History 304 Section 200: Mexican American Frontier to 1848  
Fall 2011, TR 12:45-2:00PM MILS Bldg. Room 110  
Professor: J. Esparza

Professor Contact Information  
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Office Hours: M-F, 1:00pm-1:50pm or by appointment

Course Description  
While Chicanos (Mexican Americans) make up one of the oldest and fastest growing ethno-racial groups in the U.S., their historical experiences as well as their significance to the building of the United States has been too often ignored and undervalued. The purpose of this class is to provide students with a survey of Chicano (Mexican-American) history from pre-Columbian times to 1848 (the time of the Mexican American War). Our main goal is to gain a better understanding of the history of Mexican Americans within the broader scope of American history and society. The class is structured chronologically and will explore broader historical themes such as ethno-racial formation, conquest and colonization, gender relations, environmental exploitation, cultural and identity formation, as well as labor relations.

Prerequisites: Junior or senior classification.

Core Objectives for American History component area

Critical Thinking (to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information).

Communication (to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication)

Social Responsibility (to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities)

Personal Responsibility (to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making)

Student Learning Outcomes  
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. identify the struggles and controversies that shaped both Chicano and American history and society.
2. demonstrate how Chicano history is part of broader American history

3. express a historical understanding of cultural groups and issues.

4. assess the role of interpretation in the creation of history.

**Texts & Additional Readings:**


All other essays, articles, and documents are available via eLearning.

You are required to do all assigned readings.

**Assignments**

Your grade will be based on the following assignments:

A midterm exam (25 multiple choice and 2 short essays) worth 50 points total

A book review worth 25 points

A 3-5 page primary source analytical essay worth 25 points

A final exam (25 multiple choice and 2 short essays) worth 50 points total

Further details on the papers and the book review will be provided in class. Dates and deadlines for all assignments are listed below on the course calendar.

**Grading System (based on points)**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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**Attendance and Make-up Policy**

Attendance is strongly encouraged. Each Thursday we will hold discussion on lecture and related materials and your exams will incorporate the content of those conversations. There are no make-ups for the assignments except in the case of a university-excused
absence. I will handle all absences and work related to them in accordance with current University policy. Please see http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule7.htm for more information.

Academic Dishonesty/ Integrity
"An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do." You are expected to be aware of the Aggie Honor Code and the Honor Council Rules and Procedures, stated at http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu. As such, academic dishonesty, including plagiarism or cheating on the exams, book quizzes, or other assignments will result in failure of those assignments.

Disabilities
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things. this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Office of Support Services for Students with Disabilities in Room B-118 Cain Hall (845-1637).

Classroom Conduct
Classroom discussion requires a certain degree of civility; this means you are to conduct yourself appropriately. As such, the following are prohibited: talking in a disruptive manner, dipping, smoking, sleeping, reading the newspaper, studying for other classes, fighting, or any similar behavior that I deem disruptive or inappropriate. Make sure you turn off anything with an "on/off" switch, with the exception of laptops, and put it away during class time. If you use a laptop, you must disable your wireless internet connection. If I suspect you are using your laptop for purposes other than class, I will ask you to shut it off and/or to leave.

Course Calendar
*All readings should be completed by the Tuesday of each week

Week 1: 
T: Introductions, Course Description, and Class Syllabus
Alternative Approaches to Chicano History

R: The Pre-Colonial Period, Pre-1521
Occupied America, Chapter 1

Week 2: 
T: Early Mesoamerican History: Olmeca, Maya, Tolteca, Azteca
Crucible of Struggle, chapter 1

R: Mesoamerican Culture and Society
Week 3:  
T: The Spanish Colonial Period, 1521-1821  
Occupied America, Chapter 2  

R: Europeans Invade  
Crucible of Struggle, Chapter 1 (first half)  

Week 4:  
T: Status of Women in New Spain  
Crucible of Struggle, Chapter 1 (second half)  

R: Expansion & Colonization of the North  
BOOK REVIEW DUE  

Week 5:  
T: Spanish & Texas Borderlands  

R: The Mexican War of Independence  
Crucible of Struggle, Chapter 2 (first half)  

Week 6:  
T: Midterm Exam  

R: The Mexican Frontier, 1821-1836  
Occupied America, Chapter 3 (first half)  

Week 7:  
T: Mestizaje & The New Racial Order  
Occupied America, Chapter 3 (second half)  

R: The Spanish Republic  
Crucible of Struggle, Chapter 2 (second half)  

Week 8:  
T: The Mexican Republic  
Occupied America, chapter 3  

R: Early Mexicano Life & Society  
Occupied America, chapter 4  

Week 9:  
T: Anglo Immigration & U.S. Invasion, 1836-1848
Week 10: T: The Secession of Texas, part 1
Occupied America, chapter 6
R: The Secession of Texas, part 2

Week 11: T: The U.S. War Against Mexico, part 1
Occupied America, chapter 7 (first half)
R: The U.S. War Against Mexico, part 2
Occupied America, chapter 7 (second half)

Week 12: T: American Occupation of New Mexico, Arizona & California, part 1
Crucible of Struggle, chapter 3 (first half)
3-5 PAGE ANALYTICAL PAPER DUE
R: American Occupation of New Mexico, Arizona & California, part 2
Crucible of Struggle, chapter 3 (second half)

Week 13: Thanksgiving

Week 14: T: New Borders, part 1
Occupied America, chapter 8 (first half)
R: New Borders, part 2
Occupied America, chapter 8 (second half)

Week 15: T: Review

Final Exam during University scheduled exam period