

Che/Lat 132A  
Winter '07

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**HISTORY 151A/CHICANO-LATINO STUDIES 132A  
CHICANA/CHICANO HISTORY: PRE COLONIAL TO 1900**

This course offers an overview of Chicano History from Mesoamerican origins to 1900. Focusing on the contributions of Mexican Americans to the economic and cultural development of the region now known as the American West. Decades, even centuries, before the famed covered wagons rolled across the prairies and deserts, mestizo peoples, citizens of New Spain (and later Mexico) ventured north. Women and men of many colors and backgrounds established presidios, missions, pueblos, and ranchos. This course relates the history of these mestizo pioneers, their diachronous interactions with indigenous peoples and EuroAmerican newcomers, as well as the economic, political, and cultural transformation of their societies following the Texas Revolution and the U.S.-Mexican War. I believe in an atmosphere of discovery and discussion. This course should be akin to an archaeological dig where teacher and students together excavate a forgotten, buried past. In addition to dispelling prevalent myths and misconceptions concerning Mexican Americans and their history, I emphasize a public history approach in which students learn historic site and website evaluation skills.

**REQUIRED READINGS**

David J. Weber, ed., *Foreigners In Their Native Land: Historical Roots of Mexican Americans*

Ramón A. Gutiérrez, *When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers Went Away: Marriage, Sexuality, and Power in New Mexico, 1500-1846*

Ramón A. Gutiérrez and Richard J. Orsi, eds., *Contested Eden: California Before the Gold Rush*

Miroslava Chávez-García, *Negotiating Conquest: Gender and Power in California, 1770s to 1880s*

Jovita González Mireles and Eve Raleigh, *Caballero: a Historical Novel*, eds. José Limón and María Cotera

## COURSE SYLLABUS

- Week 1  
1/9 Introduction and Mesoamerican Societies  
Instructions for Website Evaluation  
Film: *Sentinels of Silence*  
Reading assignment: *Foreigners*, 12-21  
*Corn Mothers*, 3-94
- 1/11 Colonial Mexico/Expeditions North  
Film: *Fall of the Aztec and Maya Empires* (brief clip)  
Reading Assignment: *Foreigners* 22-50  
*Contested Eden*, 48-109  
*Corn Mothers*, 95-140
- Week 2  
1/16 Indio/Genizaro/Mestizo  
Reading Assignment: *Negotiating Conquest*, 1-24  
*Contested Eden*, 111-172  
*Corn Mothers*, 143-175
- 1/18 Missions, Migrations, and Myths  
Reading Assignment: *Contested Eden*, 173-229  
*Corn Mothers*, 176-270
- Week 3  
1/23 Frontier Mexican Society  
Reading Assignment, *Contested Eden*, 230-259  
Website Evaluation Assignment Due
- 1/25 Frontier Mexican Society  
Film: *Seguin*  
Reading Assignment: *Corn Mothers*, 298-340  
*Negotiating Conquest*, 24-51
- 1/27 Expedition to Mission San Juan Capistrano
- Week 4  
1/30 The Black Legend/The Frontier Dilemma  
Reading Assignment: *Contested Eden*, 299-330  
*Foreigners*, 52-137
- 2/1 The Texas Revolution and U.S.-Mexican War

Instructions for Research Paper  
Midterm Review  
Reading Assignment: *Negotiating Conquest*, 52-85

Week 5

2/6 In-Class Midterm Examination

2/8

Research Workshop  
TEC Room 228 in Langson Library  
Reading assignment: *Contested Eden*, 331-355

Week 6

2/13 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the Gold Rush  
Reading assignment: *Foreigners*, 140-199  
*Negotiating Conquest*, 90-122

2/15

Research Day  
Librarians will be available for assistance in TEC Room 228  
Reading assignment: Begin *Caballero*

Week 7

2/20 Social Bandits  
Topic and Preliminary Bibliography Due  
Reading Assignment: *Foreigners*, 204-234  
*Negotiating Conquest*, 123-150

2/22

The Market Economy of the Southwest  
Reading Assignment: *Foreigners*, 200-202, 234-264

Week 8

2/27 The 19<sup>th</sup> Century Mexican American Family  
Film: *Nobody's Girls* (brief clip)  
Tentative Outline Due  
Reading Assignment: Finish *Caballero*  
*Negotiating Conquest*, 151-178

3/1

*Caballero*: Fiction As History

Week 9

3/6 Historic Thresholds: 1848 and 1898

3/8

Research Day

Week 10

3/13

Natives and Newcomers: The Border in 1900

Review for Final

Research Papers Due

### **COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

I will not grade on the curve. Each assignment will be evaluated on its own merits, using the scale outlined below:

A 90-100

B 80-89

C 70-79

D 60-69

F 0-59

The final course grade will be based on the following:

20% Midterm

20% Final

40% Research Paper

10% Website Evaluation

10% Class Participation (includes in-class discussions, writing projects, and attendance)

### **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

The in-class midterm examination will contain both short answer and essay sections. Questions will be drawn from lectures, readings, films, and class discussions. No make-up tests will be given *unless* I receive prior notification.

### **FINAL EXAMINATION**

The take-home final examination will consist of comprehensive essay questions and the answers must reflect original thought, not simply a regurgitation of lectures and readings. It will be due on Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at Noon.

### **WEBSITE EVALUATION**

Each student will be assigned a particular website on Spanish/Mexican colonization of the Borderlands. In examining the major features of the site, she/he will be asked to evaluate the historical argument with regard to the representations of the nascent explorations, settlements, and missions and write a three-page report summarizing his/her findings. The evaluation must contain three basic components: 1) the historical interpretation embedded in the site, 2) types of documents presented, and 3)-student evaluation. Complete instructions will be distributed on January 4th. The project is due on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## RESEARCH PAPER

The research paper should encompass a variety of sources, reflect creativity, and have at least eight pages of text supported by footnotes and a bibliography. Students can define their own topic, issue, or historical problem in Chicana/o history from the precolonial times to 1900. Examples include the canonization of Junipero Serra, education in the Southwest, the California missions, the impact of the Foreigner Miner's Tax, racial constructions of stereotypes, and the lives of women on the Mexican frontier. Students must use at least one primary source from the Special Collections division of the Library. Special Collections contains a treasure trove of primary research (e.g. newspapers, government documents) as well as an extensive rare book collection for the history of the Southwest, particularly California. Internet sources must be credible and verifiable. To avoid the problem of an incomplete essay, the research topic and preliminary bibliography will be due no later than February 20<sup>th</sup> and a rough outline no later than February 27<sup>th</sup>. The paper is due on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Christensen and I will gladly critique rough drafts. Steven MacLeod and Kay Collins of Langson Library will present an engaging, interactive workshop on locating a topic and conducting research on February 8th. The bibliography provided below gives you a start on the secondary literature.

## IN-CLASS WRITING PROJECTS

In-class writing assignments will be short "think" pieces in which students compose on the spot interpretations of materials presented. It is important to complete the readings before class. Do not plan to catch up on the required readings the week before an exam.

## ATTENDANCE /INCOMPLETE POLICES

Regular attendance is mandatory and will be reflected in the grade for participation. All cell phones and beepers must be turned off during class. I will sign an incomplete form under extenuating circumstances and with advance notice.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Mexican American History to 1900

Tómas Almaguer, *Racial Fault Lines*

Matthew Basso, et. al., eds. *Across the Great Divide: Cultures of Manhood in the American West*.

Virginia Bouvier, *Women and the Conquest of California, 1542-1840*

Albert Camarillo, *Chicanos in a Changing Society*

Albert Camarillo and Pedro Castillo, eds. *Furia y Muerte*

Carlos Castañeda, *The Mexican Side of the Texas Revolution*

Inga Clendinnen, *Ambivalent Conquests: Maya and Spaniard in the Yucatan*

Hernando Cortés, *Five Letters of Cortés to the Emperor*

Rupert Costo and Jeannette Henry Costo, *The Missions of California*

Rebecca Craver, *The Impact of Intimacy: Mexican-Anglo Intermarriage in New Mexico, 1821-1846*

Arnolde De León, *The Tejano Community*  
 Arnolde De León, *They Called them Greasers: Anglo American Attitudes Toward Mexicans in Texas, 1821-1900*  
 Sarah Deutsch, *No Separate Refuge: Culture, Class, and Gender on the Anglo-Hispanic Frontier in the American Southwest, 1880-1940*  
 Bernal Diaz, *The Conquest of New Spain*  
 Richard Griswold del Castillo, *The Los Angeles Barrio: A Social History*  
 Richard Griswold del Castillo, *La Familia*  
 Lisbeth Haas, *Conquests and Historical Identities in California, 1769-1936*  
 Neal Harlow, *California Conquered*  
 Robert Heizer and Alan Almquist, eds., *The Other Californians*  
 Gilbert Hinojosa, *A Borderlands Town in Transition: Laredo, 1755-1870*  
 Albert Hurtado, *Indian Survival on the California Frontier*  
 Albert Hurtado, *Intimate Frontiers: Sex, Gender, and Culture in Old California.*  
 Elizabeth Jameson and Susan Armitage, eds. *Writing The Range: Race, Class, and Culture in the Women's West.*  
 Joan Jensen and Darlis Miller, eds., *New Mexico Women: Intercultural Perspectives*  
 Robert Johanssen, *From the Halls of Moctezuma*  
 Susan Lee Johnson, *Roaring Camp: The Social World of the California Gold Rush.*  
 David Langum, *Law and Community on the Mexican California Frontier*  
 Jacqueline Phillips Lathrop, *Ancient Mexico*  
 Miguel León-Portilla, *Aztec Thought and Culture*  
 Miguel León-Portilla, *The Broken Spears*  
 Patricia Limerick, *Legacy of Conquest*  
 Walter Lord, *A Time to Stand*  
 Carey McWilliams, *North from Mexico*  
 D.W. Meinig, *Southwest: Three Peoples in Geographical Change*  
 Frederick Merk, *Manifest Destiny and Mission in American History*  
 Alfredo Mirandé and Evangelina Enríquez, *La Chicana*  
 Douglas Monroy, *Thrown Among Strangers*  
 James Officer, *Hispanic Arizona*  
 Michael Ornelas, *Between the Conquests: Reading in Early Chicano History*  
 Americo Paredes, *With Pistol In His Hand*  
 Leonard Pitt, *Decline of the Californios*  
 Cecil Robinson, *With Ears of Strangers—the Mexican in American Literature*  
 Robert Rosenbaum, *Mexicano Resistance in the Southwest*  
 Thomas Sheridan, *Los Tucsonenses*  
 Jacques Soustelle, *Daily Life of the Aztecs*  
 Frances Swadesh, *Los Primeros Pobladores*  
 Zaragoza Vargas, *Major Problems in Mexican American History*  
 James Diego Vigil, *From Indians to Chicanos*  
 David Weber, ed., *The Spanish Frontier in North America*