MEXICAN AMERICAN HISTORY
HIST 4336.001
FALL 2011

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OFFICE HOURS          MWF: 11-12; TR 3:30-4:30 and by appointment

DESCRIPTION
This course presents an overview of Mexican American History from pre-Columbian times to the present. Through the course of the term we will examine how Mexican Americans were created and the ways in which they worked and contributed to American society. The course is organized by each of the major generations in Mexican American history (Conquered, Immigrant, Mexican American, Chicano, Hispanic). Throughout each period we will study identity and citizenship in light of prevalent economic, social, cultural, and political conditions. Students will be required to produce a short (10-12 pages) piece of original research.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
Although the course is designed to develop students' understanding of the major issues and central themes in Mexican American history, the course is designed to achieve several other objectives as well.

- To enhance students' abilities to read critically by teaching them to read for authors' arguments, evidence, and rhetorical style. (book reviews, text)
- To enhance students' critical thinking skills (class discussions, book reviews, exams)
- To expand students' understanding of the field of history and historical interpretation. (research project, exams, class discussion)
- To enhance students' writing abilities by teaching them writing skills in the research project and by offering them opportunities in the examinations to express themselves clearly and concisely by writing essay answers
- To help students prepare for the ExCET in the fields of American history and historical concepts and terms. (lectures, readings)

ASSESSMENT

EXAMS
First Exam            10%
Second Exam           15%
Third Exam            15%
Final Exam 25%
RESEARCH PROJECT
Bibliography & outline 10%
First rough draft 15%
Final draft 20%

The first exam will consist of two essay questions from which students will choose only ONE to answer. This portion of the exam will be worth 75% of the exam grade. There will also be one brief primary document to analyze, worth 25% of the exam grade.

The remaining exams will consist of one essay question over the lecture material, worth 50% of the exam grade, and one essay question over the reading material, worth 50% of the overall exam grade. The third exam essay question will include a section over the film.

Research Project: See separate instructions

REQUIRED MATERIALS


Lorena Oropeza, Raza Si! Guerra No!: (Berkeley: University of California Press,2005).


CLASS POLICIES

• MISSED EXAMS: I will schedule one makeup exam for a week or two after each of the two midterms. If you must miss a scheduled exam you will be allowed to take the make up exam at the time of the SCHEDULED MAKEUP ONLY. No Exceptions. Makeup exams will consist of a single essay question (no choices) worth 100% of the exam grade. The questions will reflect material from the review sheets. Students who face extraordinary circumstances at the time of the final may seek to take it early. Extraordinary circumstances include such things as: a death in the family; a serious illness; delivery of a child (by the student or a spouse ONLY). Winning a trip to the Bahamas, or taking a family skiing trip that has been planned for two years are NOT extraordinary enough. If you know in advance that you need to miss the final exam because of a less than acceptable reason, you should drop the course immediately and take it at a later time. No late makeup will be given
for the final exam. If you face extraordinary circumstances that honestly preclude you from taking the final see me immediately and we can try to set up an early exam. Remember, however, you must have a strong reason.

- **MAKE UP EXAM FORMAT:** make-up exams will consist of **ONE ESSAY QUESTION ONLY, WORTH 100% OF THE GRADE.** The question will ask the student to consider major issues in light of lecture and reading. Realize that due to the broad nature of these questions, it is more imperative than ever that students be prepared to offer interpretive answers sustained by ample detail and clear argumentation from both lecture and readings.

- **LATE PAPERS:** Late papers will be accepted, but five points will be deducted for each late day, including weekends. Exceptions will be made ONLY in RARE instances that involve the student providing documented evidence of a special need.

- **PLAGIARISM:** Plagiarism is the theft of intellectual property. If you present material written by someone else as your own you will receive a grade of "0" for that specific assignment, and you will be subject to further disciplinary action. For specific information on plagiarism see the university catalog. If you are not sure about how to incorporate material into a paper or review see me.

- **CHEATING ON EXAMS:** If you are caught cheating on an exam you will receive a grade of "0" for that exam. At worst a "0" will virtually assure a failing grade in the course, at best it will ensure a very low grade. You may also be subject to further disciplinary action by the university.

- **INFORMAL GRADE APPEALS:** Students are welcome to appeal grades that they believe were assessed incorrectly. Once a formal appeal has been made, the student will have one week to write a two page, single spaced justification for the grade she or he is requesting. This document MUST contain specific references to material in the essay and cite lecture and/or readings to validate the student’s claims. At that point I will re-consider the grade in light of the student’s argument. I will then choose to raise the grade, leave the grade, or bump down the grade, depending upon how well the case is made and how strong or weak the answer is.

- **GENERAL DECORUM:** be respectful of your fellow students and me. Don’t be disruptive by talking, holding hands, reading anything, eating, or monopolizing discussions. Turn off your cell phones, and beepers. Come to class on time. Do not anticipate the end of class by putting away your materials. You are training to be tomorrow’s professionals. Act like it.

- **PENALTIES:** Individuals who consistently behave in an inappropriate manner and distract the class will be warned. In cases of chronic violations of the class rules, students will be removed from the classroom. If removal does not stop future disturbances, students will be referred to the Dean of Students’ Office for further disciplinary procedures.

- **GRADE MEETINGS:** **ALL STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED STRONGLY** to hold at least one grade meeting toward the end of the semester (the last two weeks of the semester). During this brief meeting we will go over your grades for the semester and resolve any concerns or disputes up to that point. By not attending this meeting, the student is waiving any right
to future contestation of any grade or portion of any grade in any course assignment. When attending such meetings you MUST bring all graded work IF you wish to level a challenge or dispute.

- END OF TERM GRADE DISPUTES: I will not address any grade disputes or challenges after graduation. IF you wish to level a challenge or dispute you must do so prior to the Friday before graduation. Any later correspondence will not be addressed until after the spring semester has begun.

UNDERSTAND: it is not uncommon for students to perform poorly on a final exam or project. Such a grade can often pull down a semester’s worth of work by a letter grade or more. JUST BECAUSE YOU ARE GOING INTO THE END OF THE TERM EXPECTING A CERTAIN GRADE, THERE IS NO OBLIGATION TO GIVE YOU THAT FINAL GRADE FOR THE TERM IF THE FINAL PRODUCT DOES NOT SUPPORT THE HIGHER GRADE. I DON’T DETERMINE YOUR FINAL COURSE GRADE, THE “MATH” YOU HAVE ACCUMULATED DURING THE ENTIRE SEMESTER DOES.

OFFICIAL GRADE APPEAL PROCESS
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

ADVISING STATEMENT
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a Faculty Mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

ADA STATEMENT
(ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at 825-5816 or visit their office in Driftwood 101.
SCHEDULE

WEEK 1  August 25
Thursday August 25
Lecture: Course introduction;

WEEK 2  August 30 & September 1
Tuesday August 30
Lecture: Creation of Mexicans and Mexico (1500-1836); The Conquered Generation (1836-1900)

Thursday September 1
Library visit: Secondary sources

WEEK 3  September 6 & 8
September 5: Labor Day Holiday

Tuesday September 6
Lecture: The Conquered Generation (1836-1900)

Thursday September 8
Library visits: Special Collections and Archives

WEEK 4  September 13 & 15
Tuesday September 13
Review for exam

Thursday September 15
FIRST EXAM

WEEK 5  September 20 & 22
Tuesday September 20 & Thursday September 22
Lecture: The Immigrant Generation and Identity in the Early Twentieth Century (1900-1930)
Readings: Desert Immigrants, chapter 1-4

WEEK 6  September 27 & 29
Tuesday September 27 & Thursday: September 29
Lecture: Immigrant Generation and Identity in the Early Twentieth Century (1900-1930)
Readings: Storey introduction and chapters 1-5; Desert Immigrants, chapters 5-8
Due: Bibliographies and Outlines due

WEEK 7  October 4 & 6
Tuesday October 4
Lecture: Immigrant Generation and Identity in the Early Twentieth Century (1900-
1930)
Readings: Desert Immigrants, chapters 9-11; Storey chapters 6-10

Thursday October 6
No class: individual bibliography meetings

WEEK 8 October 11 & 13
Tuesday October 11
Exam Review

Thursday October 13
SECOND EXAM

WEEK 9 October 18 & 20
Tuesday October 18
Readings: White but not Equal, Introduction and chapters 1-3

WEEK 10 October 25 & 27
Tuesday October 25
Readings: White but not Equal, chapters 4-6

Thursday October 27
Readings: White but not Equal, chapters 7-8
Special: Review for exam

WEEK 11 November 1 & 3
Tuesday November 1
SECOND EXAM

Thursday November 3
Lecture: Chicano Generation
Film: “Chicano!”
Readings: ¡Raza Si! ¡Guerra No! Introduction and chapters 1-2

WEEK 12 November 8 & 10
Tuesday November 8
Lecture: Chicano Generation
Readings: ¡Raza Si! ¡Guerra No! chapters 3-5
Due: First rough draft

Thursday November 10
Lecture: Chicano Generation; review for exam

WEEK 13 November 15 & 17
Tuesday November 15
Individual paper meetings

Thursday November 17
THIRD EXAM

WEEK 14 November 22 & 24
Tuesday November 22
Lecture: Hispanic Generation
Readings: The Church in the Barrio, Introduction and chapters 1-2

November 24 & 25: Thanksgiving Day Holiday

WEEK 15 November 29 & December 1
Tuesday November 29 & Thursday December 1
Lecture: Hispanic Generation
Readings: The Church in the Barrio, chapters 3-5

WEEK 16 December 6
Tuesday December 6
Lecture: Hispanic Generation
Readings: The Church in the Barrio, chapters 6-7
Due: Final drafts of papers

WEEK 17
FINAL EXAM Thursday December 8 1:45-4:15