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.


**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


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


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


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


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

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

May 25, 2005 – Feminisms and the Chicano Movement

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

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 Anzaldua
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