

Chicano Latino Studies 61

Fall 2009

TTh 11:00-12:20 SSH 100

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TAs: Esther Castillo, Sociology; Kathleen Dingemen, Sociology

Course Description:

The course is designed to introduce the student to the research and instructional mission of the Chicano Latino Studies Program, which offers an interdisciplinary and transnational study of the history, culture, economics and politics of the Latino community. Such themes as migration, community development, literature, education, health, gender and more are covered in the curriculum. In this course the study of the Latino community will emphasize a transnational approach to the history of the Chicano Latino population. For example, the analysis of Latin American immigration will include a discussion of domestic and international conditions, particularly U.S-Latin American economic relations, which over the past century uprooted populations and placed them on a migratory path to the United States.

Latino Studies is a relatively young branch of university curriculum having been introduced as Chicano Studies and Puerto Rican Studies in the late 1960s. Since then it has evolved into Latino Studies across the nation and here at UCI it was established as Chicano Latino Studies. In the early years of the programs' development the Mexican community and the Puerto Rican community were the two most important Latin American populations in the United States. In the 1960s when one spoke of the Spanish-speaking in the United States chances were that he/she was referring to the Mexican population. However, with large-scale migration from across Latin America since the 1970s the Mexican community now shares the 'Spanish-speaking' identification with a wide number of Latin American populations. Today, when one speaks of the Spanish-speaking one might be referring to Colombians, Dominicans, Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Venezuelans, Argentines, and more as well as Puerto Ricans and Mexicans. With each decade, the Latino population continues to grow while the composition of the Latino community diversifies and expands across the nation. This course will examine the conditions that have led to the creation of the Latino population and its expansion from a regional minority to the largest national minority. In addition, the common features of the larger Latino community, such as migration (legal, illegal and contract labor), work, unionization, bilingualism and political issues such as education, as well as the distinct characteristics that divide the Latino community such as class and nationality will be among the subjects of discussion.

Today, as the readings and films will demonstrate, the Latino population is comprised of peoples from all of Latin America and the Caribbean. For the majority this means working in the low skilled, low paid service categories. Within that historical continuum, certain features remain constant such as the overwhelming dependence of

agriculture upon Mexican immigrants to work the fields. It also means settlement in working class sections of cities and towns, a residential pattern that first appeared in the first decade of the 20th century with one distinction and that being that the residential sites have moved across the nation from coast to coast. However, the most important factor that has remained constant, the dominant economic and political power displayed by the United States over Latin America, shall be a major topic for discussion throughout the course

Course Requirements (Subject to Change)

I ask that students attend each class. Moreover, students should come prepared to each class having read the assigned reading/s and ready with questions and comments regarding the readings, lectures and relevant current issues. *I strongly encourage students to ask questions and present issues for discussion before, during and after class.*

Grading and Course Policies

Grading will be based on a midterm and final examination. Grading will be based accordingly: midterm 40%, final exam 60%. Extra credit assignments will also be incorporated.

Cell Phones, Lap Tops

Turn off all cell phones during class and no laptop is to be used for anything other than taking notes. If these rules are not observed that student will be asked to leave.

Course Topics and Readings/Visual Media

Note: All articles will be emailed as attachments and not all films will be shown in class.

September 29-October 1/6

Introduction: History, Theory and Chicano Latino Studies

Power Point presentation:

U.S. Economic Expansion into Mexico, 1870-1930

Readings:

Introduction and Part I from Gonzalez, *Harvest of Empire*

Part One from Galarza, *Barrio Boy*

Gonzalez, "The Language and Culture of Empire"

October 6-8

Explaining the Causes of Latino Migration to the United States and the Social Consequences of Migration:

Readings: Part II and Chapter 13 and 14 from Gonzalez, *Harvest of Empire*

Part Two and Three from Galarza, *Barrio Boy*

Gonzalez and Fernandez “Empire and the Origins of 20th Century Mexican Migration to the United States”
Quintana, “The Countryside Can’t Take it Anymore”
Elizabeth Malkin, “Nafta’s Promise Unfulfilled”

October 13-15, 20-22

State Managed Migration: Temporary Contract Labor

Power Point presentation on the Bracero Program

Films:

Film and Photo League films of Agricultural Labor Strikes of the 1930s
Why Braceros? (1958)
Factory Farms (1959)
Tristes Recuerdos (2002)
Soldiers of the Fields (a trailer)
NBC Newscast with Chet Huntley, 1963

Readings:

Southern Poverty Law Center, “Close to Slavery: Guest Worker Programs in the United States”
Gonzalez, “Recruiting, Processing and Transporting Bracero Labor to the United States”
Henry Anderson, “Social Justice and Foreign Contract Labor, A Statement of Opinion and Conscience.”
Ana Rosas, “Mujeres en Transicion (Women in Transition): Understanding the Gendered Contours of Bracero Family Separation, 1942-1954” (handed out in class)

October 27, Review; October 29 Midterm Exam

November 3-5

Settlement Patterns Follow the Domestic and Transnational Economic Patterns

Power Point: Southern California Citrus Worker Camps
Films: Chavez Ravine (An uprooted LA barrio)

Readings:

Part III from Gonzalez, *Harvest of Empire*.
Parts Four and Five, Galarza, *Barrio Boy*

November 10-12

**Social, Political and Economic Relations with the Larger Society:
Americanization via Segregated Education**

Power point presentation:

Educational Segregation and the Struggle to Desegregate

Film: Taking Back the Schools (1996)

Readings:

Part 3 and Four from Galarza, *Barrio Boy*

Ayala and McCormick, "Felicitia 'La Prieta' Mendez..."

Gonzalez and Fernandez, "The Ideology and Practice of Empire,"

Rodriguez, "The Racialization of Mexicans and Puerto Ricans..."

Vicki Ruiz, "South by Southwest: Mexican Americans and Segregated
Schooling, 1900-1950"

November 17-19

Cultural Expressions from the Latino Communities

Guest Speaker: To be announced

Readings: Pending

November 24 and Thanksgiving Holiday

Labor Struggles Undertaken by Latino Immigrants

Films: Poverty in the Valley of Plenty; The Land is Rich, and Uno Veinticinco

Part Five from Galarza, *Barrio Boy*

Los Angeles Times photographs of the May, 2006 mass demonstrations for a
democratic immigration reform.

Ricardo Chabram, "Activism and Intellectual Struggle in the Life of Ernesto
Galarza (1905-1984)"

December 1-3

**Class Discussion: What Does the Future Hold for the Latino Community?
and
Review Material Covered in the Course**

Course Readings

Books:

Juan Gonzalez, *A History of Latinos in America: Harvest of Empire* (Penguin Books,
2000)

Ernesto Galarza, *Barrio Boy* (Ballentine)

Articles and Chapters (NOTE: All readings will be sent as email attachments):

Cesar Ayala and Jennifer McCormick, “Felícita "La Prieta" Méndez (1916-1998) and the end of Latino Segregation in California” Forthcoming in *Centro: The Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies*

Ricardo Chabram, “Activism and Intellectual Struggle in the Life of Ernesto Galarza (1905-1984)”, *Hispanic Journal of the Social Sciences*, 1985, Vol. 7, No.2.

Gilbert G. Gonzalez, “Recruiting, Processing and Transporting Bracero Labor to the United States,” in Gonzalez, *Guest Workers of Colonized Labor? Mexican Labor Migration to the United States* (Routledge: 2007)

----“The Language and Culture of Empire,” (A series of newspaper quotations on the U.S. as an imperialist power)

Gilbert G. Gonzalez and Raul Fernandez, “Empire and the Origins of 20th Century Migration to the United States,” and “The Ideology and Practice of Empire” in *A Century of Chicano History: Empire, Nations and Migration* (Routledge, 2004)

Henry Anderson, “Social Justice and Foreign Contract Labor: A Statement of Opinion and Conscience,” NP (1958)

Los Angeles Times photographic series from the May, 2006, mass demonstrations for democratic immigration reform and protesting anti-immigrant policies.

Victor Rodriguez Dominguez, “The Racialization of Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans, 1890s to the 1930s” *Centro Journal*, CUNY, 2005.

Southern Poverty Law Center, “Close to Poverty: Guest Worker Programs in the United States”, A Report by the Southern Poverty Law Center (2007)

Victor Quintana, “The Countryside Cannot Take it Anymore”, in Gilbert G. Gonzalez et al, *Labor Versus Empire*, (Routledge, 2004)

Vicki Ruiz, “South by Southwest: Mexican Americans and Segregated Schooling, 1900-1950” *OAH Magazine of History*, 15 (Winter 2001)

Films and Power Point

Power Point:

The Bracero Program

Company Towns in the Southern California Citrus Belt

Segregation of Mexican Children in Public Schools, 1900-1950

U. S. Economic Expansionism into Mexico and Migration

Films (Selections will be made from the following; most are available in the Media Center, Langson Library):

El Contrato/The Contract

Geronimo: His Story

The Global Assembly Line

Tristes Recuerdos

Taking Back the Schools

Factory Farms

Salt of the Earth

Watsonville on Strike

Chulas Fronteras

Chavez Ravine

On the Fringes

The Sixth Section

La Operacion/The Operation

Population Pressure

Por Aca, de Este Lado

Por la Necesidad de Trabajar/ For the Need to Work

Letters From the Other Side

Ties That Bind: Immigration Stories

Soldiers of the Fields (a trailer from an in-progress Bracero Program
documentary by the instructor)

Film and Photo League Silent Films of strikes of the 1930s