

Summer II 2021

HIST 3309/

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Mexican American History

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

Department of History
LART: 320
Phone: 747-5508

Course Description:

This course examines the history of ethnic Mexicans in the United States. Covering the pre-Columbian period to the recent past, students will gain an understanding of the richness and diversity of Mexican American history. Throughout the semester, several topics will be examined including early Mexican settlements, US conquest, immigration, community creation, identity, and gender. This course also seeks to develop independent and critical thinking, increase skills in written and oral communication, and foster the integration of perspectives. The format of the course is a combination of lectures, class discussions, and visual presentations.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Mario T. García, *Desert Immigrants: The Mexicans of El Paso, 1880-1920*.
Vicki L. Ruiz, *From Out of the Shadow: Mexican Women in the Twentieth-Century America*
Tomás Jiménez, *replenished Ethnicity*
George Sánchez, *Becoming Mexican American: Ethnicity, Culture, and Identity in Chicano Los Angeles, 1900-1945*

Additional readings 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 take exams 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:

Exams: Three exams will be administered, each worth 100 points. You are responsible for material covered in class and the texts. No one will be allowed to leave the room during exams. Students missing an exam must contact the instructor within 24 hours. Make-up exams are given only in cases of documented emergencies. The instructor will decide whether the student has a legitimate excuse to take a make-up exam.

In-class assignments: Throughout the semester students are expected to complete assignments in class. There will be four written assignments to be completed during the class period, each worth 25 points for a total of 100 points. No make-ups will be given. You should bring your books, reader, and notes to class.

Grade Scale: A= 400-360; B=359-320; C= 319-280; D=279-240; F=239-0.

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 from the total points (see grade scale above) for each additional absence. For example, a student with 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.

The last day to drop with an automatic “W” is July 23. You are responsible for dropping the course if you no longer plan to attend. The instructor, however, reserves the right to drop students for excessive absences. If you are considering dropping the course, please discuss the matter with the instructor. Things may not be as bad as you think.

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

ATTENTION GRADUATE STUDENTS: In order to obtain graduate credit for this course, you must satisfactorily complete a term paper or conduct research on a topic, with parameters and editorial style approved beforehand by the course instructor.

Laptop Use:

Laptops are permitted in class. Students, however, must abide by the following:

1. Set your laptop volume control to mute or off before coming to class.
2. Keep your laptop closed during presentations and other specific in-class activities. Under no circumstances should you have your laptop open during video presentations.
3. Students using laptops are not permitted to sit in the back of the classroom.
4. Do not engage in unauthorized communication or entertainment (web surfing, instant messaging, chat room chatting, video viewing, music playing, game playing, etc.) during class unless it is part of the lesson. These activities are extremely disruptive to your classmates and the instructor. Violating this policy will result in the student forfeiting the privilege of using a laptop in class.

Cell Phones:

1. As previously mentioned, set your phone to mute or silent mode before coming to class.
2. The use of cell phones is prohibited during class unless you are accessing the readings for the in-class assignments.
3. **Never text during an exam or answer cells phones. You will receive a zero for the exam and appropriate action will be taken by the instructor. See policy on academic dishonesty.**

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.

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 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: July 6-9

Introduction: Class policies and background on Chicano/a history.

Pre-Columbian Societies and the Spanish Conquest.

Film: "Mexico"

Mexico under Spanish Rule

Virginia Marie Bouvier, "Sexuality and Marriage" (Bb).

The Wars of Independence

Life in Mexican Texas and the Texas Revolt

Arnoldo de Leon, "Spaniards, Mexicans, and Americans"; Jack D. Lack, "Occupied Texas, 1835-1836" (Bb).

1st In-class assignment: July 9.

Week 2: July 12-16

The US-Mexico War

Film: "The US-Mexico War"

Exam 1: July 14 (Wednesday).

Conquest and Mexican Life.

García, 1-8, 65-171, 197-236

The Mexican Revolution
García, 172-196
Film: "Border Bandits"

2nd In-class assignment: July 16.

Week 3: July 19-23

The Great Migration, 1900-1929
Ruiz, 3-32; García, 9-64; Sánchez, 17-83.
3rd In-class assignment: July 20.

Exam 2: July 21 (Wednesday).

The 1920s
Ruiz, 33-71; Sánchez, 84-125.

The Great Depression: Deportation, Repatriation, and Activism.
Film: "The Lemon Grove Incident".
Ruiz, 72-98; Sánchez, 129-226.

World War II
Film: "Zoot-Suit Riots"
Sánchez, 227-269.

Week 4: July 26-30

Mexican Americans at Midcentury.
Neil Foley, "Becoming Hispanic: Mexican Americans and the Faustian Pact with Whiteness";
David G. Gutiérrez, "Ethnic Politics, Immigration, and the Cold War" (Reader).
Film: "The Longoria Affair"

The Chicano Civil Rights Movement
Ernesto Chávez, "'Birth of A New Symbol'" (Reader); Ruiz, 99-146.
Film: "Walkout"

Chicanos/as since 1980
Film: "Walking the Line"
Tomás Jiménez, all.
4th In-class assignment: July 30.

Final Exam: August 2 @ 10. Exam will be in our regular classroom.

Please note: Students will not be allowed to take the final at any other time than the UTEP approved schedule unless they have a documented university approved excuse.

Confusion as to the exam time will not be accepted as a valid reason for missing an examination.