The geographic area now known as the “American Southwest” has long been one of the most socially dynamic and complex regions of the world. Although the region is perhaps best known now as part of the borderlands separating the United States from Mexico (and the rest of Latin America), over the course of its history parts of the region have been controlled by native peoples, Spain, the Republic of Mexico, the Republic of Texas, and the United States. This course provides a broad historical overview of the region’s history over the past 150 years, focusing on the main contours of its political, cultural, social, and economic development.

REQUIRED READING (Available at Groundwork Books and On Reserve):


Gloria Anzaldúa, Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza (San Francisco: Aunt Lute Press, 1999).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This is an upper-division requiring strong critical, analytical, and writing skills. In addition to attending lectures and in-class discussions, students are required to complete an 8-10 page take-home midterm examination (45% of final grade) and a 10-12 page take-home final examination (55% of final grade). Both exams are open note and open book. Exams will be distributed in class during week 4 and the last meeting of the course and will be due at the date and time an in-class exam is scheduled. PLEASE NOTE: LATE EXAMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

CLASS SCHEDULE, WINTER 2006:

WEEK 1 (Jan. 9, 11, 13) Racial Anglo-Saxonism and Territorial Expansion

READ: Camarillo, Chapters 1-5

WEEK 2 (Jan. 18, 20) Regional Economic Development and Social Stratification

READ: Camarillo, Chapter 6 to end.
WEEK 3 (Jan. 23, 25, 27) Globalization and Transnational Migration, 1
READ: Gonzalez, Chapters 1-4

WEEK 4 (Jan. 30, Feb 2, 3) Depression, Repatriation, and Retrenchment
READ: Gonzalez, Chapter 5 to end

Feb. 3—***MIDTERM DISTRIBUTED***

WEEK 5 (Feb. 6, 8, 10) Culture, Accommodation, and Resistance
READ: TBA

Feb. 10—***MIDTERM DUE IN CLASS***

WEEK 6 (Feb. 13, 15, 17) The Contradictions of Ethnic Politics
READ: Mariscal, Chapters

WEEK 7 (Feb. 22, 24) Ethnic Mobilization and Activism, cont.
READ: Mariscal, Chapter to end.

WEEK 8 (Feb. 27, Mar. 1, 3) Political Critique and Devolution
READ: Anzaldúa

WEEK 9 (Mar. 6, 8, 10) Looking to the Future: Globalization and Demographic Revolution, 1
READ: TBA

WEEK 10 (Mar. 13, 15, 17) Globalization and Demographic Revolution, 2
READ: TBA

Mar. 17—***FINAL EXAM DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS***