

## **Latina/o History**

Spring, 2022, AMH 3931.10433/LAS 3930.27340

Professor Paul Ortiz

Department of History, University of Florida

[352-392-7168/portiz@ufl.edu](mailto:352-392-7168/portiz@ufl.edu)

M/W/F 1:55 to 2:45pm

Location: Keene-Flint, 111

### **Course Description:**

Between 1970 and 2010 Latinos were the fastest growing “minority group” in the United States. However, Latina/o history in the United States begins long before the 1970s. The ancestors of the people who today hail from Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, and other continents had a profound impact on history, politics, and culture in the United States from the time of the American Revolution to now.

In this interdisciplinary seminar we will study the emergence of diverse Latina/o cultures within the United States in the past two centuries using the framework of the Latina/o Diaspora in the Americas. This class will address the intersections of race, gender, socio-economic status and belonging. The class will also focus on contemporary issues affecting different cohorts of people in the broader Latina/o Diaspora with a special focus on the themes of citizenship, labor, culture, and social movements. How have people from the Latino Diaspora dreamed of freedom and what have they done to enhance democracy in the United States?

Drawing on novels, *testimonios*, music, folklore, art and poetry—among other approaches—we will engage with scholarship on comparative race and ethnicity to understand major demographic and social changes occurring in the United States over time particularly from the Mexican War of Independence to the present. Each week’s readings will be supplemented with contemporary pieces designed to help us develop new ways to understand the impact of history in the present.

### **Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes**

Students will complete this seminar with an enhanced understanding of the diverse histories and identities of Latinas/os as well as their contributions—and the contributions of their home countries—in building democracy in the United States through social movements from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present. We will also explore the complex relationships between the United States, Mexico, and Central America, the Caribbean and the Global South in general. How have these relationships affected economic development and politics in the US? The class will also study the ways that Latinos are engaging and remaking ideas of citizenship, civic engagement and education in the *Nuevo/New South*. To borrow directly from eminent historian Vicki Ruiz, we will learn new ways to look at the past: “*Nuestra América: Latino History as United States History.*”

### **Contact Information & Office Hours:**

*Paul Ortiz*: [portiz@ufl.edu](mailto:portiz@ufl.edu) Office Hours: Mondays, 12:00 to 1:30 & Wednesdays, from 3:00 to 4:30 at my office in 241 Pugh Hall, Samuel Proctor Oral History Program and/or Zoom. (Recurring Zoom link is on our Canvas course site.) I am available to meet outside of these times by appointment. Cell Phone, 831-334-0131.

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance will be taken every day of the semester. You are permitted unexcused two absences without penalty but on the third and each subsequent absence, your final grade for the course will be reduced by a third of a letter grade (i.e., from an A to an A- to a B+, etc.). A medical certificate is needed to excuse absences. If you miss class you are responsible for getting notes and/or assignment instructions from one of your peers or instructor during regular office hours.

**Academic Honesty:** UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of integrity by abiding by the [Honor Code](#).”

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** Students requesting classroom accommodations should register with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (352-392-8565). Students will then receive an accommodation letter to present to the instructor when requesting accommodation as early as possible in the semester.

**Counseling and Mental Health Resources:** Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus [Counseling and Wellness Center](#) (352-392-1575);

**Current UF Grading Policy:** Review current UF Grading policy [here](#).

**Canvas Site:** Check our Canvas site regularly for course updates, and study guides for papers & exams.

**Online Course Evaluations:** Your candid feedback on the quality of instruction in this course is greatly appreciated and integral to improving the structure and delivery of this course. Please be on the lookout for an email from [GatorEvals](#) for opportunities to provide course evaluation.

### COURSE FORMAT

**Synthesis Essays:** You will write 3 **synthesis essays** this semester that compare readings and other course materials. Each essay will be 4-5 pages in length. Your first essay will key in on Américo Paredes’ *With a Pistol in His Hand* and will explore folklore and culture in Latino history—and how this new knowledge changes our understanding of US history. I will give instructions on each paper. Synthesis Essay due dates: Friday, January 28; Friday, March 25; Monday, April 25

**Exam:** The midterm exam will be a take-home essay exam. The mid-term is due on Friday, March 4.

**Films:** We will screen a number of films during the semester which mirror themes in the class. It is important that you watch all of the films in order to write successful essays and exams.

**Grading:** Class participation, including discussion (10%); Facilitating a discussion (10%); Mid-Term exam (20%); Synthesis Essays (60%).

**Email:** Check our Canvas site on a regular basis for reading questions and periodic course updates.

**Required Texts** (Available at Library West Reserves.) Rudolpho Anaya, *Bless Me Ultima*; Junot Diaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*; Zaragosa Vargas, *Labor Rights are Civil Rights: Mexican American Workers in Twentieth Century America*; Richard Delgado, *The Latino/a Condition: A Critical Reader*; Americo Paredes, *With a Pistol in His Hand: A Border Ballad and Its Hero*; Juan Gonzalez, *Harvest of Empire*; Paul Ortiz, *An African American and Latinx History of the United States*; Martin Espada, *Floater: Poems*

## Syllabus & Reading List

### **Week of January 5: An Introduction to Latina/o History, Latino Studies: What is “It”?**

**Wednesday:** *What do we want to learn this semester?* syllabus review, introductions

**Friday:** Syllabus Review. *Introductions, cont. Seminar discussion:* Vicki Ruiz, “[Nuestra América](#): Latino History as United States History,” *Organization of American Historians Annual Address*, April 22, 2006. **Also available Canvas (CV)**

Latino USA Podcast: *Taking on Academia:* [A Conversation about Latino Studies](#)

The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program’s [Latina/o Diaspora in the Americas](#) Project

### **Week of January 10: Historical Roots/Raíces & Corridos**

**Monday:** Americo Paredes, *With His Pistol in His Hands* (Part I: *Gregorio Cortez: the Legend and the Life*)

Paul Ortiz, “Memories of Revolution,” *Cultural Dynamics* (2019) (CV)

[Los del Valle Series](#), the story of Americo Paredes (You Tube video)

**Wednesday:** Americo Paredes, *With His Pistol in His Hands* (Part I, Continued)

César Chavez, “[Lessons of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)” *Cesar Chavez Foundation*

*El Malcriado: The Voice of the Farm Worker on Martin Luther King, Jr. (1968)* (Canvas, CV)

**Watch on Your Own:** [A Town Has Turned to Dust](#) (1958)

Juan Gonzalez, *Harvest of Empire*, introduction; 1-57.

**Friday:** Seminar Discussion

### **Week of January 17: The Haitian Revolution and the Mexican War of Independence**

**Monday:** MLK HOLIDAY, NO CLASSES

**Wednesday:** Paul Ortiz, *African American and Latinx History of the United States*, (Author’s note; introduction, chapters 1-2)

George Lipsitz and Russell Rodriguez, “Turning Hegemony On Its Head: The Insurgent Knowledge of Americo Paredes,” *The Journal of American Folklore*, Vol. 125, No. 495, Winter 2012, 111-125

Olga Nájera-Ramírez, “*Encaminándonos*: Américo Paredes as a Guiding Force in Transcending Borders,” *Journal of American Folklore* (2012), 69-90. CV

Film: Juan Gonzalez, [Harvest of Empire: The Untold Story of Latinos in America](#) (first 60 minutes)

Exploring the [History of Mexico](#) in the Murals of the Big Three

Américo Paredes, *With a Pistol in His Hands* (Part II)

Américo Paredes, "The *Corrido*: An Invited Lecture at the 'Music in Culture' Public Lecture Series," 23-44.

**Friday:** Seminar Discussion

**Week of January 24: Wars at Home and Abroad**

**Monday:** Américo Paredes, *With a Pistol in His Hands* (concluded.)

Paul Ortiz, *An African American and Latinx History of the United States*, (Chapters 3-4)

Wednesday: Delgado & Stefancic, *The Latino/a Condition*: Part I, chapters 1&2; 6-9 & *From the Editors*

Friday: Seminar Discussion

**First synthesis essay due, Friday, January 28, 10: PM. (Send to: [portiz@ufl.edu](mailto:portiz@ufl.edu), Subject Line: Latino History Synthesis Essay 1. Theme: Americo Paredes' Borderlands as US History**

**Week of January 31: Labor, Politics and Struggle**

Monday: Zaragosa Vargas, *Labor Rights are Civil Rights* (Intro; Chapters 1-2)

Devra Anne Weber, "Keeping Community, Challenging Boundaries: Indigenous Migrants, Internationalist Workers, and Mexican Revolutionaries, 1900-1920," CV

Nancy Hewitt, "Latin Women from Exiles to Immigrants," in Southern Discomfort: Women's Activism in Tampa, Florida, 1880s-1920s, 200-221. CV

Wednesday: Delgado, *The Latino Condition*, Part II, Chapters 10-19, *From the Editors, Issues and Comments*

Friday: Seminar Discussion

**Week of February 7: The Politics of Juan Crow, Imperialism and Resistance**

Monday: Paul Ortiz, *An African American and Latinx History of the US*, chapter 5.

Wednesday: Juan Gonzalez, *Harvest of Empire*, Chapter 3.

Vicki L. Ruiz, "The Acculturation of Young Mexican-American Women," in *The Mexican American Experience*, 265-271. CV.

Friday: Seminar Discussion

**Week of February 14: Working Class Struggles From the Gilded Age to The Great Depression**

Monday: *No class; reading day*

Wednesday: Zaragosa Vargas, *Labor Rights are Civil Rights: Mexican American Workers in Twentieth Century America*; introduction, Chapters 1-2

[Diego Rivera in Detroit: The Great Controversy](#)

Sarah McNamara, “Unamerican Americans: Latina Working Class-Activism in Ybor City, Florida, 1937,” CV

Juan Gonzalez, *Harvest of Empire*, Chapter 4.

Watch Film: “[Salt of the Earth](#),”

Friday: Seminar Discussion

### **Week of February 21: Latino Workers Make a New Deal**

Zaragoza Vargas, *Labor Rights are Civil Rights: Mexican American Workers in Twentieth Century America*; introduction, Chapters 3-4

[Luisa Moreno](#), Labor Organizer Interviewed on her struggles to build the CIO.

[Emma Tenayuca](#), Oral History on Latina workers & the labor movement in the Great Depression and Beyond

Wednesday: Film: Juan Gonzalez’s “Harvest of Empire” (Part 1)

Paul Ortiz, *An African American and Latinx History of the US*, chapter 6

***Mid-term take-home exam on Working Class Struggles, handed out at end of the class. Due Friday, March 4***

Friday: Seminar Discussion

### **Week of February 28: World War II**

Monday: Rodolpho Anaya, *Bless Me Ultima* (First half of book)

Watch Film: “*Bless Me Ultima*”

Zaragoza Vargas, *Labor Rights are Civil Rights: Mexican American Workers in Twentieth Century America*, chapter 5.

Delgado & Stefancic, *The Latino Condition*, part III, Chapters 20-27, *From the Editors, Issues & Comments*

Wednesday: “[A Conversation with Rudolfo Anya](#)” (Author discusses novel)

Catherine S. Ramirez, “Saying ‘Nothin’: Pachucas and the Languages of Resistance,” *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies* (Volume 27, Number 3, 2006), 1-33. CV

“[La Pachuca](#): Women in Zoot Suits.

[Oral Histories](#) Bridge the Gap Between Latino Veterans and U.S. History

Friday

***Mid-term exam due Friday, March 4, 9 pm.***

## **Week of March 5: Spring Break!**

Don't stop learning, don't stop reading, don't stop listening.

## **Week of March 14: Coming Home**

Monday: Rodolpho Anaya, *Bless Me Ultima* (cont.)

Vargas, *Labor Rights Are Civil Rights*, Chapter 6 and conclusion

Juan Gonzalez, *Harvest of Empire*, chapters 5 and 6.

Delgado & Stefancic, *The Latino Condition*, Part IV, Chapters 28-35, *From the Editors, Issues & Comments*

Juan Gonzalez, [Harvest of Empire: The Untold Story of Latinos in America \(Final 60 minutes\)](#)

Luisa Moreno's 1949 [Address](#) to the California CIO Convention

*Film: Latino Americans: "War and Peace"*

Wednesday: Anaya, *Bless Me Ultima*, cont.

Paul Ortiz, *An African American and Latinx History of the United States*, chapter 7.

[Latino Veteran Stories Highlighted in Voces Oral History Project](#)

Friday Seminar Discussion

## **Week of March 21: Farmworker/Chicano/Third World Movements**

Monday: Rodolpho Anaya, *Bless Me Ultima* (concluded)

Film: "Chicano!: [The Struggle in the Fields](#)," Rise of the United Farm Workers' union.

"[Dolores Huerta](#): The Civil Rights Icon Who Showed Farmworkers 'Sí Se Puede'"

Blanca Torres, "Why Spanish is not a Foreign Language in the United States" [Crónicas](#), March 22, 2017,

Wednesday: "Our America: [The Latino Presence in American Art](#)," *Smithsonian Latino Center*

Delgado & Stefancic, *The Latino Condition*, Part V, VI, Chapters 36-51 & *From the Editors*

Friday: Seminar Discussion

**Friday, March 25: 2<sup>nd</sup> Synthesis Essay Due (*Bless Me Ultima, World War II & Postwar Social Movements*)**

## **Week of March 28: Harvest of Empire**

Monday: Juan Gonzalez, *Harvest of Empire*, chapters 7-11.

Junot Diaz, *The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (first 30 pages)

Film: "[Peril and Promise](#)," PBS Latino Americans

Wednesday: Junot Diaz, *The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (cont.)

Delgado & Stefancic, *The Latino Condition*, Part X, Chapters 53; 58, 60-68, & *From the Editors*

Junot Diaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (TBD)

Junot Diaz [talks and reads](#) from "The Brief Wondrous Lives of Oscar Wao,"

Friday: Seminar Discussion

### **Week of April 4: Movimiento Currents during the Era of the Backlash**

Monday: Junot Diaz, *Brief and Wondrous Life* (TBD)

Juan Gonzalez, *Harvest of Empire*, Chapters 12 to conclusion.

Dolores Huerta [interview](#) with Paul Ortiz, University of Florida public program, April 25, 2016 (Farm worker organizing, women's rights, women's leadership in Chicana movement, immigration, DACA, politics,

"[New Exhibit](#) Examines Explosive Growth of Latino Communities in Four U.S. Cities," *Smithsonian Insider*

Delgado & Stefancic, *The Latino Condition*, part XI & XII (TBD)

Wednesday: Claudia Milian and Maria DeGuzman, "The South, Southernness, and Latinos and Latinas: What are Their Intersections?" [Crónicas](#)

Junot Diaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (TBD)

Friday: Seminar Discussion

### **Week of April 11: The Great American Strike and the Reconfiguration of US Politics**

Monday: Junot Diaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (TBD)

Paul Ortiz, *An African American and Latinx History of the United States*, Chapter 8, epilogue

Wednesday: Paul Ortiz, "[Cinco De Mayo About Much More Than Having Fun](#)," *The Progressive*, May 4, 2013,

Friday: Eileen Truax, *Dreamers: An Immigrant Generation's Fight for Their American Dream* (TBD)

### **Week of April 18: Wrapping it Up: Latino History as US History: No New Reading**

Monday: Semester Wrap Up of major themes

Wednesday: Semester Wrap up of major themes, cont.

Finals Week : Essay on Junot Diaz due Monday, April 25, 9pm.

### About The Instructor

Paul Ortiz is a PEN-award winning author. He is a third-generation military veteran and a first-generation university graduate. Paul received his PhD in history from Duke University in 2000. He earned his BA from the Evergreen State College in 1990 and his Associate of Arts degree from Olympic College in 1988. He is currently professor of history and director of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida.

He served as a paratrooper from 1982 to 1986 with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division and 7<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group in Latin America where he was a radio operator and instructor for mobile training teams in multiple combat zones. He received the US Armed Forces' Humanitarian Service Medal for meritorious action in the wake of the eruption of the *Nevado del Ruiz* stratovolcano in Tolima, Colombia in 1985. He attained the rank of sergeant E-5 and received an honorable discharge in 11/1986.

Professor Ortiz's book *An African American and Latinx History of the United States* was identified by *Bustle* as one of "Ten Books About Race to Read Instead of Asking a Person of Color to Explain Things to You." *Fortune Magazine* listed it as one of the "10 books on American history that actually reflect the United States." *Beyondchron.org* called *Emancipation Betrayed: The Hidden History of Black Organizing and White Violence in Florida from Reconstruction to the Bloody Election of 1920* "As both an essential teaching of American history and a critical resource for understanding grassroots organizing today." Paul co-edited *Remembering Jim Crow: African Americans Tell About Life in the Segregated South* which received the Lillian Smith Book Award from the Southern Regional Council.

Dr. Ortiz was a consultant and featured narrator for Henry Louis Gates Jr.'s *The Black Church: This is Our Story. This Is Our Song*, which premiered on PBS in 2021. His pathway to academia included years of organizing work with the United Farm Workers, the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, and many other unions. He is currently president of the United Faculty of Florida-UF (FEA/NEA/AFT/AFL-CIO) the union that represents tenured and non-tenure-track faculty at the University of Florida.

Paul is the faculty advisor for *Por Colombia*, CHISPAS, NextGen and many other student orgs.



Ortiz has published essays in *The American Historical Review*, *Latino Studies*, *Cultural Dynamics*, *The Oral History Review*, *Truthout*, *Southern Exposure*, *Kalfou*, the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, and many other journals. He has been interviewed by *Agencia De Noticias Del Estado Mexicano*, *ARD German Radio and Television*, *Newsweek*, *Telemundo*, *The Guardian*, *The Undeclared*, *ABC News*, *BBC*, *Hong Kong Daily Apple*, and a variety of media on the histories of social movements and immigration among other topics.

Dr. Ortiz is a past president of the Oral History Association (2014-2015). He is a member of the inaugural editorial advisory board for the University of North Carolina Press's *Latinx History* series.

Paul recently finished the co-edited books, *People Power: History, Organizing, and Larry Goodwyn's Democratic Vision in the Twenty-First Century*, published by the University Press of Florida as well as *African American Studies: 50 Years at the University of Florida*.

He is a National Archives Distinguished Scholar for 2022-2023.