

History 4630: The History of Mexican Americans Spring 2008

1:30-2:20 M/W/F Business 218

Professor Lawrence Culver

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Office Hours: M/W/F 10:00-11:00, or by appointment.

Books Available at U.S.U. Bookstore and on Reserve at Merrill-Cazier Library:

Sarah Deutsch, *No Separate Refuge: Culture, Class, and Gender on an Anglo-Hispanic Frontier in the American Southwest, 1880-1940*

Richard Etulain, *César Chávez: A Brief Biography with Documents*

Douglas Monroy, *Thrown Among Strangers: The Making of Mexican Culture in Frontier California*

Sonia Nazario, *Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother*

Zaragosa Vargas, *Major Problems in Mexican American History*

This reading and writing-intensive course will examine the historical experiences and culture of Mexican Americans from the origins of Mexican culture to the place of Mexican Americans in the contemporary United States. We will begin with the emergence of Mexican culture in post-conquest New Spain, and its evolution after Mexican independence in 1821. We will then examine the history of Mexican Americans from the U.S. annexation of northern Mexico in 1848 to the present. The course will give special emphasis to topics including immigration and migration, labor, gender, racial and ethnic identities and relationships, and the social and cultural evolution of Mexican Americans within American society.

This course is also being taught in conjunction with the Tanner Symposium, an event held every other year at Utah State examining different aspects of American history and culture. The theme for 2008 is "Celebración: Latino Contributions to U.S. Culture," and will draw many well-known Latino authors, artists, and filmmakers to USU from April 2nd to April 4th. Students in History 4630 will be expected to attend sessions of the symposium and related events, and will complete an assignment based on the Tanner as well. The Tanner website, with information on the symposium schedule and participants, can be found at: <http://tanner2008.usu.edu>.

Assignments:

There are eight graded components in this class. You will write four papers based on the books we will be reading, as well as the Tanner Symposium. There will be a midterm and final based on class lectures. You will receive a participation grade based upon your attendance and participation in class discussion. You will also be responsible for turning in reading questions based on each week's reading assignment, and your questions will serve as part of class discussion.

<i>Thrown Among Strangers</i> Paper	10%
<i>No Separate Refuge</i> Paper	10%
<i>César Chávez</i> Paper	10%
<i>Enrique's Journey</i> /Tanner Symposium Paper	10%
Midterm	15%
Final	15%
Reading Questions	15%
Class Participation	15%

Class Participation:

This course is not solely a lecture class, and will include in-class discussions. Your participation in discussion is essential, and will determine 15% of your final grade. Simply showing up to class does not constitute active participation. Your participation grade will depend upon your contributions to our discussions. Joining in these conversations demonstrates your understanding of the readings, and allows you to share your views on the topics we discuss.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. Unexcused absences will lower your participation grade. You should make every effort to be present when we meet. The second unexcused absence will result in the lowering of your participation grade by a full letter grade. The third absence will result in a zero for your participation grade. To avoid these penalties, you must speak with me prior to any absence except in the case of an emergency. If an emergency occurs, contact me as soon as possible to be excused from class.

Reading Assignments:

You are expected to complete each week's reading on schedule. These assigned readings provide the core materials for the course, and will enable you to participate in discussion. Failure to complete reading assignments will endanger your participation grade and make it impossible to successfully complete reading questions, essays, and exams.

Grading:

All work received on time will be graded and returned as promptly as possible. If your paper is turned in late, it will receive a reduced grade (1/2 of a letter grade a day) unless you make arrangements with me well in advance. You are expected to proofread and revise your written assignments before turning them in. Please feel free to meet with me to discuss a topic, thesis statement, introductory paragraph or preliminary outline for your papers before they are due.

Academic Dishonesty:

The USU Honor Code prohibits academic dishonesty. Plagiarism includes knowingly "representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgement. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials" (*Code of Policies and Procedures for Students*, Article V, Section 3A.1). The penalties for plagiarism are severe. Plagiarism or other academic dishonesty will result in an immediate F, and will be reported to the Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. Other penalties

may also be imposed at the Dean's discretion. These include probation, suspension, expulsion, withholding of transcripts, denial or revocation of degrees, referral to psychological counseling, and other disciplinary actions.

This syllabus and class schedule may be revised if needed. An updated version will be available on my faculty website: <http://www.usu.edu/history/faculty/culver/classesculver.htm>

Course Schedule

Week 1

January 7 Introduction to Course
January 9 The World in 1492
January 11 The Origins of Mexico: Contact, Conquest, and the Columbian Exchange
Reading: Primary Documents: *The Florentine Codex* and *El Requerimiento*

Week 2

January 14 The Evolution of New Spain and Mestizo Mexican Culture
January 16 Northern Expansion and Explorations
January 18 Reading Discussion of *Major Problems*
Reading: *Major Problems*, Chapters 1, 2, and 3

Week 3

January 21 **No Class – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
January 23 The Pueblo Revolt and the Reconquest of New Mexico
January 25 An Empire Revised: From Military Conquest to Missionization
Reading: *Thrown Among Strangers*, pages xiii-162

Week 4

January 28 Mexican Revolution and Independence
January 30 Californios, Natives, and the Rancho System
February 1 Reading Discussion of *Thrown Among Strangers*
Reading: *Thrown Among Strangers*, pages 163-285

Week 5

February 4 Anglo-American Economic and Exploratory Incursions
***Thrown Among Strangers* Paper Due**
February 6 **Video: Remember the Alamo**
February 8 Conclude Video; Reading Discussion of *Major Problems*
Reading: *Major Problems*, Chapters 4, 5, and 6

Week 6

February 11 Texan Independence and the U.S.-Mexico War
February 13 The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Annexation, and Mexican Americans
February 15 The Gold Rush and Its Effects on Californios
Reading: *No Separate Refuge*, 3-86.

Week 7

February 18 **President's Day – No Class**
February 19 Holiday Make-Up Day
February 20 Mexican Laborers in the Southwest and California
February 22 Imposing U.S. Military and Moral “Order” on the Southwest
Midterm Review

Reading: *No Separate Refuge, 87-126*

Week 8

February 25 **Midterm Exam**
February 27 *Ramona*, Spanish Revival, and the Anglo Re-Invention of the Southwest
February 29 Reading Discussion of *No Separate Refuge*

Reading: *No Separate Refuge, 127-209*

Week 9

March 3 The Growth of Cities, Barrios, and Economic Change on Both Sides of the Border
No Separate Refuge Paper Due
March 5 The Mexican Revolution and Mexican Immigration into the Southwest
March 7 Reading Discussion of *Major Problems*

Reading: *Major Problems, Chapters 7, 8, and 9*

Week 10

March 10 **No Classes – Spring Break**
March 12 **No Classes – Spring Break**
March 14 **No Classes – Spring Break**

Week 11

March 17 Making the Modern Border: Creating the Border and the Border Patrol
March 19 Depression and Deportation
March 21 Reading Discussion of *Major Problems*

Reading: *Major Problems, Chapters 10 and 11*

Week 12

March 24 World War II at Home and Abroad for Mexican-Americans
March 26 **Video: Zoot Suit**
March 28 Conclude Video; Reading Discussion of *César Chávez*

Reading: *César Chávez: A Brief Biography with Documents*

Week 13

March 31 Cultural Assimilation: From Mexicans to Mexican Americans
César Chávez Paper Due

April 2 **Tanner Symposium**

April 4 **Tanner Symposium**

Reading: *Enrique's Journey, vii-135*

Attend Tanner Symposium sessions and related events.

Week 14

April 7 Mexican Farmworkers, from Texas to California

April 9 The Bracero Program and Labor Issues

April 11 Reading discussion of *Enrique's Journey*

Reading: *Enrique's Journey*, 137-260

Week 15

April 14 César Chávez and the United Farm Workers

April 16 Civil Rights, Becoming Chicana/o, and Reclaiming Aztlan

April 18 Reading Discussion of *Major Problems*

Reading: *Major Problems*, Chapters 12, 13, and 14

Week 16

April 21 The Immigration Boom: Mexican Americans and Latinos

Tanner Symposium/*Enrique's Journey* Paper Due

April 23 Proposition 187 and Other Political Fights over Immigration and Immigrants

April 25 Blurring the Border: NAFTA and Globalization

Final Exam Review

FINAL EXAM: Monday, April 28, 11:30 – 1:20 in Business 218