HIUS 113
THE HISTORY OF MEXICAN AMERICA, 1900-PRESENT

Professor David G. Gutiérrez
Winter 2013
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OFFICE HOURS: W, 1-3 pm and by appt.

This upper-division lecture and discussion course explores the recent history of Mexican Americans and Mexican immigrants to the United States, who together constitute one of the fastest growing components of the American population. Focusing on historical developments in both Mexico and in the United States, the class includes discussion of major political, economic, social, and cultural trends, and more specifically, addresses immigration and demographic patterns, the dynamics of identity formation and change, interethnic and intra-ethnic gender relations, differential patterns of racialization, interactions with other groups, ongoing struggles to achieve political equity and social inclusion, and potential future trajectories.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Although there are no formal prerequisites for this class, this is an upper-division course requiring strong critical, analytical, and writing skills. In addition to attending lectures, completing reading assignments, and participating in weekly in-class discussions, students have three assignment options. OPTION ONE: Students can 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). OPTION TWO: students may choose to complete a term paper of 20-25 pages on some topic or issue relevant to the course. OPTION THREE, students can use the class syllabus as a core bibliography to write a synthetic review essay of 20-25 pages on the modern history of Mexican America. Details will be provided in class.

REQUIRED TEXTS (Available at Groundwork Books)


CLASS SCHEDULE, Winter 2013

WEEK ONE (Jan. 8, 10): THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF EXPANSION


WEEK TWO (Jan. 15, 17): THE SEARCH FOR A PROLETARIAT, 1890-1930


WEEK THREE (Jan. 22, 24): CULTURE, INTEGRATION, EXPULSION IN DEPRESSION AND WORLD WAR


WEEK FOUR (Jan. 29, 31): THE AMBIGUOUS POLITICS OF CITIZENSHIP IN THE POSTWAR YEARS


WEEK SEVEN (Feb. 19, 21): HEMISPHERIC ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING AND THE DEMOGRAPHIC REVOLUTION SINCE 1980


WEEK EIGHT (Feb. 26, 28): THE MIDDLE CLASS AND THE UNDERCLASS


WEEK NINE (Mar. 5, 7): CULTURE AND POLITICS IN THE 21ST CENTURY


WEEK TEN (Mar. 12, 14): THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE? (NOTE: TAKEHOME FINAL EXAM DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS, MAR. 12 AND IS DUE NO LATER THAN 2:30PM, MAR. 19).