

History 4325
Jr.-Sr. Seminar/ "History of El Paso"
Fall 2015

Manuel Ramírez , Ph.D.
Office: GRAH 302
Office Hours: TR10:30-12
and by appt
Phone: 747-5824
Email: mbramirez@utep.edu

Chicana/o Studies
GRAH: 104
Phone: 747-5462

Department of History
LART: 320
Phone: 747-5508

This course seeks to provide students with the opportunity to conduct original research on El Paso. The course readings examine a variety of topics related to the history of El Paso. Several issues will be discussed including the U.S.-Mexico border, migration, gender, and social history. The primary and secondary readings in this course attempt to aid students in their exploration of their chosen topics.

Required texts:

Mario García, *Desert Immigrants: The Mexicans of El Paso, 1880-1920*
Richard Marius, *A Short Guide to Writing About History* (9th ed.)
David Romo, *Ringside Seat to a Revolution*

Articles will be posted on Blackboard.

Course Policies:

1. Students are expected to attend class lectures. Attendance will be taken.
2. The assigned readings should be read prior to coming to class.
3. When discussing issues in class, you should be respectful of others. Personal attacks are not permitted. This applies whether the person is a student, a visitor, or the instructor. I look forward to hearing your opinions and ideas.
4. Students are expected to attend and turn in assignment on assigned dates.
5. Do not leave class early unless you have spoken to me. Otherwise, you will be noted absent.
6. Do not carry a conversation, read the newspaper, or study materials for your other classes. Please turn off your cell phones. I will not hesitate to point out that your behavior is unacceptable. If the disruptive behavior continues, you will be told to leave class.

If you are having any difficulty in the class, please talk to me. I am here to help you. Please do not miss class for several days. The overwhelming majority of students who do this never catch-up. Instead it is better to communicate any difficulty you are having with the instructor.

Evaluation:

Paper: 200 points. Students will write a paper dealing with any field of El Paso history. This paper should include both primary and secondary sources and contribute to the understanding of the region's history. Please note that the paper constitutes only part of your final grade.

Short critiques: 100 points. Students are required to write four short critiques (4 x 25) based on the readings. The critique should include the thesis, supporting arguments, and your opinions of the readings. The instructor will distribute a handout with specific instructions on how to complete these assignments.

Participation, progress work, and leading class discussions: 100 points. Class participation (25 points) is essential in this course. Read the assigned readings and be prepared to discuss them in class. To make sure that students are working on their papers the instructor will also require progress work (25 points). This will consist of selection of research topic and description, preliminary annotated bibliography, rough drafts, critiques of rough drafts, and consultation with the instructor.

In addition, all students are required to lead at least two class discussions (25 points each for a total of 50 points). Students will introduce the reading by providing a brief overview and bring questions for the class to discuss.

Grade Scale:

A= 400-360

C= 319-280

F= 239-0

B= 359-320

D= 279-240

Attendance Policy:

You are urged strongly to attend class. Part of being a successful student in any class is regular attendance. Students will be allowed two absences. I make no distinction between excused and unexcused absences. Any absence over two will result in a twenty-point deduction for each absence from the student's total points (see grade scale above). For example, a student five absences will have his/her final grade lowered by 60 points. There will be no exceptions to this rule. Under no circumstance should you sign-in for another student. You risk serious penalties.

Dropping the course:

The last day to drop with an automatic "W" is October 30. You are responsible for dropping the course if you no longer plan to attend. If you are considering dropping the course, please discuss the matter with the instructor. Things may not be as bad as you think. The instructor, however, does retain the right to drop students with excessive absences.

Students are urged strongly to obtain a UTEP e-mail address. To obtain an e-mail address log on to: newaccount.utep.edu.

Laptop Use:

Laptops are only permitted for students leading class discussions and accessing reading materials.

Cell Phones:

1. As previously mentioned, set your phone to mute or silent mode before coming to class.
2. Do not answer incoming calls or make outgoing calls in class.
3. Do not use text messaging or web browser features while in class.

Other Wireless Devices

1. Shut off the device or set it to mute before coming to class.
2. Do not use text messaging or web browser features while in class.

History Tutoring Center: If you are having any concerns or trouble with the course, you may also contact the history tutoring center located at LART 327, 747.7058, htc@utep.edu.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP). It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as ones' own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. Please consult the Handbook of Operating Procedures at <http://hoop.utep.edu> for the complete University policy on academic dishonesty. You may also consult with the Assistant Dean of Students at the Student Union Building West, Room 102, or by calling 747-5648.

Students with Disabilities

If you have or believe you have a disability, you may wish to self-identify. You can do so by providing documentation to the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). It is located in the Student Union Building East, Room 203, 747-5148, cass@utep.edu. If you have a condition that may affect your ability to exit safely from the premises in an emergency or that may cause an emergency during class, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of CASS.

Calendar: (Subject to change with reasonable notice to students)

Week 1: (August 27)--The Border Is?

Introduction

Library Tour

Special Collections, 6th Floor

Week 2: (September 3)--The Borderlands

Oscar Martínez, "Introduction", "The US-Mexico Borderlands", "Mexican Americans"

Paul Ganster, "Distinguishing Characteristics and Early History"

Week 3: (September 10)--Everyday Life in a Borderland City

Mario Garcia, *Desert Immigrants*, intro., chapters 2-5

Week 4: (September 17)--Everyday Life in a Borderland City (con't)

Garcia, 6-10

Week: 5 (September 24)—Ethnic Milieu / Borders of Exclusion

Patrick Ettinger, "We Sometimes Wonder What They Will Spring on Us Next": Immigrants in the American West, 1882-1930"

Erika Lee, "Enforcing the Borders: Chinese Exclusion along the US Borders with Canada and Mexico, 1882-1924"

Alexandra Minna Stern, "Quarantine and Eugenic Gatekeeping on the US-Mexico Border"

Week 6: (October 1)—Abstract and Preliminary Sources

Students will be expected to discuss their research progress. You should bring to class an abstract and at least ten annotated sources. Bring copies of your work to pass out to the class. This assignment is worth 10 points.

Activism and Politics

Mario García, "The 1957 Election"
Milagros Peña, "Women's Activism in Greater El Paso/Ciudad Juárez"

Week 7: (October 8)

Moral Reform and Nativism

Ann R. Gabbert, "Prostitution and Moral Reform in the Borderlands: El Paso, 1890-1920"

Oscar Martínez, "Prohibition"

Shawn Lay, "The Ku Klux Klan Comes to El Paso"

Week 8: (October 15)—Research and Writing Methods

Marius, *A Short Guide to Writing About History*. Students should be prepared to share with the class at least six major points made in the book. This assignment is worth 10 points. The instructor will provide instruction on how to complete this assignment.

El Paso and Ciudad Juárez during the Mexican Revolutionary Era

David D. Romo, pp. 3-14 (prologue), pp. 17-51, 52-76, 77-111

Week 9: (October 22)—Con't

Romo, 77-111, 113-154

155-172

Week 10: (October 29)

No class. Work on your paper.

Week 11: (November 5)

No classes. Work on your paper.

Week 12: (November 12)

Individual consultations. 5 points.

Week 13: (November 19)--Discuss Research Papers and Critique

Week 14: (November 26)

Thanksgiving—No class

Week 15: (December 3)

Paper presentations. Papers due December 10.