papers due**