Mexican American History - HIST 3332-01

Prof. George T. Díaz
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Office: ELABS 348B
Office Hours: 12:30 to 1:30 pm and 3:00 to 3:30 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays, and by appointment.

Course Information: This is a three credit class, meeting in the Fall semester of 2017, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:25 am - 10:40 am in Liberal Arts Building South 259.

Major Themes: This course explores the history of Mexican Americans in what is now the United States from 1848 to the present. Emphasis is placed on events since the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo that ended the war between the United States and Mexico and created a Mexican American minority within the U.S. The major theme of the course is the Mexican American perception of the Southwest as a homeland and how that perception has affected the history of this ethnic group. Special emphasis is placed on cultural conflict, civil rights, and Mexican American’s image in popular culture particularly literature and film.

Required Texts:


*Professor reserves the right to pass out additional writings such as essays, reviews, or original documents.
Grade Distribution

- Class Participation - 10%
- Weekly Quizzes - 40%
- Writing Assignment 1 - 15%
- Writing Assignment 2 - 15%
- Final - 20%

Grading: The final grade will be based on class participation, performance on quizzes, writing assignments, and the final exam. Class participation consists of completing the assigned readings and contributing to class discussion.

There will be weekly quizzes throughout the duration of the course. Quizzes are designed to measure students understanding of readings and ability to synthesize the material considered in this course.

Writing Assignments

There will be two writing assignments this semester. These short papers should be no less 1,500 words long, conform to the rules of spelling and grammar, answer the assignment prompt, and use Chicago-style endnotes to cite their sources. Papers should be typed in 12-point font and be double spaced. Students must submit written work through Safe Assign on Blackboard. Physical papers will not be accepted.

Late Policy: Students may not turn in anything late without prior permission or without a valid excuse such as illness or family emergencies. Students who miss an assignment without prior permission and without a major crisis will not be allowed to retake the assignment.

Extra Credit: Throughout the semester, students will have the opportunity to earn extra credit by attending and responding to various presentations, films, and other relevant events approved by the professor. Students can earn up to 5 bonus points on an assignment by responding to a presentation they attended in a two-page response paper. To receive full credit, students must attend the event and discuss its purpose, significance, any evidence or key points given, weaknesses of the presentation and whether the student agrees with its message and why. A model of a response paper will be provided to students interested in composing papers for extra credit.
Course Schedule

Week 1 - Course Introduction: Pre-Colombian America (Aug 29 – Aug 31)

Readings: Acuña “Not Just Pyramids, Explorers, and Heroes,”

Week 2 – The Spanish Frontier (Sept 5, 7)

Readings: Vargas chapter 1, Quiz 1

Week 3 – The Mexican Borderlands (Sept 12, 14)

Readings: Vargas chapter 2 Quiz 2

Week 4 - The U.S. Invasion (Sept 19, 21)

Readings: Vargas chapter 3 Quiz 3

Week 5- Natives in a Foreign Land (Sept 26, 28)

Readings: Vargas Chapter 4 and Joaquín Murieta to pg 68. Quiz 4

Week 6 – Borderlands in Transition (Oct 3, 5)

Readings: Vargas Chapter 5 Joaquín Murieta concluded. Quiz 5

Week 7- Revolution and War (Oct 12) No Class, Oct 10

Readings: Vargas Chapter 6 Murieta Essay due Oct 10 Quiz 6

Week 8 - Growing up American (Oct 17, 19)

Readings: Vargas Chapter 7 Quiz 7

Week 9 - World War II: Home Front and Over There (Oct 24, 26)

Readings: Escobedo to 123. Quiz 8

Week 10 – Mexican Americans in Post War U.S. (Oct 31 & Nov 2)

Readings: Vargas Chapter 9 Escobedo, concluded. Quiz 9

Week 11- The Chicano Movement (Nov 7, 9)

Readings: Vargas Chapter 10 Escobedo Essay due Nov 7 Quiz 10

Week 12- Mexican Americans and New Immigrants (Nov 14, 16)

Readings: Vargas Chapter 11 Quiz 11
Week 13- A Troublesome Border (Nov 21) **Thanksgiving Break Nov 23**

**Readings:**


Week 14- Community, Diversity, and Culture (Nov 28, 30)

**Readings:**


Pilcher, Jeff. “Coming Home to Salsa,”


Week 15- Course Conclusions: Dilemmas and Promises of the New Millennium (Dec 5) **No class Dec 7**  
**University Study Day**

**Readings:**

Castillo, Juan. “Tejano Monument dedicated at Capital,” *Austin American Statesman* (3-29-2012)

Z. Byron Wolf. “Read this: How Trump defended criticism of judge for being 'Mexican,”**

**Quiz 14**

**Finals! December 8-14**

**RUBRIC/ Grading Policies**

**Excellent** - Response includes a clear thesis that outlines the major points of the argument, includes sufficient supporting evidence, is topically organized with appropriate introduction body and conclusion, follows the rules of grammar and punctuation, is composed clearly, and is free of factual errors.

**Good** - Thesis is unclear and does not fully outline main points, includes necessary evidence to convince reader of most, but not all of the author’s arguments, is organized but underdeveloped, grammatical and factual errors are few.

**Needs Improvement** – The thesis is not readily apparent or does not match the argument presented in the body, not enough evidence is provided to support the author’s argument,
information from readings/lesson not effectively used, lacks organization, includes many grammatical errors, lacks clarity, and is marred by factual errors.

Poor – No attempt is made to present an argument, essay is far too short and includes very little supporting evidence, lacks a clear or logical organization, is full of grammatical errors, lacks clarity making argument difficult to follow, is composed of erroneous information.

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Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and devices must be turned off before class begins. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services. Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD: Required on all syllabi. Do not modify. Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2017 Module 1</td>
<td>Oct. 5 – Oct. 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2017 Module 2</td>
<td>Nov. 29 – Dec. 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2017 (full semester)</td>
<td>Nov. 15 – Dec. 6</td>
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ATTENDANCE: Recommended on all syllabi; may be modified by the instructor as long as it is not inconsistent with UTRGV policy. Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY: Recommended on all syllabi. As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an
examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.


**SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:** Required on all syllabi. Do not modify.
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at [www.utrgv.edu/equity](http://www.utrgv.edu/equity), including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

**COURSE DROPS:**
According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

**Calendar of Activities**
Include in this section a table or list that provides information for students regarding important dates, assignments or activities. The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at [https://my.utrgv.edu/home](https://my.utrgv.edu/home) at the bottom of the screen, prior to login. Some important dates for Fall 2017 include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 28</td>
<td>First day of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 31</td>
<td>Last day to add a course or register for fall 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 4</td>
<td>Labor Day – NO classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>Last day to drop a course; will count toward the 6-drop rule</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 23 – 26</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday – NO classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 6</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
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<td>December 7</td>
<td>Study Day – NO class</td>
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<td>December 8-14</td>
<td>Fall 2017 Final Exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 15-16</td>
<td>Commencement Ceremonies</td>
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