

Westfield State University
Department of Ethnic & Gender Studies

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION	COURSE INFORMATION
Dr. Enrique Morales-Díaz Email: via SOCRATES	EGST 210: U.S. Latin@ Literatures (CORE: Literary and Philosophical Analysis) ONLINE – Summer Session I

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The works that we will read, discuss and analyze this semester will introduce the major trends and be placed into an historical framework focusing primarily on the 20th and 21st centuries. Emphasis will be on similarities and differences in the experiences among different Hispanic/Latino/a groups in the United States as it relates to the concept of the ‘American Dream.’ We will discuss such topics as the construction of identity in terms of race, gender, sexuality, and class; bilingualism and code switching; the experiences of the exile, the immigrant, the refugee and the colonial subject; the marketing of the Latino/a identity; and the relationship of the artist to his or her community. Some of the themes that we will discuss in class are: culture; history and society; politics and politics of identity in relationship to race/ethnicity/nationality, social/economic class, gender, being bicultural versus “living on the margins,” the struggle for self-determination, notions of *mestizaje* and its impact on cultural production.

By the end of the semester, students SHOULD be able to:

1. Understand the socio-political evolution of the Hispanic/Latino communities in the United States
2. Understand the establishments of these communities as outsider groups
3. Understand the concepts of race, class and gender and how they apply to the U.S. Latino/Hispanic communities
4. Understand the theoretical framework to discuss issues related to the development and establishment of U.S. Latinos/Hispanics as communities
5. Understand the U.S. Latino/Hispanic cultural production and how it derived from the different socio-political-economic-historical circumstances

REQUIRED TEXTS

Junot Díaz. *Drown*.

Ernesto Quiñonez. *Bodega Dreams: A Novel*

Raúl Ramos y Sánchez. *America Libre. A Novel of Family, Country, and Revolution*.

*Poems, plays and essays will be made available on SOCRATES