

UNIVERSIDAD SIN FRONTERAS

University Sin Fronteras
SAT CAMPUS
Liberation Spring Semester
Class 5 (Last)
5/07/13



Class 5 notes

Chavel opened the class on time at 6pm with the students present.

I remember when we were meeting with the campus committee and now we are on the other side. Today is the last class for our Liberation Spring Semester. On April 9th was our first class about what is colonialism and what is decolonizing. We have our notes what we learned about the different subjects.

Then we had our second class about emancipation and shared knowledge how to teach. We have the notes for that class as well. We learned about Jovita Idar, Emma Tenayuca and other important revolutionaries of the time.

Class 3 was about Tex-Mex revolution and the movement. We had discussions about the different revolutionaries like Juan Cortina, Catarino Garza, and Ricardo Magon. We learned all about them and the different revolutions that happened in our area.

In class 4 we learned about the corridos. Joaquin talked about the corridos of the past of the indigenous people who took messages from village to village with song. We heard corridos and even made a corrido about our University

Now what we are doing is we are going to do ?

an over view, synthesize what we learned and what we take away from this class. We will have a round robin and break into 4 groups with notes of each class and get back together for an analysis. The important things we would like to mention about each of the classes. Then we will do another round robin and in a few words describe the experience, briefly, about attending the university.

We will take all the notes and the one pagers and compile all the material. And if in some of the notes some material was left out we will add what we might have missed. We will include pictures and all will get a copy of all this.

At the end we can do a quick brain storm about freedom summer when to start it. We can check the calendar, the classes and the lesson plans. Who would like to do presentations for the summer semester?

So we will go ahead and do a round robin on what we may have learned or what we will be taking away about our liberation spring.

We start our first round robin:

Mary Lou:

I think the biggest thing I take away is learning about colonialism and how that is a term that controls people who do not want to be controlled. When I read history books I will look at that differently. When I was in school those that taught it just said, "This is the history, don't ask questions". Now for me knowing what that word is; is what is most important.

Martha

Thank god I came. I did not fit in the regular U.S. education system. I came from Mexico and did not know what was taught here. Now what I see with my people; I can see why they have the health they have. Since that is what I work with. We have to teach the youth so they do not have the same problems we had. We have to learn and then we have to share with them.

Cruz

Well I had studies colonialism years ago but one of the things that I have learned is that colonialism is continuing to change as a form of control. Sometimes it is used in the military, or in economic situations and now it is corporate colonialism. That is something that I had not thought about. On the other hand as a whole, as a class, it gave me hope that people still have interest in knowing things others don't want us to know. Liberating ourselves from the mindset, we are not supposed to question we are supposed to accept what they say. This class shows that many people think, it's not just me, about liberating ourselves. Even among family, we notice that they do not see the discrimination we are all living under.

Adela Ariano

I missed the other classes I was sick. Invited by Natalie.

Natalie

Basically everybody has their own reality. I had the privilege to hear everybody's story as seen from their lens. Also the food was very good, the setting was good to gather all our thoughts about different topics that affect us every day. I enjoyed it and look forward to the coming summer class.

Lucha

The information was important because my daughter is in school. I tell her about what is real but she says "I can't say that". She is 10 now and someday soon she can say even though she is not really allowed to in school.

Jose

I am very happy that we came. We got to hear other people's point of view; some may say you are crazy. Yet I know it was very good to hear about decolonization and liberation.

Guerrero

The concept was very liberating. It was a neutral place for all of us a good place to learn from one another. Como "dicias tu": chavel. I hope this concept will spread out. Often we run into people that say I have not been discriminated against but they have been blind. Colonization is all around us through media, culture, and our education system. When you put on the classes of colonization then you see. I think we are empowered to educate the "gente". They may not see it but we can articulate so they can absorb in their own way. So the "gente" can see that we are continuously exposed to colonization. They say that the emancipators could not rescue the slaves because they did not realize their condition. We find ourselves in the same way we may think the things we have mean we are free. We do not see we are at times victims of the colonizing. Even in our own culture we have el "guerito y el negrito".

Natalie

Yes I had not realized it growing up but when I married then I saw it very clearly. People would be talking to me but then when my husband would sit with me they acted different. I saw the way people would treat us when we would sit together.

Valdez

It is important to me to follow up my compadre here saying that you know that with ethnic studies under attack in the universities this university sin fronteras is even more important. That situation can go through; the laws can change and interfere with the ethnic studies so developing this curriculum is important. It is important to me because I can apply what I learn in the university to something in my community. A few years ago I could not see an application beyond a summer program now in my mind I can look ahead at full time education programs as well as a summer program.

Irasema

What I have learned here has been very transformative. The history of our people and their bravery has been very enlightening. The sharing of the experiences of all those attending the class has been amazing. I have enjoyed this course very much and will continue to learn about our brave gente.

Joaquin

First I want to say that I think it is good to see the people around the table are leaders not just because we finished the class but you all were leaders, as it were, before the class. That is why you are in this class. I can appreciate every one of you. Just saying the words is sometimes enough. The word you have used colonization, liberation, Catarino Garza, Jovita Idar. Just thinking of ourselves, if I had been living in that time, in the 1830's and if I was followed by a ranger. What would I have done? Emma Tenayuca, a petite person, confronting all that she had to. What they did then. Would I have done some of that? We were talking, Irasema and I, about when I was young; a young straight chicano surrounded by other people. I was different and they would tell me every day, "You are not going to make it". I would not have been able to articulate without this class what had happened to me. I learned how I was been colonized in the UTSA in the music program.

Mary Lou

The classes on decolonization have given me the ability to recognize the concept of colonization. For example me, though I knew, I did not have the ability to articulate, it has been very important to me. I know what it means now and I am not afraid of it. There is a process involved in the colonization of our people and it was not just dumped on us. I learned that there is another way. I wanted to share that the consciousness, of all of us living, it takes time to become conscious of our colonization. Even in our families it can take time. Some say, "I work, I have my house, a car." They think they are not colonized, and yet they work 60 hours a week and that person does not have time to sleep or even visit their parents. Sister comes along letting him know, yet they say you have a hippie mentality. Before we realized we had the colonized mentality we were walking along with blinders.

Martha

Not everybody wants to know. They want to remain in ignorance; they can't even function without the current state of things. They are swept up by everything. How do we manage our time more effectively? You also need to reflect on and work it out. Am I doing something for oneself, for my own purpose, or for our people?

Guerrero

El vivencia which is not translatable in English but it has big meaning it goes a long way about seeing things different when you think in a different way. Not like you read and just like 1+1 this forum is different you internalize.

A friend picked up this woman that lived in a dump in Mexico somehow she got out of there; she did not know how to read. She would steal even when told she said she did not know. She learned that what she used to do was known as recycling. She learned and she lived in a garage, it's the end of the month, she said, "I have to find a guy." "What do you mean?" asked her friend. "I need to get a guy so I can have money to pay the rent." So her friend told her, "You cannot do that because you have to think about your dignity." "What is that?" "That is something that once you have it cannot be taken. Your clothes, your child, anything else, can be taken away but not your dignity." "My baby? How can that be? My baby came out of me, how can my baby be taken away?" "Well everything can."

Time passed then one day she said, "Dona Maria, ya tengo dignidad. A man came in the middle of the night and kept knocking at my door and I called out, "Que quieres?" The man came to her wanting to sleep with her she turned him away. She said now she had dignidad.

The same here now what we have it cannot be taken away.

Irasema

Once the blinders are off we see things differently, it will not be so easy to fall for the tricks colonialism tends. We can appreciate the struggles our people went through for dignity. We now have a new sense of commitment to do likewise and share with others the importance of living with dignity and respect. Appreciating our people, culture, and history; knowing who we are.

Joaquin

I wanted to say that what was taught to me it was family first. You want to start a revolution you start at home. I have my brother not to trough him under the bus; he is a homie but he purposely has to act in a way to be accepted by his friends. I have to tell him the oppression and break it down, how the colonized mentality has people having to buy, buy, and buy. Even though he knows and he is shopping he will think about it. This one guy told me stuff, and I told him I'm not happy with what is happening. You may just be a step and you are not at the top. You have to realize it is just a start. My family why do they act in the dumps? It's living under the colonization. Whenever they see me my cousin voting republican she always talks like I am crazy. Once she was opening up a new shop and she shouted out about my people in the barrio and viva la raza. That little piece was a step I felt I had gotten to her.

Cruz

Reading a poster in the net, "I will no longer accept what I cannot change. I will no longer be quite", it said.

We are learning something in this class about what liberation is. We have learned when to be silent AND WHEN WE HAVE TO SPEAK UP.

Chavel

We will break up into 4 groups we will count off and each group will have the notes of class 1 and the other classes. Review and comeback and present an analysis about important points.

We are back from the groups

David

We were the second class and talked about the book "Pedagogy of the Oppressed" and emancipatory education.

What we were discussing a moment ago; the main thing I see about emancipation does not only take into account that not only the teacher has all the knowledge. All the people not just the ones with academic back ground the peoples experiences enrich this form of education has a way to liberate from the oppressive forces.

Adela

Review of class 1 colonialism

We just talked about different experiences. I did mention about my experience with it. With my own children who are bicultural so teach them that they are just as chicano than anyone in the barrio it is difficult. They come home with stories that they are asked, "What degree of chicano are they?" Some of their friends ask them. They are told, "You are not supposed to know Spanish. Why are you wearing a Guayavera? You look like a Moreno." I went through the same experiences since I was the morena. Some of my cousins were fair skinned, they were considered the epitome of beauty, I was chosen to wash the dishes. The Cinderella syndrome. The skin tone classism that exists among our people.

Natalie

Class 3 Tex-Mex Revolution

Just learned about the analysis of people being able to recognize the injustice and able to reach out to an audience. Like one on one, as Juan Cortina did as a sales man. Catarino Garza shared with the people as news man in Laredo, documenting reviews because it can get lost.

Jose

Class 4 corrido

As far as analysis I was mentioning in class of corridos that hip hop tells a story of the slums of the poor people coming from a very poor background you listen to the corridos and you know what they say the same with the hip hop and the capitalists effect using these. The real people know what is real.

Lucha

I had corridos it was great because we talked about the different sounds, like the shackles sounds it thought the class was very good.
Good teacher too.

Guerrero

I was with class 1

We basically went over the notes and some of our experiences. My take is again is that it is the crosses by which the most powerful takes over the less powerful by force. That leads to oppression the moors did that to the Spanish to the Mejianos the Mexicans to the indijenas. It can be done by institutions in the family the media that continues to oppress. Many of us see that and realize that we need to change that the culture oppressing women we know it has to change it is a continuous process. We have to be cognoscente that there is oppression of men over women, straight against gay. We have to address that in a way to eradicate oppression that is going against the people. It has been said that racism can only be inflicted by people that have the power. In other words raza, chicanos, negros, gays cannot be racist because they don't have the power, whites do. Look at South Africa they had the power even though they did not have the numbers. It is who has the power that is who we need to rise against.

Lucha

You should see the movie "Skin"

Guerrero

My wife and I have been together a long time. I began to fix the bed with her she laughed she said don't do that that is my job. The internalization of oppression. In Africa a Cuban was helping a woman she said no no that is my job as a woman. Again this is the internalization of oppression.

Luis

Tex-Mex Revolution

Since it was an analysis and reading of three revolutions in Texas the class ended with a question. Did we advance? Did we learn?

We can say there have been advances. But advances in what direction in assimilation certainly, but as far as a successful revolution; the way it was planned, like the Plan de San Diego, then no. And if that is how we measure success than we need to be better organized. If that is a relic of a revolutionary past that cannot be attainable we need to shift our goals. I am conflicted about any original revolutionary advancement.

Irasema

I got a lot out of this class; I got to know about the figures of the past. I learned from the examples set by our brave people in the face of great oppression which was very inspiring. The knowledge shared by all those that participated in the class was

amazing. I am very encouraged by all I learned. The Revolutions, the heroes, the music of the struggle made this course very special.

Joaquin

Class 4 with the corridos

My favorite was class 2 I enjoyed it. My outlook about class 4 about the corridos was great because I love music. When I was reading "With a Pistol in his Hand" it is awesome because there is music in there. In classical music you are only allowed one peak don't let the music rise too much. In the corrido you yell all the time, there are many peaks. It is funny because it was wonderful to sit and read those books and what brought that music to us today. Like son jarocho, mariachi, famous corrido singers, the style I was looking at an old record where, Javier Solis, he is singing corridos and he is pictured very clean with a pompadour.

Cruz

I want to thank everybody it was a real pleasure I will miss you guys. I had an idea my email is there you can share with me anything. I have to leave early.

I have been active for a long time in the politics in different organizations. Then of course I took on some responsibilities that I did not expect. Although I still participate I have not been committed to any as a group, instead I've had to fend for my own personal survival. Me da mucho gusto to be here with you all this semester. I really believe that we need to continue this for ourselves and our young people as a group. If we do not do it, no one else will.

Hopefully I will see it happen.

Mary Lou

Upon review looking on colonialism the historical the process from that first class and now the different ways that is still present in our society even the tech around us our phones, social media, the cameras, all ways someone watching to make sure you are in complaisance colonial is not a term from history it is a present danger, begins in the home and moves out from there. The dad running the ship people don't realize it can be dif. The oppression starts there unless you are not aware you will not realize, until you question even if you don't get the answer you wanted you realize colonialism is not a historical term only it is now.

Martha

Part of class 3

What I saw was that we were doing things. Some of the information from the past, that I learned, I did not know. Once I read I knew that the Alamo was not what was in the history books. I learned that it was important to record and relate not let the others tell our stories. When we studied Catarino Garza, Emma and other people, I will carry that history, no tienes que decir. It is not in the current education system it is with my brothers and sisters, my parents and grandparents. My parents and grandparents would say, "You are poor but you don't have to be dirty." Personal hygiene has a lot to do with self-respect. Otro dicho "que mal educado" was not related to school. No saludar, not to say excuse me. That is what we are losing. You

could say, even they could say, we were animals. They could not point the finger, which was discourteous. It all had to do with self-respect. The other thing that was very important was our dignity. If it was wrong you did not do it, you did what was right. They would remind us of “los heroes”, tenemos un Corazon muy grande, it is important to share was also something we lived by.

Chavel in =2 or 3 words what the university meant to you

Martha

Awakening, nosotros (a term used a lot), Tesoro
Nosotros somos un Tesoro, reconocerlo

Mary Lou

Awe-inspiring, exhilarating, mind expanding

Joaquin

Fabulous, fun,

Fierce

Irasema

Amazing, respect, thought-provoking

Luis

Reinforcing, lacking indigenous perspectives

Guerrero

Community (coming together) family, revolución (keep searching)

Lucha

Informative, interesting, engaging

Jose

History is power

Natalie

Dialogue history, distinguishing-binaries-established by the elite

Adela

Poetical

Chavel that concludes the semester we will now compile all the notes and all the one pagers without the names. Once we synthesis it all, we will send it out to you. This is new knowledge. Pictures will be included.

We will print it out. Recognition to our note taker, the food was provided by Juanny.
What University provides meals?

The next semester will be in the summer. The youth will be included we need to figure out what dates whether it will be 4 weeks, it could involve going out about the missions or the murals of the city. We can take in the Alamo with our history. Who wants to participate in being an adjunct teacher? The curriculum will be considered for the summer, and we need to see if we will have to re-register or what will be discussed.

This was liberation spring next is *Freedom Summer Semester 2013* and we will also have a fall semester (*Emancipation Autumn semester*).

We may have to do two classes one in the day for the youth. If they can come during the evening then a second class may not be needed.

Chavel

It was great having you all participate.

It was a resounding success. So await your compilations.



