

**Ethnic Studies 106: Life, Death, and the Human  
Spring Quarter, 2013  
Dr. Murillo**

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**Instructor: Rubén R. Murillo**  
**Classroom: Sequoyah 147**  
**Class time: MWF 2-2:50**

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**Office: SSB 249**  
**Office hours: MW 11-12, 1-2**

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**Course description:** 19 people have been killed by the Border Patrol in the last two years including one unarmed man who was beaten to death in front of witnesses, as well as several young unarmed people shot by U.S. Border Patrol agents firing into Mexico. While some argue that these are isolated incidents, we will analyze the historical use of state violence (police shootings, wars of imperialism, covert military operations, and vigilantes) as a function of settler colonialism. By looking at several narratives written by Chicanas/os and African-American authors, we will study how they thematize real-life police shootings within larger structures of state violence.

**Grade calculation :**

Attend. & part.	15%
Reading journals:	15%
Mid-term:	20%
Final exam:	20%
Final paper:	30%

**Grading scale:**

A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F 0-59
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

**Attendance:**

I take attendance every time class meets and your attendance will be a factor in determining your attendance & participation grade for the course. Each student can miss two classes for whatever reason during the quarter without any penalty. However, **if a student misses more than two classes during the quarter I will reduce his or her final course grade by 1% for each additional absence.**

**Participation (15%):**

Of course each student should complete his or her homework and come to class prepared to actively participate in class discussions and activities. Attendance and participation is 15% of your final grade and I expect each student to arrive to class prepared to actively participate in discussing assigned readings, answering questions, actively working in groups, and posing questions.

### **Reading Journal on TED (15%)**

You will write journal entries of 1-2 single-spaced pages corresponding to each week of assigned readings. Write for approximately thirty minutes immediately upon completing the reading assignment so that the journal reflects your best reflections on the reading. This is not a formal essay, but rather use the journal to reflect on and process what you have read particularly focusing on the theories, concepts, and methods presented in the readings. Use key quotes from the reading as a springboard to connect the reading(s) with lecture and discussion as well as other readings you have done in our outside class, and with your personal experience. When there is more than one reading assigned for homework only write one journal, but put the readings in dialogue with each other. Submit the journal on TED.

### **Final Paper (30%):**

You will write one research paper 6-8 pages in length due the last day of class. I will grade the essays based on several criteria such as the quality of research sources you locate and demonstrated understanding of assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions as well as content, organization, style.. **If you hand in your essay late I will automatically deduct 10 points for every day it is late.**

### **Final Paper Due Last Day of Class**

**Final Exam (20%):** There will be a final exam for the course. It is cumulative covering all the readings, lectures, and class discussions. It will consist of short answers that cover content and probe your analytic understanding of the course. There will be a long-essay of 1-2 pages that will ask you to apply, contest, and/or elaborate on the critical concepts and methods presented in the course.

### **Final: Friday 6/10/13, 3:00-5:59 pm**

### **Majoring or Minor in Ethnic Studies at UCSD**

Many students take an Ethnic Studies course because the topic is of great interest or because of a need to fulfill a social science, non-contiguous, or other college requirement. Often students have taken three or four classes out of "interest" yet have no information about the major or minor and don't realize how close they are to a major, a minor, or even a double major. An Ethnic Studies major is excellent preparation for a career in law, public policy, government and politics, journalism, education, public health, social work, international relations, and many other careers. If you would like information about the Ethnic Studies major or minor at UCSD, please contact Daisy Rodriguez, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor, at 858-534-3277, or [d1rodriguez@ucsd.edu](mailto:d1rodriguez@ucsd.edu), or [www.ethnicstudies.ucsd.edu](http://www.ethnicstudies.ucsd.edu)

### **Announcement:**

The professor reserves the right to modify this syllabus depending on the progress of the class or other pedagogical factors. If there are any changes, I will announce them in class.

Calendar:

*Week 1*

## **M 4/1: Introductions, Syllabus, Course Overview**

### **W 4/3: Necropolitics**

homework due:

read: "Necropolitics" by Achille Mbembe *in Public Culture*, 2003

### **F 4/5: Journal 1 Due (TED), Necropolitics**

homework due:

continue "Necropolitics" cont.

suggested reading:

Week 2

### **M 4/8: The Birth of Biopolitics**

homework due:

read: "The Birth of Biopolitics" by Foucault

suggested reading: *Black is a Country* by Singh

### **W 4/10: Slavery & Social Death & Song of Solomon**

homework due:

read: *Song of Solomon* ch.1

read: *Slavery and Social Death* by Orlando Patterson

suggested reading: *Blackness & Value* by Barnett

### **F 4/12: Watch "The Murder of Emmett Till"**

homework due:

watch: "The Murder of Emmett Till"

write: Journal 2 + 5 possible test questions (TED)

Week 3

### **M 4/15-4/19: Slavery & Social Death, Rituals of Blood, & Song of Solomon**

read: *Song of Solomon* ch. 2 & 3

read: *Slavery and Social Death* by Orlando Patterson

write: Journal 3 + 5 possible test questions

Week 4

### **M 4/29: Black is a Nation**

homework due:

read: *Black is a Nation* by Singh

Suggested: *This American Life* "Harper High"

**W 5/1: Review for Midterm**

**F 5/3: Midterm Exam**

*no journal week 4*

*Week 5*

**M 5/6: The Metaphysics of Indian Hating**

read: *The Metaphysics of Indian Hating* by Takaki

**W 5/8: Custer Died for Your Sins**

**F 5/10: Watch *Massacre at Wounded Knee***

write: Journal 5 + possible test questions

*Week 6*

**M 5/13: Massacre at Wounded Knee**

**W 5/15: The Law of the Noose The Many Deaths of Danny Rosales & Regeneration Through Violence**

read: "The Many Deaths of Danny Rosales" by Carlos Morton

read: *Regeneration through Violence* by Richard Slotkin

write: Journal 10

**F 5/17: Many Deaths & Regeneration cont.**

read: "The Many Deaths . . ." cont.

read: *Regeneration* cont.

suggested reading: Rudolfo Acuña *Occupied America*

*Week 7*

**M 5/20: Racism on Trial**

read: *Racism on Trial* by Haney-López

**W 5/22: Social Death "The Violence of Value"**

read: Introduction to *Social Death* "The Violence of Value" (pp. 1-18)

**F 5/24: Social Death "The Violence of Value"**

read: Introduction to *Social Death* "The Violence of Value" (pp. 18-end)

*Week 8*

**M 5/27-5/31: Social Death**

*Week 9*

**M 6/3: Latinos as the Living Dead**

read: "Latinos as the "Living Dead": Raciality, Expendability, and Border Militarization" by John D Márquez

**W 6/5: Lost in Detention**

**F 6/7: Other People's Blood & Cariboo Café**

*Week 10*

**M 6/10: Shock and Awe**

**W 6/12: Prepare for Final Exam**