MEXICAN IMMIGRATION CULTURAL HISTORY

This course seeks to develop a student's understanding of the history of Mexican immigration to the U.S. It will provide an overview of migratory patterns dating back to the late pre-historic period through contemporary times. The focus of the course, however, will be current immigration issues dealing with: 1) causes of Mexican immigration: globalization, Mexican politics, agribusiness, 2) U.S. Law, 3) incorporation, and 4) citizenship.

Topics

January
21 W Introduction
23 F I. Race and Ethnicity in American Society
26 M
28 W
30 F

February
2 M II. Pre-Columbian Migrations
4 W
6 F Film: Prehistoric Migrations in North America (professor)
9 M
11 W III. Spaniards and Indians
13 F
16 M
18 W IV. The Making of the U.S-Mexico Border to the Great Depression
Film: Mexican American War (professor)
20 F
23 M
25 W
27 F Film: And Starting Pancho Villa as Himself

March
2 M
4 W
6 F Film: Hero Street USA VC 4939 (Benson)
9 M
11 W Reading Day!
13 F MIDTERM
16-20 Spring Break
V. Bracero Period to the Western Hemispheric Reforms 1974

Film: A Class Apart

VI. Mexico’s Economic Crisis: 1980s to 1996

Film: El Norte DVD 7554 (Fine Arts)

Film: Environmental Matters DVD 6373 (Benson)

VII. U.S. Congressional Stalemate and the Dream Act

Film: The Ballad of Esquiel Hernandez: DVD 7488 (Benson)

VIII. Identity Formation: Mexico and the U.S.

Paper due

Conclusion

Final Exam: 2 to 5

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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, Castañeda, ExMex: From Migrants to Immigrants, and Bonfil Batalla Mexico Profundo. The books are available at the University Co-op (Guadalupe St.) and the course reader is available at Speedway Copy & Printing (478-3334; 715 W. 23, Suite N-by 23rd and Rio Grande).

Exams

There will be one in-class midterm on March 13 and a final exam May 13 (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 - 40%, and an 8 pages review essay - 20% (typed book report on one of the books in class). Attendance is required and excessive absences will affect your grade. Students who have a perfect attendance record will receive a 3 point credit. Students with only 1 to 2 absences will also receive credit.

A maximum of 2 extra credit points will also be available for attending sessions for a symposium to be held at UT. On February 6 (Friday) “Anthropology at the Edge: The U.S. Mexico Border/lands Symposium” will discuss issues over immigration and Mexican Americans. Information will be provided in class.

Office Hours

Office hours will be held on Monday 11:15 to 12:00 and 1 to 2:15 at SAC, room 5.158. Office hours are also held by appointment.

Cultural Diversity in the U.S. Flagged Course

This course carries the flag for Cultural Diversity in the United States. Cultural Diversity courses are designed to increase your familiarity with the variety and richness of the American cultural experience. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one U.S. cultural group that has experienced persistent marginalization.

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Reading Assignments

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Code:
(T) Text
(R) Speedway Reader

I. Race and Ethnicity in American Society

II. Pre-Columbian Migrations


III. Spaniards and Indians


IV. The Making of the U.S. Mexico Border to the Great Depression


V. Bracero Period to the Western Hemispheric Reforms 1974


VI. Mexico’s Economic Crisis: The 1980s to 1996


VII. U.S. Congressional Stalemate and The Dream Act


VIII. Identity Formation: Mexico and the U.S.

