

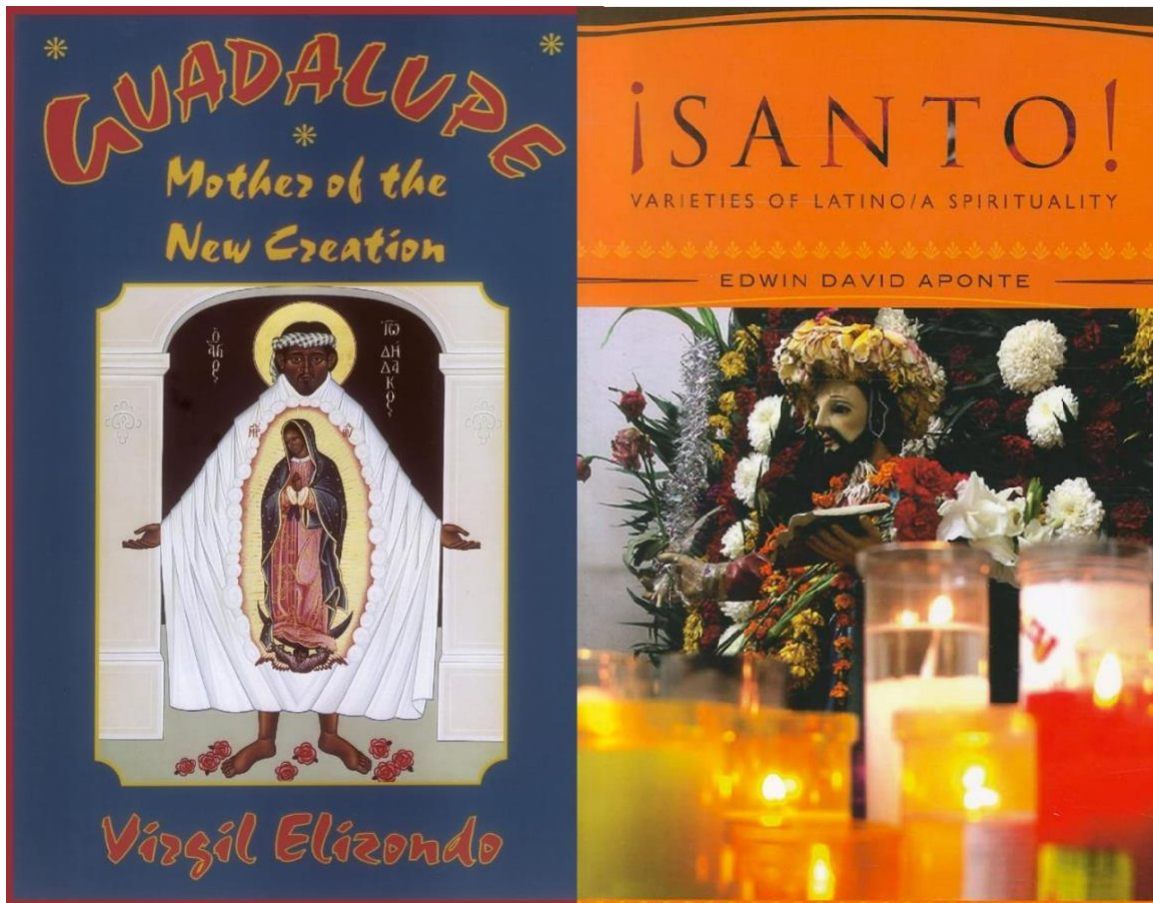
*Santa Clara University Graduate Program in Pastoral
Ministries*

Winter 2026-SYLLABUS

Latina/o Popular Religiosity and Its Ethics of Solidarity

LATM 222

Robert Lassalle-Klein, Ph.D., M.S.W.



Monday 6:00-9:00 pm

Click this link for all online meetings:

<https://scu.zoom.us/j/4757798992?pwd=VVFKL20zTkRLak5RenNKMW1RnJKdz09>

Schedule of Meetings

Monday 6:00-9:00 pm

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<https://scu.zoom.us/j/4757798992?pwd=VVFKL20zTkRLak5RenNKMew1RnJKdz09>

<u>CLASS NUM.</u>	<u>MONDAYS (hours)</u>	<u>WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS</u>
#1	Jan. 5 6:00-9:00 pm (3)	
#2	Jan. 12 6:00-9:00 pm (3)	Short Summary Assignment (participation) #1 (10-4-25)
#3	Jan. 19 6:00-9:00 pm (3)	
#4	Jan. 26 6:00-9:00 pm (3)	Short Summary Assignment (participation) #2 (10-18-25)
#5	Feb. 2 6:00-9:00 pm (3)	
#6	Feb. 9 6:00-9:00 pm (3)	Short Proposal for Final Project Paper (10-28-25) Discuss in class.
#7	Feb. 16 6:00-9:00 pm (3)	
#8	Feb. 23 6:00-9:00 pm (3)	Short Paper (11-15-25)
#9	March 2 6:00-9:00 pm (3)	
#10	March 9 6:00-9:00 pm (3)	Oral Presentation in Class of Final Project Paper
Final	MARCH 16	Final Project Paper (12-10- 25)

Latina/o Popular Religiosity and Its Ethics of Solidarity

LATM 222

Instructor: Robert Lassalle-Klein
Email: ralassalleklein@scu.edu

Telephone: 510-206-4904
Office hours: Noon-1pm
every Wed. via Zoom (use link
above), or by appt

Course Description

This course explores the roots, branches, and fruit of Hispanic-Latino/a/x/e popular religion and its ethics of solidarity. First, we examine its roots in pre-Colombian Indigenous and Spanish Catholic cosmologies, the simultaneously tragic and beautiful history of Hispanic-Latino/a/x Catholicism in the Americas, and the crucial role of

religion in cross-cultural human development and family life. Second, we analyze its growth in the form of selected devotions, liturgies, spiritualities, and practices symbolizing the church, home, body, field, and workplace as sacred spaces. Third, we explore its transformative power mediating the encounter of generations of Hispanic-Latino/a/x/e communities with the sacred, holy, ultimate reality of God's self-offer and our response in the realities of everyday (*cotidiano*) life.

A required course in the Latina/o Ministry emphasis (an elective for other students); 4 units.

Required Readings

TEXTBOOKS

Aponte, Edwin David *Santo! Varieties of Latino/a Spirituality*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2012. (193). Available for \$7.00 at Amazon.

Elizondo, Virgilio. *The Future is Mestizo*. University Press of Colorado, 2000. (131) Available for \$13 at Amazon.

Gardiner, Harry W. *Lives Across Cultures: Cross-Cultural Human Development*. NY, NY: Pearson, 2018. (157). Available as PDF for \$17.99 at:
https://giftsquality.com/products/lives-across-cultures-cross-cultural-human-development?msclkid=33d4da56c7771cffbeb2b35d71338171&utm_source=bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=US+Highbid&utm_term=4577679230922237&utm_content=Ad+group+%231

Pineda-Madrid, Nancy. *Suffering and Salvation in Ciudad Juárez*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2011. 978-0800698478 (200). Available electronically from SCU Library.
<https://www-jstor-org.libproxy.scu.edu/stable/j.ctt22nm98s>

READER: Provided by Instructor

Assignments:

Course Requirements and Methods of Evaluation

1. Participation and Course Responsibility: 30%

- a. **Attendance**: Students are expected to attend *every* class session and will be held responsible for the assigned material. **Students will be allowed one unquestioned, excused absence. Unexcused absences of two or more may result in one whole letter grade deduction each.** Please inform me of all

absences at least twenty-four hours before class by emailing ralassalleklein@scu.edu or by phoning 510-206-4904.

b. **Short Summary Assignments (ungraded short summary of the reading for that day):**

Students will be asked to complete assignments summarizing the assigned readings in preparation for two classes. Answer each question with at least one paragraph. You may write as much as you want, but you should at least do the minimum. Answers may be taken directly from the readings.

Citations are not required, though it is recommended that you provide page numbers in parentheses at the end of each answer (e.g. “Orlando Espín argues that popular religion is a foundation element of U.S. Latino/a/x theology (133)”).

c. **In class discussion**

Class participation entails active engagement in class discussions. This involves preparing the readings, asking questions, the frequency and clarity of your contributions, knowledge of the reading matter under discussion, the ability to articulate a position, the clarity and power of your reflections, and attentive listening to others.

2. **Short Paper Assignment: 30%**

Students will write one short reflection paper on a topic related to the major themes from the course. The due date is provided in the assignment list above. All essays/answers must be double spaced, typed, in 12-point type with one-inch margins and at least 5 pages long. They should be checked for spelling and grammar, and must include citations and footnotes. Essays should be turned in to the DIGITAL DROP BOX IN CAMINO by the day assigned. Late essays will only be accepted with permission after the due date. The grade for late essays will be automatically reduced by 20% unless you provide a written excuse and receive permission to be late. Further information will be provided in class and on *Camino* regarding these papers.

3. **Final Project Paper: 40%**

There will be a final eight to ten page project/paper asking students to reflect theologically on some aspect of Latino/a/x popular religiosity and its ethics of solidarity and to explain how it fits (or does not) into your ministry. Details regarding the project and paper will be announced in class.

Learning Goals and Objectives:

Goal 1: Theological Foundation

Knowledge of the human reality of Latino/a/x/e popular religiosity and its ethics of solidarity as a foundation for ministry and theological reflection that enriches ministerial practices across varying contexts.

Goal 2: Pastoral Proficiency

- A) Familiarity with leading theological, biblical, historical and ethical studies of Latino/a/x/e popular religiosity and its ethics of solidarity, and knowledge of official Catholic teaching on the subject, and
- B) Ability to apply this knowledge in pastoral settings that include discernment, compassion, pastoral leadership, and ministries of accompaniment

Goal 3: Servant Leadership

A commitment to identify and understand systemic and personal injustices, racism, and misunderstandings suffered by Latino/a Catholics and non-Catholics. Exposure to the skills needed to work in collaboration with individuals and institutions in accompanying Hispanic-Latino/a/x/e Catholic communities, supporting local communities and institutions, and promoting positive social change both within and outside the Church and the state.

Goal 4: Diversity Fluency

Awareness of and critical engagement with how one's own culture influences their views, attitudes, and actions in regards to ethnic identity and how that is expressed in ministry. Exposure to ministerial models engaging Hispanic-Latino/a/x/e Catholics and non-Catholics that build the community of Christ through sensitive and respectful interactions with all cultures and traditions, especially with individuals who vary by race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and dynamics of wealth, poverty, and power.