

**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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Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:00 – 4:30 pm, Wednesdays 12:30-2:30 pm, or by special appointment

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 18<sup>th</sup>; papers are due on Tuesday, May 30<sup>h</sup>, 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.

George Sanchez, *Becoming Mexican American* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1993)

David Gutierrez, *Walls and Mirrors* (Berkeley: U. California Press, 1995).

Ian Haney Lopez, *Racism on Trial* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2003)

Alma Garcia, ed., *Chicana Feminist Thought* (New York: Routledge, 1997)

Francisco Arturo Rosales, *Testimonio: A Documentary History of the Mexican American Struggle for Civil Rights*.

### **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:

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.

F. Arturo Rosales, *Testimonio*, pp. 1-75.

David Gutiérrez, *Walls and Mirrors*, pp. 1-68.

#### April 18 - The Mexican Revolution and Mexican Immigration

READING: F. Arturo Rosales, *Testimonio*, pp. 76-156.

#### April 25 – The Americanization of Mexican in the United States

READING: George Sánchez, *Becoming Mexican American*, pp. 1-128.

#### May 2 -- The Great Depression and Mexican Repatriation

READING: George Sánchez, *Becoming Mexican American*, pp. 129-274.

#### May 9 – Mexican American Identity and Politics during World War II

Midterm Exam: First half of the class

READING: David Gutiérrez, *Walls and Mirrors*, pp. 69-151.

F. Arturo Rosales, *Testimonio*, pp. 157-268.

#### May 16 – Labor Organizations and the Origins of the Chicano Movement

READING: David Gutiérrez, *Walls and Mirrors*, pp. 152-178.

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

READING: Alma Garcia, ed., *Chicana Feminist Thought*, all.

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