

Cnc/Lat 142

Fall

J 171: Latinos and the Law (2008)

Prof. Vigil: S.E. II 2355

W: 7-10PM; SSL 290

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Of Hrs: W: 6-7PM;

W: 12-1Pmor By App.

PH: 824-6113

### **Outline**

This course explores a range of conceptual and policy approaches to legal issues and events affecting the Latino population, with an emphasis on California. Both the historical dimensions and cultural dynamics of these legal issues will be addressed. Indian, Spanish, and Mexican legal traditions are important, but the course will focus on the context of Anglo-Mexican relations and conflict in the aftermath of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848.

Culture contact and conflict wreaked havoc on laws and society during the early period, as land theft, border raiding, banditry, and other problems emerged, problems usually associated with the Wild West.

After the 1910 Mexican Revolution, large-scale immigration from Mexico more than doubled the population as urban barrios and rural colonias began to dot the Southwestern United States. With integration into the agricultural and industrial work force, major social control institutions, such as the family, schools, and law enforcement, were transformed dramatically, especially with urbanization.

In the contemporary era, serious strains over immigration and immigrant rights and educational prospects for Mexican Americans still dominate the legal stage, as they also affect the question of welfare reform, street gangs, and crime generally.

### **Texts**

1. Mirande, A: **Gringo Justice**
2. **READER (Nine chapters)**

## Course Evaluation

Several speakers will be invited to discuss such topics as: immigration, immigrant legal issues, juvenile justice, gang abatement, gang policing, legal history, probation, community relations and organizing, and schooling. Films and videos on some aspect of the law, crime, or society will also be shown. There will be two (2) in class exams (midterm and final, 20% each) and a research paper of 8-10 pp. (50%). Instructions for this research paper will be provided by the third week of the quarter. Attendance and participation in classroom discussions and student evaluations of course are also important (10% of grade).

Week	Date	Lecture Topics and Readings
1	9-29	Introduction; Conceptual and Legal issues; Course requirements. <b>Readings:</b> Steward, Ch 1; Van den Berghe Ch 2.
2	10-6	A Treaty and a New People: How the Land was Lost. <b>Readings:</b> Mirande, Ch. 1-3; Menchaca, Ch 3.
3	10-13	Mexican American Legal Issues and Traditions in the Aftermath of the War
4	10-20	The Long Border and the Big Immigration <b>Readings:</b> Mirande, Ch. 4; Chavez, Ch. 7.
5	10-27	Education: Kick-outs, Push-outs, or Drop-outs? <b>Readings:</b> Larson & Rumberger, Ch. 9.
6	11-3	The City and Its Laws: Social Movements <b>Readings:</b> McWilliams, Ch 4; Barlow and Barlow, Ch 5.
7	11-10	Minorities and the Criminal Justice System
8	11-17	Social Control and Street Socialization <b>Readings:</b> Mirande, Ch. 5-6; Vigil, Ch 6; Handouts.
9	11-24	New Methods of Control <b>Readings:</b> Alonso, Ch 8.
10	12-1	Prospects and Policies for the Future. <b>Readings:</b> Mirande, Ch. 7.
11	12-8	Policy Recommendations.