Mexican American Indigenous Heritage

This course examines the cultural prehistory and racial history of Mexican Americans from 1519 to the present. The purpose of the course is to examine how policies and laws enacted by the governments of Spain, Mexico, and the U.S. impacted the ethnic and racial identities of Mexican Americans. The geographic focus of the course is Mexico and the United States Southwest.

Aug
30 TH Introduction

Sept
4 T The Chicano Movement & Intellectual Foundations
6 TH
11 T Film: Chicano Civil Rights (DVD 8542, Ep.1)
13 TH
18 T Ancient Indians of Mexico & the American Southwest
20 TH Film: Sentinels of Silence DVD 2388/ Spirits of the Canyon (Prof.)
25 T
27 TH The Spanish Period Quiz

Oct
2 T Film: Cabeza de Vaca (DVD 2256)
4 TH
9 T
11 TH Reading Day!
16 T MIDTERM
18 TH
23 T
25 TH
30 T The Mexican Period

Nov
1 TH
6 T Film: Mexico: A Story of Courage & Conquest (DVD 13275, V2)
8 TH Anglo American Period
13 T
15 TH Paper is due
20 T
22 TH Holiday: Thanksgiving!
27 T
29 TH

Dec
4 T
6 TH Conclusion
13 Thursday Final Exam: 9am to 12noon (confirm with university)
**Required Readings**

You will be expected to read parts of the following books: Diaz, *The Conquest of New Spain*, Menchaca, *Recovering History, Constructing Race*, and Deeds, Meyer, and Sherman, *The Course of Mexican History* (2017 ed., older editions may be purchased). These books are available at the University Co-op (2246 Guadalupe St.) and the reader may be purchased at Jenn’s Copy & Binding, (2518 Guadalupe Street by Dean Keeton and Guadalupe, 512-482-0779). Books are also on reserve at PCL.

**Cultural Diversity Flag**

This course fulfills a cultural diversity flag. The Cultural Diversity requirement is intended to increase your familiarity with the variety and richness of the American cultural experience. Courses carrying this flag ask you to explore the beliefs, practices, and histories of at least one cultural group that has experienced persistent marginalization. Many of these courses also encourage you to reflect on your own cultural experiences.

**Exams and Assignment**

Students are required to take a quiz, midterm, and final examination. A three-page paper review of two of the films viewed in class is also required. Your analysis of the films can be written in one essay, or your paper can be based on two separate reviews of the films. Readings from assigned articles or books can be included in your analysis (e.g., the films offer an alternate analysis to the readings, the films provide supplementary information to the readings on Mesoamerica). Course lectures may be accessed in lectures on line via Canvas.

**Grading**

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 1 absence will receive a 2 point credit, 2 absences 1 point credit, and 3 absences .5 point credit. The points are added at the end of the semester to your accumulated test score points.

Only a doctor’s letter or a death in your family will be acceptable excuses for a make-up exam. Professor Menchaca must approve the make-up exam ahead of time. Students who have not attended class are not eligible for a make-up exam.

Grade distribution: 5 points Quiz
5 points Review of two in class films
40 points Midterm
50 points Final Exam
Final Grade Distribution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100% to 94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>&lt; 94% to 90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>&lt; 90% to 87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>&lt; 87% to 84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>&lt; 84% to 80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>&lt; 80% to 77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>&lt; 77% to 74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>&lt; 74% to 70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>&lt; 70% to 67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>&lt; 67% to 64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>&lt; 64% to 61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 61% to 0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special Accommodations for Tests and Note Assistance Policy

If special accommodations for tests have been approved by the university, or if you need assistance for note taking, you must meet with professor during office hours, and bring your university accommodations letter. [http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability](http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability)

Office Hours

Dr. Menchaca office hours: Anthropology Dept., SAC 5.158, Thursday 1pm to 3pm, and by appointment.
Reading Assignments by Topic

Location Code for Readings:  (T) Textbook  (Only read assigned pages)  
(R) Reader (Read in order as assigned)  (SR) Suggested Reading in reader

Introduction: No reading

The Chicano Movement and Intellectual Foundations


Ancient Indians of Mexico and the American Southwest


The Spanish Period

The following chapters may be skipped: The Expedition of Juan de Grijalva, The Expedition of Hernando Cortes: Preparations, Cortes Collects Fresh Strength, Expeditions Around the Lake.


The Mexican Period


The Anglo American Period


Racial Segregation and its Social Evolution

