Chicano and Chicana Art

Instructor:
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A Chicana/o has been described as a Mexican-American with a political sense of identity linked to social justice, or alternatively, as “a Mexican-American with a non-Anglo image of him/herself.” The 1960s saw the rise of the Chicana/o Movement, a grass-roots and community-based political organizing effort to improve working conditions, education and civil rights for Mexican-Americans, particularly in California and the Southwest. From its inception, the Chicana/o Movement attracted committed artists who created a unique set of aesthetic frameworks and social interventions that remain some of the most important and innovative American art of the last few decades.

The course is structured thematically, exploring for example how theorists and historians have made sense of the aesthetic vocabulary of Chicana/o art, how Chicana/o artists have redefined the boundaries of cultural identity through feminist and queer reinterpretations, how critical artistic practice can become a form of social activism, how public space and urban life are shaped by social interventions, etc. Although the course will place emphasis on the visual arts, we will also consider film, theater, spoken word and performance art.

Course objectives: Students in this course will develop a working vocabulary and visual knowledge about Chicana/o art and artists. Students will learn about the social, political and historical contexts of Chicana/o art, as well as key theoretical concepts regarding representation and aesthetic practice. Ideally students will come away with a much richer understanding of Chicana/o culture in California and the Southwest, and the ability to think in more nuanced terms about cultural difference and social inequality.

Student Requirements:
Students will take three exams consisting of image identifications, short answer and essay questions. Two in-class exams and a final exam will cover approximately one third of the course each. Students will be tested on lecture content as well as reading assignments. Students will write one five-page paper, choosing among a list of possible topics distributed in the second half of the quarter. Students are expected to participate actively and vocally in sections and attentively in lectures, demonstrating a solid grasp of the weekly reading materials and lecture topics.

Reading Assignments
All of the course reading assignments will be posted on eCommons. They are organized by date, and should be read by the date of the corresponding lecture.
Images
Images from lectures will be posted for study each week on ArtStor.

April 2
Introduction: Overview

April 4
A Brief History of the Chicano Movement: Three Voices


April 6
Art of a Political Movement, Art of Cultural Resistance


April 9
Aesthetic Frameworks: Vernacular Traditions


April 11
Aesthetic Frameworks: Cultural Reclamation


April 13
Aesthetic Frameworks: Aztec and Mayan Sources for Contemporary Art

Guest lecture by Diana Rose,
Ph.D. student in Visual Studies

April 16
Cultural Icons: Mestizo/a


April 18
Cultural Icons: Campesino/a


April 20
Cultural Icons: Pachuco/a

Guest lecture
by Dr. Catherine Ramirez,
Associate Professor of Latin American and Latino Studies


April 23 EXAM
April 25

**Gender and Sexuality: Domesticana**


April 27

**Gender and Sexuality: Queering Chicano Discourse**


April 30

**Sacred Icons, Sacred Traditions: Opposition and Memory**


May 2

**Sacred Icons, Sacred Traditions: Virgen de Guadalupe**

Guest lecture
by Dr. Carolyn Dean,
Professor of History of Art and Visual Studies, UCSC


May 4

**Sacred Icons, Sacred Traditions: Altares**

May 7

**Into the Streets: Murals**


May 9

**Into the Streets: Posters**


May 11

**Into the Streets: Posters Today**

Guest lecture by contemporary artist Favianna Rodriguez
(http://www.favianna.com/)

May 14

**Urban AlieNation**


May 16

**Urban AlieNation**


May 18

**Urban AlieNation**


May 21 EXAM

May 23

**Chicana Cinema: Lourdes Portillo**

Guest lecture by Dr. Rosalinda Fregoso
Professor of Latin American and Latino Studies, UCSC


May 25

**Film screening: Lourdes Portillo**

May 30

**Border Conditions**


June 1

**Border Conditions**


June 4

**Chicano Art in Institutions: Curating Practices**

Guest lecture by Dr. Chon Noriega, Professor of Film, Television, and Digital Media, UCLA and director of the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center


June 6

**After Chicano Art? Phantom Sitings**


June 8

**The Future of Chicana/o Art? Conclusions and Discussion**