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

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**I. Race and Ethnicity in American Society**

**II. Pre-Columbian Migrations**

**III. Spaniards and Indians**

**IV. Identity Formation: Mexico and Social Class**

**V. The Making of the U.S-Mexico Border to the Great Depression**

Film: Mexican American War (professor)

Film: And Starting Pancho Villa as Himself

Reading Day!

**MIDTERM**

Spring Break
VI. Bracero Period to the Western Hemispheric Reforms 1976
26 M

Film: A Class Apart

VII. Mexico’s Economic Crisis: 1980s to 1996
6 F

Film: Environmental Matters DVD 6373 (Benson)

11 W

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

23 M

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

Paper Due

12 Sat

Final Exam: 5-8

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, Bonfil Batalla Mexico Profundo, and Chavez The Latino Threat. The books are available at the University Co-op (2246 Guadalupe St.) and the course reader is available at Jenn’s Copy & Binding, (2518 Guadalupe St., 512-482-0779, by Dean Keeton and Guadalupe Street). Books are also on reserve at PCL.

Exams/Essay

There will be one in-class midterm on March 9 and a final exam May 12 (essays, multiple choice). Only a doctor’s letter or a death in the immediate family will be acceptable excuses for a make-up exam (see university policies).
One essay is required and is due April 23. The essay can be based on a book or article (including an assigned reading from class). You can also write an essay based on immigration statistical data from the U.S. Census or the Department of Homeland Security (https://www.dhs.gov/immigration-statistics/yearbook; http://census.gov/topics/population.html). If you decide to write your paper on the statistical data, you should contact Prof. Menchaca during office hours.

Grading

Midterm - 40%, final - 40%, and a 7 pages review essay - 20%. Attendance is required. Students who have a perfect attendance record (0 absences) will receive a 3-point credit. Students with 1 absence will receive a 2 point credit, 2 absences 1 point credit, and 3 absences .5 point credit.

Office Hours

Office hours will be held on Monday 1 to 3 at SAC, room 5.158 and 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.
I. Race and Ethnicity in American Society


II. Pre-Columbian Migrations


III. Spaniards and Indians


IV. Identity Formation: Mexico and Social Class.


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