Graduate Seminar in Mexican American History  
HIST 5328.001  
ECDC 219B  
SPRING 2019

Instructor: Dr. Anthony Quiroz  
Office: FC 284  
Phone: (361) 825-5985  
E-Mail: Anthony.Quiroz@mail.tamucc.edu  
Office Hours: TR: 1:45-3:15, 4:45-5:15; W 5:30-6:30

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a graduate level readings seminar on Mexican American history. The overall purpose of the course is to teach students how to interact with and contribute ideas to the body of literature on Mexican American history. In so doing, we will focus on three major issues in this course: the themes of citizenship and identity; changes in the literature over time; and finally research and analytical methods. We will address these concepts by examining the major events, issues, questions, themes, individuals, and groups involved in the story of Mexican American history. Realize that this is a reading and writing intensive course. Students are expected to come to class for every meeting having read and prepared to contribute to class.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

In the course of this semester students will

- demonstrate comprehension of the role of citizenship and identity through class discussions and book analyses
- discern and debate the value of various interpretive methods in class discussion and on written assignments
- exhibit knowledge of the key issues and themes in the field on exams

By requiring all of the above, the course is designed to:

Prepare students for the types of writing and thinking required to complete an exam field in Mexican American history or write a thesis
Expose students to Mexican American historiography
Teach students to continue to hone their writing skills
Offer students a useful foundation from which to launch a teaching career or apply for a Ph.D. program

REQUIRED MATERIALS:


Miguel Antonio Levario. *Militarizing the Border: When Mexicans Became the Enemy.* (College Station, Texas A&M University Press, 2012)


**COURSE ASSESSMENT:**

Your course grade will be calculated as follows:

- First exam: 30%
- Final exam: 40%
- Four book analyses @ 10% each: 20%
- Class participation: 10%

**DROPS:**

Students who wish to drop this course with a grade of "w" must do so at the Registrar's Office. Please consult the registrar's office or the fall course brochure for all deadlines.
BEFORE YOU DROP: PLEASE VISIT WITH ME FIRST. Frequently, students withdraw from a course because they believe that they are doomed to failure. In reality, however, this is rarely the case.

OFFICE HOURS:

I will be available during the hours shown at the top of this document. I make that time each week specifically to meet with students. If you intend to meet me during these hours, you do not need to make an appointment. You simply show up. You may also email me simple questions. More complex questions are best dealt with in person. In this course there will also be separate meeting times scheduled as we discuss your papers individually.

CLASS POLICIES:

Grade appeals: Students are welcome to appeal any grades which they feel were assigned incorrectly or unfairly. When we meet to discuss this, however, you MUST bring a one page (minimum) double-spaced justification for your appeal. (“I really worked hard,” or “This is a better paper than the grade indicates,” or “you don’t know what you’re doing” are NOT substantive critiques and will not be taken seriously. I will, at that point, grade the material in question over again very carefully and objectively, taking into account your arguments. The grade I then assess will be recorded. Realize that the newly recorded grade may be higher or lower than the original grade.

Technology: All mobile devices must be turned off.

Late papers: late papers will be accepted no later than five calendar days past the original due date. Late papers will be graded, then assessed a “fine” of five points per calendar day they are late. I will not accept electronic papers. Computer glitches are NOT acceptable excuses.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Disabilities Accommodations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (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 call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.
If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Academic Advising**

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**Dropping a Class**

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

**Grade Appeals**

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, 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 Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99_C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99_C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html).

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

Week 1: January 16
Introduction to course
Discussion: Structure of course; paper topics; requirements

Week 2: January 23
Read and discuss: Carlos Blanton. *A Promising Problem: The New Chicana/o History*

Week 3: January 30
Read and discuss: Arnoldo De Leon, *They Called Them Greasers: Nineteenth century Anglo Attitudes toward Mexican Americans*

Week 4: February 6
Read and discuss: Montejano, *Anglos and Mexicans in the Making of Texas, 1836-1986*

Week 5: February 13
Read and discuss: Flores, Ruben. *Backroads Pragmatists: Mexico’s Melting Pot and Civil Rights in the United States*

Week 6: February 20
Read and discuss: Mary Ann Villarreal. *Listening to Rosita: The Business of Tejana Music and Culture, 1930-1955*

Week 7: February 27
Read and discuss: Elizabeth R. Escobedo. *From Coveralls to Zoot Suits: The Lives of Mexican American Women on the World War II Home Front*

Week 8: March 6
First exam review

Week 9: March 13
SPRING BREAK NO CLASS

Week 10: March 20
FIRST EXAM

Week 11: March 27
Read and discuss: Garcia, *The Chicano Movement: Perspectives from the Twenty-First Century*

Week 12: April 3
Read and discuss: Miguel Antonio Levario. *Militarizing the Border: When Mexicans Became the Enemy.*
Week 13: April 10
Read and discuss: Paul Ortiz. *An African American and Latinx History of the United States*

Week 14: April 17
Read and discuss: Julie M. Weise. *Corazon de Dixie: Mexicanos in the U.S. South since 1910*

Week 15: April 24
Read and discuss: Tomas Jimenez, *Replenished Ethnicity: Mexican Americans, Immigration and Identity*

Week 16: May 1
Review for final exam

Week 16: May 2
READING DAY

Week 17: May 8
Final Exam