This course will explore the *forms* of Latinidad in multiple ways. First, how do we understand the formal elements in Latinx literature and cultural production? That is, how do we analyze literary and cultural works and are any formal strategies and narrative traditions ethnically specific? Relatedly, in what forms is Latinidad rendered legible, considering that Latinxs comprise a heterogeneous population with variations in national origin, time and circumstance of migration, citizenship status, race, class, and regional location? To answer these questions, we will read primary and secondary works showcasing a range of representations and theorizations, giving students a sense of the Latinx literary tradition as well as foundational and emerging scholarship. Designed to help students develop expertise in Latinx cultural studies broadly, this course will discuss issues such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, feminism, transnationalism, media studies, and comparative ethnic studies.

**Primary texts:**

*George Washington Gómez*, Américo Paredes  
_The Revolt of the Cockroach People_, Oscar Zeta Acosta  
_Their Dogs Came with Them_, Helena María Viramontes  
_The Dirty Girls Social Club_, Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez  
_The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao_, Junot Díaz  
_The People of Paper_, Salvador Plascencia  
_The House of Impossible Beauties_, Joseph Cassara  
_Her Body and other Parties_, Carmen Maria Machado

**Assignments**

30% **Response papers (7 in total)** These will be 2-page double-spaced close readings of a passage in a text. They are meant to help you prepare for class discussion and to bring up ideas that you can elaborate on in your papers.

20% **Presentation.** Presentations are ways to practice teaching. Presentations should be about 20-30 minutes and should offer entryways into the text or texts on the schedule for that day, posing questions for the class.

10% **Abstract and bibliography.** This assignment is designed to help you start planning for your final paper. In brief, an abstract is around 250 words and should contain your research question, theoretical framework/methodology, and potential findings. The bibliography should contain around 5-10 sources.
40% Final Paper. The final paper should be 15-20 pages. You can write about any of the texts on the syllabus or on texts of your own choosing.

Schedule

8/23 Read prior to class: “Introduction” to *The Social Imperative*, Paula Moya
Read Chicano and Nuyorican poetry in class

8/30 *George Washington Gómez*
“The Bildungsroman and Its Significance in the History of Realism” Mikhail Bakhtin

9/6 *The Revolt of the Cockroach People*

9/13 “Quinto Sol, Chicana/o Literature, and the Long March Through Institutions,” John Alba Cutler
“Introduction” to *Race and Upward Mobility*, Elda María Román

9/20 *Their Dogs Came with Them*

9/27 Selections from *The Latino/a Canon and the Emergence of Post-Sixties Literature*, Raphael Dalleo and Elena Machado Sáez
Selections from *Market Aesthetics*, Elena Machado Sáez

10/4 *The Dirty Girls Social Club*

10/11 *The House of Impossible Beauties*
“Introduction” to *Disidentifications: Queers Of Color And The Performance Of Politics*, José Esteban Muñoz


10/25 Selections from “Enforceable Care: Health, Justice, and Latina/o Expressive Culture” Julie Avril Minich

11/1 *The People of Paper*
“Against Omniscient Narration: A Farmworker Critique of Neoliberalism,” Marcial González

11/8 *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*
“Historical Fantasy, Speculative Realism, and Postrace Aesthetics in Contemporary American American Fiction,” Ramón Saldívar
11/15  Selections from *Forms of Dictatorship: Power, Narrative, and Authoritarianism in the Latina/o Novel*, Jennifer Harford Vargas
  “Surface Reading,” Stephen Best and Sharon Marcus
  “Introduction” to *Forms*, Caroline Levine

**Abstract and bibliography due**

11/22  No Class

11/29  *Her Body and other Parties*, Carmen Maria Machado
Selections from *Latinx Literature Unbound*, Ralph Rodríguez

**Final Paper Due December 12 by 2pm.**
You can email it to me at emr@usc.edu

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**Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems**

**Academic Conduct:**
Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” [https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b/](https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b/). Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, [http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct](http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct).

**Support Systems:**
*Student Counseling Services (SCS) - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call*
Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. [https://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling/](https://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling/)

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-8255*
Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. [http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

*Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 - 24/7 on call*
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. [https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp/](https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp/)

*Sexual Assault Resource Center*
For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: http://sarc.usc.edu/

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX compliance – (213) 740-5086
Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. https://equity.usc.edu/

Bias Assessment Response and Support
Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support/

Student Support & Advocacy – (213) 821-4710
Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa/

Diversity at USC – https://diversity.usc.edu/
Tabs for Events, Programs and Training, Task Force (including representatives for each school), Chronology, Participate, Resources for Students