PHIL 156: LATINX PHILOSOPHY

T/Th 11am-12:20pm; SOLIS 111
Prof. Manuel Vargas
Spring 2023, ver. 04.04.23

Overview

Welcome! This is a course on philosophy that is in some form substantively concerned with US Hispanic/Latina/o/x/es (pick your favorite term–and yes, we'll talk about the politics of the terms). Topics include moral, social, political, epistemic, and other approaches to Latinxs and their experiences. The goal here isn't just to understanding something about Latina/o/x/es, but something about social identity categories and the wider philosophical issues they raise. So, we'll consider these questions in connection with broader issues in philosophy and in comparative contexts with other social identity categories, drawing from academic philosophy and work outside of philosophy. Among our goals are these: (1) to learn from what has already been written; and (2) to develop the tools required to make further contributions to academic and popular discussions about these issues.

Unless some disaster befalls us, we will be meeting in-person with no regular remote option. There may be occasional recorded lectures made available, but that is on an ad hoc basis. Recordings are not ordinarily permitted without explicit authorization.

Contact info

mrvargas@ucsd.edu
Office: RWAC- Bldg 1, Arts & Humanities, Floor 4, room 0468
Office hours: T 12:30-1:30pm + by appointment

Evaluation

15%   Participation (based on class activities, OH, online discussions)
20%   Short essay: 1250 words (20%): due at the end of week 4
30%   Presentation Project: video/slides (~7-10 minutes)
35%   Final: Paper 2000 words due at the final exam time

The essay and the presentation project have similar goals and structure: Part 1 considers a question grounded in the reading, subjecting it to critical scrutiny (i.e., stating your view and arguments for it), and part 2 requires that you consider what might be said against your view and how you might respond. The essay does this in written format. The presentation does this in a recorded format (which may involve a script and slides, but will require an upload of the video).

> Note: videos can be made with zoom, Kaltura (in Canvas), and with various smart phone and computer apps. Videos will need to be uploaded to Canvas, or you will need to provide a link to the file via Google Drive (you get near-infinite storage with your UCSD, I believe) or some other suitably accessible format. [We'll talk more about this as we get closer; but you should ordinarily plan on this involving your voice and/or image throughout, to demonstrate that this is your original work.] Should you lack the gear to record and edit videos, you can get access to equipment from the Media Teaching Lab. I encourage you to work with someone else in the prep and recording of your presentation, although everyone must submit their own presentation recording (with the graded person doing the presenting!) for which that student will receive sole credit.

Readings

Readings are available through Canvas.

Provisional Schedule
Read the articles *prior* to the date of the class meeting.

Unit 1: Social Ontology

Week 1   **Historical approaches**

4/4   First meeting: Orientation, terminology, issues

                    Salazar, M (2019) "The Problem with Latinidad"

4/6*   Gracia, J. (2008) "Identities: General and Particular" (selections)

Week 2   **What kind of social identity?**

4/11   Alcoff, Linda (2006) "Latinos and the Category of Race"

4/13*   Arango and Burgos (2022) "Latinidad as a social affordance"

Week 3   **Metaphysical tools**

4/18   Barceló, A (2020) "Open Questions in the Metaphysics of Habitable Categories"

4/20   Mallon, R (2020) "Socially-Constituted Human Kinds"

                    Paper writing discussion

Unit 2: Negotiating Hybridity

Week 4   **Foundational texts**

4/25   Anzaldúa, G (1999) "*La conciencia de la mestiza* / Towards a New Consciousness"

4/27   Lugones, M (2003) "Playfulness, 'World'-Traveling, and Loving Perception"

<mark>10/</mark>xx   <mark>[SAT] SHORT ESSAY DUE @ 10pm</mark> [if you don't have a submission receipt, it isn't submitted]

Week 5   **Reconsidering identities and mestizaje**

5/2   Pitts, A. *Nos/Otras* (selections)

5/4   Pitts visit (remote)

                    Recommendations for presentation projects

Unit 3   Agency

Week 6

5/9   Vargas, M. (2020) "The Philosophy of Accidentality"

5/11   Morton, J. (2014) "Cultural Code-Switching"

Unit 4   Constructing Knowledge

Week 7

5/16   Maldonado-Torres, N (2021) "Notes on Decolonizing Philosophy"

5/18   Táíwò, O (2020) "Identity Politics and Elite Capture"

                    Táíwò, O (2020) "Being-in-the-Room Privilege: Elite Capture and Epistemic Deference"

<mark>11/13</mark>   <mark>[SAT] PRESENTATION PROJECT DUE @ 10pm.</mark> [if you don't have a submission receipt, it isn't submitted]

Unit 5	**Immigration**
Week 8	
5/23	Mendoza, JJ (2021) Decolonizing Immigration Ethics
5/25	Reed-Sandoval, A (2020) "Socially, Not Legally, Undocumented"

Unit 6	**The politics of language**
Week 9	
5/30	Anzaldúa, G (1999) "How to Tame a Wild Tongue"
6/1	Gallegos, Lori (2021) "The Interpreter's Dilemma"

Week 10	**tba**
6/6	tba
6/8	Last class meeting

FINAL PROJECT DUE: Tuesday, June 13th, 2:30pm. [if you don't have a submission receipt, it isn't submitted]

General Information

Student drop-in hours/office hours
Office hours are listed under contact information. Alternatively, you can email me to set up an appointment to meet for individual or small group office hours.

Email Policy
The instructors and instructional assistants for this course are happy to reply to emails sent from UCSD email addresses. We do not reply to emails from non-UCSD addresses. Please note that there are two subjects the instructor will not discuss by email, even if they are sent from a UCSD account. These are:
   a) Requests for information about the exam or final assignment that arrive in the 24-hour period immediately preceding the exam.
   b) Requests to adjust your final class grade. If you have an issue with your grade please make an appointment to discuss it during my office hour next quarter.

Assignments
For a class with designated TAs, the specified assignments are conditional upon having non-striking teaching assistants. All graded portions of the course must be completed to receive a passing grade in this course. Failure to submit a required assignment for the course constitutes a failure of the course. Unless otherwise specified, **all assignments (except for the final assignment) must be submitted by the end of the instructional period (i.e., before finals start), and that includes any late/make-up assignments**. All final assignments must be completed by the designated time (typically, the end of the final exam timeslot). Failure to submit the final exam by the designated time constitutes a failure to pass the class. There are no late assignments accepted for the final assignment. Plan accordingly.

Paper submissions

Essays will be submitted electronically. Hard copies are not required. All submitted work is typically run through turnitin.com. You are required to retain a receipt from your turnitin.com submission, and your assignment is not turned in if you have not received one. Without a receipt showing a successful submission, you cannot appeal a missing submission. These receipts are usually sent out within 15 minutes of submission to turnitin.

One-time Discretionary TA Extensions

Within the instructional period of the course (i.e., not during finals), teaching assistants can grant each student one extension of up to 48 hours without requiring a medical certificate or other documentation. To grant such an extension your TA needs to receive your request before noon on the day the assessment in question is due. Email is fine, but please note that UCSD's email servers sometimes go down, and students are advised not to leave their requests to the last minute. Requests received after noon on the due date will require documentation, as will requests for extensions longer than 48 hours. Please note that if you receive an extension your paper may be returned a few days after those that were completed on time.

Note that each student is entitled to only one discretionary TA extension. So, for example, if you receive one for your first essay, any extension for the second essay will require documentation. Note, too, that late assignments are not accepted for the final assignment for the course.

Late work

Late work from the instructional term (i.e., not the final assignment or exam) without an extension is automatically subject to a grade penalty of a third of a grade for every 24 hours increment after the due date (that is, approximately, a flat 3.3% of the value of the assignment for every 24-hour increment after the assignment was due, whether it is turned in at the start or end of that incremental period). After a week, the assignment becomes an automatic 'F' with a maximum score of 59%, but it must be submitted because (a) all assignments must be turned in to pass the class and (b) a 59% F, for example, is better than a 0% F.

Note also that assignments that are handed in late without an extension will be graded and returned after those that were completed on time and will not receive comments. Late work is not accepted for the final assignment.

Incompletes are normally permitted only for documented medical or equivalent reasons, and they are restricted to the completion of final assignments.

Re-grading

There is no option to regrade exams, final assignments, or to complete assignments for bonus points. However, for students unhappy with their grade for other TA-graded assignments can apply to have it re-graded. Students first need to arrange a face-to-face meeting (zoom is fine) with their grader to discuss the basis for the original grade. Please note that email is not an acceptable substitute, and no regrading will occur without an initial face-to-face meeting. If the student and grader come to an agreement on the merit of the initial grade, or on an adjusted grade resulting from their meeting, no further student action is required. If the student still prefers a re-grade, he or she should email the professor a clean copy of the work originally submitted, without the original grader's grade or comments. The assignment will then go to a second grader unfamiliar with the original grade for re-grading.

For a re-grade to occur the professor will need to receive the clean copy or link within two weeks of the original essay grade being released, or before the end of week 10, whichever is sooner. Whatever grade the second grader gives the essay will be the final grade, even if it is lower than the original grader's grade. The professor reserves the right to review and decide any re-grade cases.

Disabilities
Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged. Contact the OSD for further information: 858.534.4382 (phone), osd@ucsd.edu (email), disabilities.ucsd.edu (web)

Academic Integrity
Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of University intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. Plagiarism in this course is ordinarily grounds for failing this course. For more information about UCSD's policy on academic integrity go to: http://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/appendices/2

Slides, handouts, etc.
Any handouts, slides, or the like that are used in class and that have substantive content will be made available via Canvas in some or another form.

Technology
For remote courses, the expectation is that you will minimize educational distractions while in synchronous elements of the course (including social media, alerts, and the like).

For in-person, non-virtual meetings, electronics (including but not limited to cell phones, laptops, and tablets) are not ordinarily permitted in lecture or during exams. If you believe you have compelling grounds for an exception, talk to the professor in advance. The second violation of this policy will trigger a 0% for the participation grade. Your TA will let you know what the policy is in discussion group.

For remote classes, attendance in synchronous meetings constitutes permission to record your voice and image for the purposes of making a recording of the synchronous class meetings available to students of the course. Recordings made for the asynchronous elements of remote learning courses will be made available in Canvas.

For non-remote, in-person courses, recording lectures introduces several complicated issues about consent and student participation in class. For that reason, students may not record (audio or video) in this class except in accordance with documented ADA accommodations. Any recordings made in connection with a disability accommodation are for the student's personal academic use only and may not be distributed in any manner to any other individual.

Waitlist
Students will be admitted to this class according to their place on the waitlist.

Exams
By enrolling in this class, you agree to take the final exam, if there is one, by its scheduled day and time, unless registered with OSD. Failure to take the exam at that time constitutes failure to pass the course. For take-home assignments, you agree to submit them by the posted deadlines. Plan your end of term travel and other commitments accordingly.

Where can I get help?

In addition to the readings, class, office hours, and maybe even sections, we've also got handouts.

     How to Survive Your First Philosophy Class

     How to Write Philosophy Papers

If you have questions about any academic matters at all, please contact your TA or professor.

UCSD has some useful support resources for non-academic needs. Check out Basic Needs and Mutual Aid for help with some of the basics every student needs to support the life of the mind. And check out Student Health and Well-Being resources to keep you going.