Ethnic Studies 189 Special Topics: Chicanas and Chicanos in American Society  
Spring 2006  
Tuesdays, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

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This course explores the history of ethnic Mexicans in the United States from the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo in 1848, which ended the U.S.-Mexico War, to the present. Through lectures, readings, and the analysis of primary documents, this course delves into the origins of Mexican American identities, the movement of large numbers of immigrants to this country from Mexico, the development of social and political organizations, the mobilization of labor into unions and protective leagues, the rise of the Chicano and Chicana Movement during the 1960s, its concrete results, and the emergence of new Latino identities.

The goals for this class are three: 1) to learn the names, events, and ideas that shaped the history of ethnic Mexicans in the United States, 2) to learn how to undertake historical research using primary and original documents, and 3) to master the craft of writing history, and public speaking and debate through classroom presentations and discussion

Course Grades: Course evaluation will be based on five components: 1) midterm exam (25%), 2) final exam (25%), 3) research paper (25%), 4) oral presentation (15%), and 5) attendance (10%).

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 10-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 Tuesday, April 18th; papers are due on Tuesday, May 30th, but may be turned earlier if you desire.

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.

FINAL EXAM: WEDNESDAY, June 14, 2006 from 7 to 10pm.
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

April 4 – Identity, Space and History
   Introductory Lecture

April 11 – Spanish and Mexican Origins in the U.S. Southwest
   READING:

April 18 – The Mexican Revolution and Mexican Immigration

April 25 – The Americanization of Mexican in the United States

May 2 – The Great Depression and Mexican Repatriation

May 9 – Mexican American Identity and Politics during World War II
   Midterm Exam: First half of the class

May 16 – Labor Organizations and the Origins of the Chicano Movement
   F. Arturo Rosales, *Testimonio*, pp. 269-404
May 23 – The Rural Revolt/The Urban Revolt
READING: Ian Haney López, *Racism on Trial*, all.

May 30 – The Urban Revolt, Feminism and the War in Vietnam

June 6 – Mexican and Latino Identities Today

POTENTIAL SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS
The Plan de San Diego and the Revolt Against Anglo Control
Ricardo Flores Magón and the origins of Mexican Feminism
Role of Mexican Consuls in the treatment of Mexicans in the U.S.
The 1930’s Repatriation of Mexicans
The Zoot Suit Riots in Los Angeles
Mexican Immigrants in the Midwest
Mexican Immigrants in the Pacific Northwest
The Bracero Program
The Lemon Grove Case to end Segregation
Mexican Mutual Aid Societies
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
Chicano and Chicana Experiences of the War in Vietnam
Influence of the Black Civil Rights Movement on Chicanos and Chicanas
Mexican Immigrants in the American South