Assignments:

I. Read the epic poem, "I Am Joaquin" by Rodolfo (Corky) Gonzales (Right click your mouse and select "open link in new window"): http://wwwlatinamericanstudies.org/latinos/joaquin.htm

Print the poem to read while you simultaneously view the videos of a stylized reading with music and photos. Music by Daniel Valdez; reading by Luis Valdez. ** (Each part takes about 10 minutes):

Part 1 of video (Right click your mouse and select "open link in new window"): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6M6qOG2O-o&feature=related

Part 2 of video
(Right click your mouse and select "open link in new window") : http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sCa3qYm9Y

II. Search the internet for any unfamiliar (to you) historical/mythological names that Gonzales mentions in the poem:

Cuauhtemoc, Nezahualcoyotl, Cortez, Tonantzin, The Virgin of Guadalupe, Juan Diego, Hidalgo, Morales, Matamoros Guerrero, Don Benito Juarez, Pancho Villa, Emiliano Zapata, Diaz, Huerta, Francisco Madero, etc. If this history is new to you, you may find this short video on the 1910 Revolution helpful: http://english.bicentenario.gob.mx/index.php?id=108&option=com_content&view=article

III. Complete all forum discussions by Thursday; reply to others by Sunday.

IV. Complete the Week 2 Quiz under Coursework by Sunday.
For more information about El Teatro Campesino (founded by Luis Valdez) click this link: http://www.elteatrocampesino.com/index.html

Forum Discussion Questions

Week 2a: Corky Gonzales and La Raza Unida

Answer at least one below by Thursday; reply to someone else by Sunday:

1) Look online for biographical information about Rodolfo Corky Gonzales. Tell us the most interesting things you found.

2) Gloria Anzaldua said, "Chicanos did not know we were a people until 1965 when Cesar Chavez and the farmworkers united and I Am Joaquin was published and La Raza Unida party was formed in Texas. . . We began to get glimpses of what we might eventually become" (Garcia p. 50).

Click here for more info about this American hero:


Talk about what you've heard about Chavez or how your family or people you know have been affected by his activism.

3) Compare the strong ideas in I Am Joaquin to those ideas we already discussed in Anzaldua's "How to Tame a Wild Tongue." What do you find most interesting? surprising? revealing? truthful? arguable? different from what you thought you knew?

4) In his 1925 book, La Raza Cósmica (The Cosmic Race), Mexican writer José Vasconcelos described La Raza Cosmica as the product of gradual racial mixing that was already underway in the Hispanic world. Vasconcelos believed that eventually all of the people within the Spanish Empire would be completely mixed into a new race.

How does this idea compare with the message and attitude in I Am Juaquin?

Week 2b Revolution and Revenge [and Contradiction] in I Am Joaquin

Answer at least one by Thursday; reply to other people by Sunday:
1) After reading and viewing the videos of I Am Joaquin, discuss the people or parts, that most affect you and say why. Notice how much of the history concerns revolution--what do you understand about WHY? Use quotes by copy/pasting the parts you like into your forum answer.

2) After reading the story of Joaquin Murietta, explain why you think Corky Gonzales chose this name for the title of his epic poem. Was Joaquin Murietta a revolutionary? What made him a legend? In your childhood or whenever, have you heard any stories about headless or revengeful ghosts? Tell us the story you heard.

3) Explain Gonzales' perception of Cortez in his contradictory role(s) of father and rapist/terrorist.

4) What image(s) from the video were most memorable to you. Say which one and why/how it affected you.

5) Ask your own question (and begin to answer it) about I Am Joaquin. Invite discussion.

Week 2c History of Revolution

Google and write your response about any unfamiliar (to you) historical/mythological names that Gonzales mentions in the poem:

Cuauhtemoc, Nezahualcoyotl, Cortez, Tonantzin, The Virgin of Guadalupe, Juan Diego, Hidalgo, Morales, Matamoros Guerrero, Don Benito Juarez, Pancho Villa, Emiliano Zapata, Diaz, Huerta, Francisco Madero, etc.

You may find this short video on the 1910 Revolution helpful:


OR...

Ask any question you may have about this week's readings; provide specific quotes or passages--be as specific as possible.