MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURE

This course seeks to develop a student's understanding of Mexican American/Chicano culture in the United States. We will begin with the anthropological debate over the concept of Mexican American culture. After situating the role of anthropology in the study of Mexican-origin groups an overview of Mexican American history and culture will follow. We will then examine other structural topics that have shaped the Mexican American experience, including: segregation, immigration, globalization, agribusiness, and U.S.-Mexico relations.

Topics

January

18 W Introduction
20 F I. A Debate Over Mexican American Culture and the Chicano Movement
23 M
25 W Film: Chicano Civil Rights, Vol. 1 (overview)
27 F
30 M Film: Chicano Civil Rights, Vol. 3 (schools)

February

1 W II. The History of the Mexican American Southwest
3 F Indigenous Peoples
6 M Spanish Period
8 W Film: Viva La Causa 500 Years of Chicano History, VC 5316 VC 5316
10 F
13 M
15 W Film: The Missions of Texas
17 F
20 M Mexican Period
22 W
24 F
27 M Anglo American Period: Mexican American War to the U.S. Civil War
29 W

March

2 F Citizenship and Segregation
5 M
Required Readings

There will be a series of articles available in a class reader. In addition you will be expected to read parts of the following books: Menchaca Naturalizing Mexican Immigrants: A Texas History, Lopez The Farmworkers’ Journey, and Vigil From Indians to Mexicans. The books are available at the University Co-op (Guadalupe St.) and the course reader is available at Speedway (3 articles-Dobie Mall 2025, Guadalupe St., Suite 140, 478-3334).
Exams

There will be one in-class midterm on March 9 and a final exam May 11 (essays, multiple choice). Only a doctor’s letter or a death in the immediate family will be acceptable excuses for a make-up exam.

Grading

Midterm - 40%, final - 50%, and a 7 pages review essay - 10% (typed essay or book report). Attendance is required and excessive absences will affect your grade. Students who have a perfect attendance record will receive a 4 point credit.

Office Hours

Office hours will be held on Monday 1:00 to 3:00 at SAC, room 5.158, and by appointment.

Mexican American Culture
Reading Assignments

Code:
(T) Text (R) Speedway Reader

I. A Debate Over Mexican American Culture and the Chicano Movement


II. The History of the Mexican American Southwest

Read chapter: 1, 3-5, and 7. Suggested reading, but not required: 2, 6.


III. Immigration and U.S. Mexico Relations

Read chapter: 8


IV. Agricultural Workers and Globalization


V. Cultural Citizenship