

Ethnic Studies 180/History 164: Special Topics in Mexican American History
Spring 2005
Wednesdays, 9:00am to 11:50am

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 12-1:30 pm, Wednesdays 1:00-2:30PM. Or by special appointment

This is a special topics course that explores themes in Mexican American history. This quarter we will delve into the history of the Chicano Movement, from roughly 1960 to 1985, using primary sources as our main font of information. Many of the books that we will read were written by leaders of the Chicano Movement, long after their days of youthful activism. Our goal is to situate the men and women who shaped this social movement, then had the opportunity to reflect on their past in writing, rehearsing for themselves what they thought their motivations, accomplishments and defeats actually were. Our goal is to study chronology, regional differences, generational conflicts, and the emergence of political identities that were forged into a social movement. Using literature on social movements, we will also look at how the Chicano/a Movement squares with that literature.

Course Grades: Course evaluation will be based on a 20 minute oral presentation (25%), research paper (35%), and participation in class discussions (40%).

Course Requirements: Attending class, participating in classroom discussions, and reading the assigned course materials are considered among the normal requirements needed to successfully complete this course. The reading materials generally present first-hand descriptions of historical events that are studied in this course. Lectures will touch on some of the themes covered in the readings, but will not summarize them all.

The writing assignment for this course is a 20-page research paper on a theme or topic of your choice. Guidelines for this assignment will be discussed in class. Paper topics and a tentative bibliography are due no later than Wednesday, April 27th; papers are due at our last class meeting on June 4th, but may be turned early.

All members of the class will be asked to give a 20-minute classroom presentation on a topic of their choice. Dates for these presentations will be assigned during the second week of class. A list of potential topics is listed at the end of this syllabus. Students should feel free to choose topics that do not appear on this list, but should be approved by the professor.

REQUIRED READINGS: The following books are available at Ground Works and are on reserve at the University's central library.

Alma García, ed., *Chicana Feminist Thought: The Basic Historical Writings* (New York : Routledge, 1997).

Rodolfo Gonzales, *Message to Aztlán: Selected writings of Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales* (Houston, Tex. : Arte Público Press, 2001).

José Angel Gutiérrez, *The Making of a Chicano Militant: Lessons from Cristal* (Madison, Wis. : University of Wisconsin Press, 1998).

Richard J. Jensen and John C. Hammerback, eds. *The Words of César Chávez* (College Station : Texas A & M University Press, 2002).

Ian Haney López, *Racism on Trial: The Chicano Fight for Justice* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2003)

Reies López Tijerina, *They Called me "King Tiger": My Struggle for the Land and Our Rights* (Houston, Tex. : Arte Público Press, 2000).

Lea Ybarra, *Vietnam Veterans: Chicanos Recall the War* (Austin, Tx.: University of Texas Press, 2004).

CLASS MEETINGS, DISCUSSION TOPICS, ASSIGNED READINGS

March 30, 2005 – Identity, Space and History
Introductory Lecture

April 6, 2005 – The Struggle for Land -- Movement Origins in New Mexico

READING: Ramón A. Gutiérrez, “Ethnic Mexicans in Historical and Social Science Scholarship,” in *Handbook of Research on Multicultural Education*, (New York: Macmillan Publishing, 2004), will be sent as an email attachment.

Reies López Tijerina, *They Called me "King Tiger": My struggle for the Land and Our Rights*, pp. xi -171.

April 20, 2005 - Factories in the Fields: César Chávez and Agricultural Laborers

READING: Richard J. Jensen and John C. Hammerback, eds. *The Words of César Chávez*, pp. xi-88.

April 27, 2005 – The Case for Educational Reform: The LA Blowout

READING: Ian Haney López, *Racism on Trial: The Chicano Fight for Justice* (read all).

May 4, 2005 -- Educational Reform and Local Power: José Angel Gutiérrez and Crystal City, Texas,

READING: José Angel Gutiérrez, *The Making of a Chicano Militant*, pp. xi-214.
Alma Garcia, ed., *Chicana Feminist Thought*, pp. 71-107.

May 11, 2005 – Forging a National Political Party: La Raza Unida

READING: José Angel Gutiérrez, *The Making of a Chicano Militant: Lessons from Cristal*, pp. xi-215-266.

Alma Garcia, ed., *Chicana Feminist Thought*, pp. 139-186.

May 18, 2005 – “I Am Joaquin” and Denver’s Crusade for Justice

READING: Rodolfo Gonzales, *Message to Aztlán*, pp. xi-247.

May 25, 2005 – Feminisms and the Chicano Movement

READING: Alma Garcia, ed., *Chicana Feminist Thought*, pp. 1-70, 107-138, 265-312.

June 4, 2005 – The War in Vietnam and the Collapse of the Chicano Movement

READING: Lea Ybarra, *Vietnam Veteranos*, pp. 1-240.

POTENTIAL SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

Pre-Chicano Political Organizations: LULAC and the American G.I. Forum

The landmark 1954 educational rights case, Hernández vs. Texas

Betita Martinez and *El Grito del Norte* newspaper in New Mexico

The religious thought of Reies López Tijerina as seen in his (Spanish) sermons

Student activism in Texas in the early 1960s

The influence of Gandhi on the César Chávez’s political thought

El Teatro Campesino and the United Farmworkers of America (UFW)

Dolores Huerta and the UFW

Women’s roles in the UFW

UFW Boycotts and their impact on Agribusiness

The Brown Berets

Chicana Brown Berets

Political Manifestos of the Chicano Movement

La Raza Unida Party in the Southwest

Chicana Feminism and its relation to White Feminism

The nature of political identities

Chicano/a Art and the CARA Exhibition

Chicana Lesbianism and the works of Cherrie Moraga and Gloria Anzaldúa

Gay Liberation and the Chicano Movement

The movement for Chicano Studies in colleges and universities

Internal Colonialism and Chicanos/as

The Chicano/a Literary Renaissance (poetry, novels, etc.)

The Poor People’s March on Washington

Relations between Black and Chicano Nationalists

Influence of the Black Civil Rights Movement on Chicanos and Chicanas