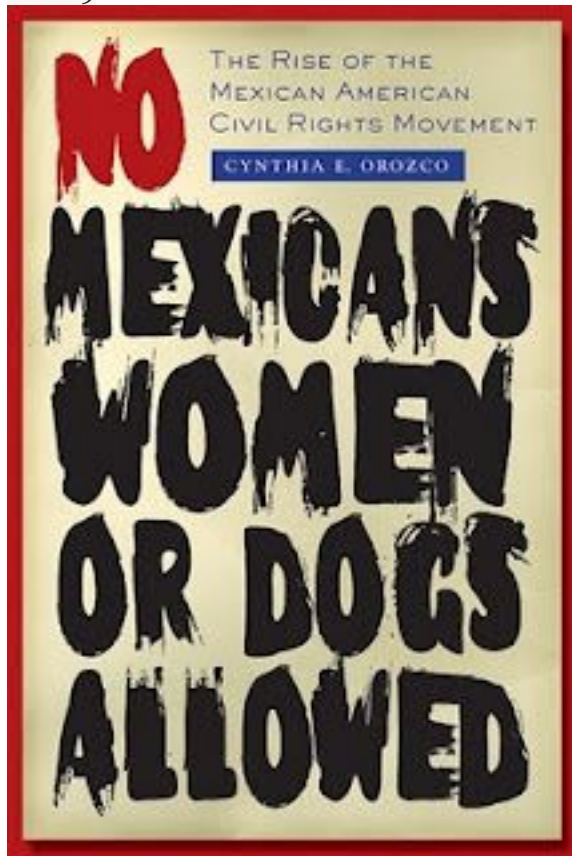


Professor Rodolfo D. Torres
Summer Session 2 (2018)
Latinos in US Politics
Chicano/Latino 151 (Code: 61070)
Political Science 124B (Code:67100)
Tu/Th: 9-11:50AM
SSL 129



About the Instructor:

Rodolfo D. Torres is a Professor in the Department of Urban Planning and Public Policy. He has been teaching courses on Mexican Americans for nearly 35 years. He was born on East First Street in Boyle Heights in East Los Angeles. He has written 10 books and edited 15 volumes and nearly 100 articles and book chapters on topics ranging from Mexican American politics, urban theory, theories of the State to Mexican American labor, Marxist inspired political economy and urban studies. His most recent book is The Latino Question: Politics, Laboring Classes, and the Next Left (coauthored with Armando Ibarra and Alfredo Carlos) published by Pluto Press in London. He has also devoted many hours to community and labor organizing in the Southern California region. Torres attended UC Irvine as an undergraduate and obtained his PhD in political economy and policy studies from Claremont Graduate School.

Course Description:

This class examines the major problems and issues in Mexican-American politics since World War II. An emphasis will be placed on the ways in which class, racialized relations, and culture shaped by the wider political economy have structured politics of Mexican origin people in the United States. Regrettably, due to the short summer term the class will devote little attention to the other Latino

populations in the US. However, Mexican Americans and Mexican origin populations represent nearly 70% of the total “Latino” population in the United States.

The instructor will not assign a text book for this class. Students will not have to pay for books for this summer class. I generally try to spare students the high cost of books, so I will provide all of your readings through class email list.

Professor Torres will use the class email list to either send you a pdf of an article or the link to direct students to the assign readings. The course readings will not be very difficult (instructor avoids assigning articles written by French theorists). The instructor does ask that students do the readings to contribute to discussions. The class will be devoted to discussion, lecture, and a film or documentary related to the topic to be discussed in every session. It nearly impossible to condense a quarter to 11 class meetings with two sessions a week. The expectation is that we will devote more time in the interrogation of the selected topics in five weeks than the 11-week quarter. Thus, we will not cover as many topics as the instructor would like to, but, dang it’s summer. With the combination of lectures, class discussion, and films the intellectual integrity of the course will remain intact.

Requirements:

1. One-page outline of each reading assigned for the date to be discussed. This assignment is not meant to be an arduous task. There is no specific style for the outlines. What is important is this one-page or maybe two pages in some cases will cover the main strands of the reading.
Assessment: Pass/fail
2. Mid-term 20 multiple choice questions (Study Guide will be distributed)
3. Final exam 25-30 multiple choice questions (Study Guide will be distributed)
4. No extra credit.
5. Attendance will be taken at every class session. If you are more than 30 minutes late you will be penalized. After one class absence students will be penalized ½ grade from A to B+ after the second-class absence (one week, 6 hours), students’ grade will be reduced one complete grade.
6. The instructor considers the above requirements to be fair. The mid-term will be allocated one hour to complete and the final two hours. Unless students have a documented accommodation from the Disability Office. I am a strong supporter of the work of the Disability Office and will without hesitation comply with students’ requests for accommodations. I got your back!

Grade Distribution:

Mid-term 40%

Final 40%

Outlines: 20%

Course Outline:

Session 1

August 7 Introduction

Session 2

August 9

Mexican American Generation: Politics, Racism and the Zoot Suit Riots

Film: Zoot Suit

Assigned Reading:

1. "Sleepy Lagoon: Communists, the CIO, and Civil Rights in Radicals in the Barrio by Justin Akers Chacon (Verso, 2018)

Session 3

August 14

Politics of the Mexican American Civil Rights Generation

Assigned Reading:

1. "Mexican Americans in the Post-war Years" by Zaragosa Vargas in Crucible of Struggle 2nd edition (Oxford UP, 2017)

Film:

A Class Apart: A Mexican American Civil Rights Story

Session 4

August 16

Chicano Politics and the 60's and 70's

Required Reading:

Chicano Movement by Carlos Munoz Jr.

Film: Dolores

Session 5

August 21

Chicano Politics: More on the 60's and 70's

Required Reading:

1. "Movements, Movimientos, and Movidas" by Maria Cotera, Maylei Blackwell, and Dionne Espinoza in Chicana Movidas: New Narratives of Activism and Feminism in the Movement Era Edited by Dionne Esponzoza, Maria Eugenia Cotera, and Maylei Blackwell
2. "Mexican Americans in the Protest Era 1964-1974" by Zaragosa Vargas in Crucible of Struggle: Oxford UP, 2017

Film: The Brown Buffalo

Film:

Note: Mid-term (includes the above assigned readings)

Session 6

August 23 *

Politics of Race: Where do Latinos fit in the Racial Classification Debate

Assigned Reading:

1. "The Great Race Melodrama" By Victor Valle and Rodolfo Torres (LA Times,
2. "Are Latinos a Racial Minority" By Mario Barrera in Sociological Perspectives , 2008 (Very important article)

Film: On Race: Stuart Hall

Session 7

August 23 Chicano Political Resistance: Political Economy of Gentrification and Displacement

Required Reading:

1. TBA

Film: Boyle Heights

<https://www.fallingforangels.com/episode-one-boyle-heights/> (30 mins)

ELA Interchange (60 mins)

Session 8

August 28. **The Mexican American Left in the 20th Century**

Required Readings:

1. "Luisa Moreno" in the Journal of San Diego History, Fall 1995, Vol. 41, number 4
2. "Luisa Moreno and the Beginnings of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement in San Diego" by Carlos M. Larraide and Richard Griswold del Castillo in San Diego Historical Society Quarterly Summer 1997

Session 9

August 30. **Latino Inequality in the US**

Session 10

September 4th **Political Economy of Mexican Migration**

Session 11

September 6th **Alternative Futures: Towards a New Mexican American and Latino Politics?**

Session 12

September 11th **Final**

Note:

The above readings are taken from the following sources:

De Colores Means all of US by Elizabeth Martinez (Verso, 2nd edition, Verso, 2017)

Radicals in the Barrio by Justin Akers Chacon (Verso, 2018)

San Diego Historical Society Quarterly Summer 1997

Journal of San Diego History

Crucible of Struggle: by Zaragosa Vargas (Oxford UP, 2017)

Sociological Perspectives, 2008

Chicana Movidas: New Narratives of Activism and Feminism in the Movement Era Edited by Dionne Esponzoa, Maria Eugenia Cotera, and Maylei Blackwell (University of Texas, 2018)

