Mexican American History
60035-HIST-3332-01  57912-MASC-3332-01

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Office Hours: 10 am to 10:45 am & 1 to 1:30 pm
Tuesdays and Thursdays, and by appointment.

Course Information: This is a three credit class, meeting in the
Spring semester of 2019, Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:05 to 4:20 pm
in Liberal Arts Building North 203.

Major Themes: This course explores the history of Mexican Americans in what is now the
United States from 1848 to the present. Focus 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 view has affected the
history of this ethnic group. Special emphasis is placed on cultural conflict, civil rights, and the
portrayal of Mexican Americans in popular culture, particularly literature and film.

Required Texts:

(2009)

Elizabeth R. Escobedo, From Coveralls to Zoot Suits: The Lives of Mexican American Women on the World War II
Home Front. The University of North Carolina Press; (2013)

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

Grade Distribution
  Weekly Quizzes- 50%
  Writing Assignment 1 - 15%
  Writing Assignment 2 - 15%
  Final - 20%
**Grading:** The final grade will be based on performance on quizzes, writing assignments, and the final. 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 (Jan 15, Jan 17)

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

Week 2 – The Spanish and Mexican Borderlands (Jan 22, 24) Quiz 1

**Readings:** Weber, “The Spanish Mexican Rim,” and “Scarce More than Apes,”

Week 3 – The U.S. Invasion (Jan 29, Jan 31) Quiz 2


*Mexicanos* (Chapter 3)
Week 4 – Natives in a Foreign Land (Feb 5, 7) Quiz 3

Readings: Joaquín Murieta to pg 68.

Week 5- The Borderlands in Transition (Feb 12, 14) Quiz 4

Readings: Joaquín Murieta Concluded
Mexicanos (Chapter 4)

Week 6 – New Colonias (Feb 19, 21) Quiz 5 Writing Assignment 1 due Feb 18th

Readings: Mexicanos (Chapter 5)


Week 7- Revolution and War (Feb 26, Feb 28) Quiz 6

Readings:


Week 8 - Growing up American (Mar 5, 7) Quiz 7

Readings: Mexicanos (Chapter 6)

SPRING BREAK! (March 11-15)

Week 9 - World War II: Home Front and Over There (Mar 19, 21) Quiz 8

Readings: From Coveralls to Zootsuits, to 123.

Week 10 –Mexican Americans in Post War U.S. (Mar 26, 28) Quiz 9

Readings: From Coveralls to Zootsuits, Concluded.
Mexicanos (Chapter 7)

Week 11- The Chicano Movement (Apr 2, 4) Quiz 10 Writing Assignment 2 Due April 1st

Readings: Mexicanos (Chapter 8)

Week 12- Mexican Americans and New Immigrants (Apr 9, 11) Quiz 11

Readings: Mexicanos (Chapter 9) Marin, Cheech, “What is a Chicano?” Huffington Post (5-3-2012)
Week 13- A Troublesome Border (Apr 16, 18) Quiz 12


Week 14- Community, Diversity, and Culture (Apr 23, 25) Quiz 13


Week 15- Course Conclusions: Dilemmas and Promises of the New Millennium (April 30) No class May 2 University Study Day Quiz 14

Readings: Mexicanos (Chapter 10)

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

Finals! May 3-9

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.

**Calendar of 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 spring 2019 include:

- January 14: First day of classes
- January 17: Last day to add a course or register for spring 2019
- January 21: Martin Luther King Jr. Day – NO classes
- April 10: Last day to drop a course; will count toward the 6-drop rule
- April 19-20: Easter Holiday – NO classes
- May 2: Study Day – NO classes
- May 3-9: Final Exams
- May 10-11: Commencement Exercises

**UTRGV Policy Statements**

**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.

**Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations**
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services for additional information and to request accommodations.

**Student Accessibility 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:** Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account ([http://my.utrgv.edu](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 on or about:

Module 1  February 13 – 19  
Module 2  April 10 – 16  
Full Spring Semester April 10 – May 1

**ATTENDANCE:**
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:** 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:**
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, 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. If students, faculty, or staff would like confidential assistance, or have questions, they can contact OVAVP (Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention) at 665-8287, 882-8282, or OVAVP@utrgv.edu.

**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.

**STUDENT SERVICES:**
Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students
Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor's office hours. University Resources include the Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising Center and Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:

- Learning center: BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELCTR 100 (Edinburg)
- Writing center: BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
- Advising center: BMAIN 1.400 (Brownsville) or ESWKH 101 (Edinburg)
- Career center: BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)