

LST 310-202 Winter Quarter 2017

LATINAS/OS AND THE MASS INCARCERATION/DETENTION COMPLEX

the money, the numbers, and the human stories and toll on one of the fastest growing groups of people behind bars, Latinos and Latinas

Professor: Maria Hinojosa

THURSDAY 1- 4 p.m.

As of August 27, 2016
33.6% of all federal inmates were Latinx*

The data is irrefutable. Latinas/os are (along with Asians) the fastest growing demographic group in the U.S. Other numbers confirm that Latinas/os are also one of the fastest growing groups of people behind bars...and not just jail or prison bars but those of immigrant detention centers. Are Latinas/os more prone to incarceration and detention and why? What happens to these families as a result or prison, detention or deportation and what are the long term consequences of this for broader American society? We will jump off using the case of LatinoUSA's The Strange Death of José de Jesus, a two hour documentary on the death of one Mexican immigrant in detention. We will hear from frontline observers and those formerly detained and from the former head of the Obama Administration's Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Suave, who is serving life in prison and was sentenced as a juvenile will call us from his maximum security prison. We will hear from data experts and young activists who were in one of the most controversial immigrant detention centers in our country, one of who became suicidal in solitary. This class will be based on data but will also be informed by deeply personal stories about what the mass incarceration and the ICE Industrial Complex look like at the most granular and human level. One basic question: Are Latinas/os the new canaries in the mine for testing how far a state can go in denying a people their due process?



*Statistic received from the Federal Bureau of Prisons. More information can be found at
https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/statistics_inmate_ethnicity.jsp



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