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Winter 03

History of Chicano Education  
Social Science 173H and CLS 131  
Winter Quarter 2003  
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**Course Description**

This course is intended to explore and discuss several of the more contentious issues related to the experience of the Chicano minority within the public educational system. While the course will take a national and transnational historical perspective on the Chicano educational experience, the urgency of the topics to be discussed in current policy discourse on education is clear. Class readings and discussions will cover such volatile issues as the relevance of the U. S. economic empire and Mexican immigration to American education. In addition, the course will explore intelligence theory, IQ testing, tracking, gender and race discrimination, bilingual education, Americanization, and the importance of class to education. Finally, the course will examine theories of educational inequality and policies to reform the educational system, i.e., level the playing field.

We shall inquire whether the more debated topics (such as the causes of educational achievement and failure) are of current origin or whether these are discourses common to the past hundred years. While the course may not have the time to cover all these matters in detail, it is nonetheless hoped that through focusing historically on these topics we may have a better understanding of the theoretical and practical path followed by the U. S. educational system over the twentieth and now the twenty-first centuries.

**Course Requirements**

1. Participate in class discussions, keep up with class readings.
2. Attend each class.
3. Two research papers of five to ten papers in length. The first is due at midterm, the second at finals week.

## **Readings and Discussions**

Week One: Introduction, brief overview of the subject matter, and discussion of requirements.

Readings:

Gonzalez and Fernandez, "Empire and Origins of Mexican Migration to the United.

Week Two: Establishing the Historical Context for Twentieth Century Public Schooling.

Readings:

Gould, "Introduction"

Kozol, "Introduction."

Film: School: The Story of American Public Education, part two.

Week Three: National Theoretical Models for Education: The Evolution of Theories of Mental Traits

Reading:

Gould, *The Mismeasure of Man*, Chapters 1-3

Week Four: The Evolution of Theories of Mental Traits

Reading:

Gould, *Mismeasure of Man*, Chapters 4-5, 7, Epilogue, Critique, and Three Centuries Perspective.

Week Five: Mexican Immigrants, Schools and Segregation

Readings:

Gonzalez, "Chicano Education in the Era of Segregation."

Gonzalez, Chapters 2 and 3 from *Culture of Empire: American Writers, Mexico and Mexican Immigrants, 1880-1930* (in press, University of Texas Press).

Gonzalez: Slide Presentation

## **Midterm**

Week Six: IQ Testing and the Education of Chicano Children

Reading: Gonzalez, Chapters 4-6 from *Culture of Empire*.

Week Seven: The Americanization of Mexican Children and Adults

Reading: Gonzalez, Chapters 1 and 2 from *Chicano Education in the Era of Segregation*.

Week Eight: Industrial Education in Segregated Schools

Reading: Gonzalez, Chapters 4 and 5 from *Chicano Education in the Era of Segregation*.

Week Nine: Politics of School Reform  
Readings: Kozol, *Savage Inequalities*  
Film: Para Todos Los Ninos, For all the Children

Week Ten: Politics of School Reform (cont.).  
Reading: Kozol, *Savage Inequalities*  
Film: Taking Back the Schools.

### **Required Readings, Films and Slide Presentations**

#### Books:

Stephan Jay Gould, *The Mismeasure of Man* (W. W. Norton, 1996)

Jonathan Kozol, *Savage Inequalities in American Schools* (Harper Collins, 1990)

Selected Chapters from Gilbert G. Gonzalez, *Chicano Education in the Era of Segregation* (Balch Institute, 1990)

Selected Chapters from Gilbert G. Gonzalez, *Culture of Empire: American Writers, Mexico, and Mexican Immigrants, 1880-1930* (in press, University of Texas Press).

#### Articles:

Gilbert G. Gonzalez and Raul Fernandez, "Empire and the Origins of Mexican Migration to the United States," *Pacific Historical Review*, Fall 2002.

Gilbert Gonzalez, "Chicano Education in the Era of Segregation, 1900-1950," in Jose F. Moreno, Jr., ed., *The Elusive Quest for Equality: 150 Years of Chicano Education*, (Harvard Educational Review, 1999).

#### Films:

As American as Public School, part two from School: The Story of American Public Education, Stone Lantern Films.

Taking Back the Schools, part three of Chicano! History of the Chicano Civil Rights Movement, produced by the National Latino Communication Center.

Para Todos Los Ninos, For All the Children, produced by KOCE, Orange County PBS Channel.

#### Slide Presentations:

The Economics and Culture of Empire

Forming Mexican Immigrant Communities

Public Education and the Mexican Immigrant Community