

## **History 32—History of Chicanos in the Southwest**

Instructor: Rene Sanchez  
TTh, 2:00-3:15  
Forum 1  
Fall, 1998

Required Text: Mexican Americans/American Mexicans: From Conquistadors to Chicanos. By Matt S. Meier and Feliciano Ribera.

### Course Description:

History 32 will trace the history of the Chicano people from their preColumbian origins through the periods of Spanish, Mexican, and American rule and up to the present time. The course will provide an overview of the native and Spanish roots of Chicanos, but will emphasize the impact of the United States-Mexican War, the interrelationships between Mexican and American history since the war, and the experiences of Chicanos in the United States during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### Course Objectives:

- 1) Identify the characteristics of preColumbian civilizations present in Mexico before the advent of Europeans.
- 2) Understand the impact of the Spanish conquest on native society and the process of Spanish colonization which gave rise to the people, culture, and government of the independent Republic of Mexico.
- 3) Identify the characteristics of the Hispanic frontier societies established in California, New Mexico, and Texas from the 1600s to the 1800s.
- 4) Analyze the causes of the Mexican War and the consequences of American rule for Hispanics living in the territories annexed by the United States.
- 5) Describe the experiences and contributions of Chicanos to the society and economy of the Southwest, with particular attention to the impact of the Mexican Revolution, changes in immigration patterns, World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II.
- 6) Understand the dynamics of Chicano political and social movements from the 1960s to the present and their impact on contemporary American society.

### Assignments and Grading Procedures:

- 1) There will be four examinations, approximately one each month, covering the assigned readings and lectures. Each exam will be worth 100 points. The exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false and matching questions. No make-up exams will be given unless the absence was due to a real and verified emergency.
- 2) There will be a research project that will be due Tuesday, November 24. Details concerning the project will be given separately. The project will be worth 100 points.

- 3) There will be five quizzes given throughout the semester. These quizzes will be worth 10 points each for a total of 50 points and will be given unannounced. No make-ups will be given for any reason.
- 4) Students will be required to present their history notebook at the end of the semester. This notebook should contain class lecture notes and any other assignments given during the semester. The notebook will be worth 25 points.
- 5) Every student will be required to attend class and participate in class discussions. Your attendance and class participation will be worth 25 points.

Grades for the course will be calculated using a point system. There are 600 possible points for the course.

A=540-600 points

B=480-539 points

C=420-479 points

D=360-419 points

F=less than 359 points

Keep in mind the drop deadline date! Students may drop this course any time before the ninth week of the semester, that's October 16<sup>th</sup>. Any student who is still enrolled after the deadline will receive a letter grade.

In order to succeed in this class, each student needs to be sure he or she is serious about the course. This means students need to attend class regularly, do the assigned readings, take all the exams, complete all assignments on time, and participate in class. A student who is willing to do all of these things will be able to do well in the course.

Remember that we are all adults here. If you are having a problem in the class, feel free to come and talk with me about it. I'm sure if we work together we can find a solution. However, I will not nag you about your work, attendance, or behavior. You must be responsible for your own education.

## Reading Assignments

Please complete each reading before you come to class.

Dates are approximate, they could change depending on the need of the class for more or less time on a particular subject. I will inform you if test dates or reading assignment dates are to be changed.

- Week 1: 8-18 & 8-20 Class introduction and Chapter 1, "The Meeting of Two Worlds" p. 9.
- Week 2: 8-25 & 8-27 Chapter 2, "Revolution and Disarray" p. 27.
- Week 3: 9-1 & 9-3 Chapter 3, "Men and Land on the Frontier" p. 40.
- Week 4: 9-8 & 9-10 Chapter 4, "Manifest Destiny" p. 53.  
Exam 1: Chapters 1-4.
- Week 5: 9-15 & 9-17 Chapter 5, "Roots of the Poison" p. 69.
- Week 6: 9-22 & 9-24 Chapter 6, "Culture and Conflict in New Mexico" p. 87.
- Week 7: 9-29 & 10-1 Chapter 7, "North From Mexico" p. 103.
- Week 8: 10-6 & 10-8 Chapter 8, "Mande VD, Senor" p. 118.  
Exam 2: Chapters 5-8.
- Week 9: 10-13 & 10-15 Chapter 9, "Deporting Jesus" p. 131.
- Week 10: 10-20 & 10-22 Chapter 10, "Unwanted Mexicans" p. 147.
- Week 11: 10-27 & 10-29 Chapter 11, "Heroes Second Class" p. 159.
- Week 12: 11-3 & 11-5 Chapter 12, "Braceros: World War II and After" p. 172.  
Exam 3: Chapters 9-12.
- Week 13: 11-10 & 11-12 Chapter 13, "The Slaves We Rent: Undocumented, Green Carders, Commuters" p. 185.
- Week 14: 11-17 & 11-19 Chapter 14, "A New Breed" p. 198.
- Week 15: 11-24 & 11-26 Chapter 15, "El Movimiento" p. 218  
Projects Due  
Thanksgiving Break
- Week 16: 12-1 & 12-3 Chapter 16, "The Chicano Cultural Renaissance" p. 233.
- Week 17: 12-8 & 12-10 Chapter 17, "Jobs, Business, and Politics" p. 249.
- Week 18: 12-15 & 12-17 Review and Final Exam: Chapters 13-17

## Research Project

History 32 requires each student to complete a research project. This project is worth 100 points and is due no later than November 24. No late projects will be accepted.

### Requirements:

- 1) The project must be approximately 5 type-written, double-spaced pages.
- 2) Any books, articles, or other sources must be cited within your paper using parenthetical citations and included in a bibliography at the end of your paper. An example of parenthetical citations is as follows:  
(Smith, p. 1) following information which came from the source.
- 3) The project must be well organized and well written. It should include an introduction, body, and conclusion.

### Suggested Topics:

- 1) Interview a person of Mexican descent, whether born in the United States or Mexico. Discuss the person's experiences in the United States, any prejudices they might have faced, difficulties they might have had fitting in to American culture. Be sure to cite who is being interviewed, their relationship to you, and any other pertinent information about the person. If you are going to do an interview, citations are not required.
- 2) Discuss Bilingual Education. What is it? Is it effective? Why is it so controversial?
- 3) Write a paper on a famous Mexican American. What are that person's achievements? How did that person overcome prejudices to rise to their position of prominence?
- 4) Compare the immigrant experiences of a Mexican immigrant to the experiences of an immigrant from another country or region of the world. How are their experiences similar? How are they different?
- 5) Discuss Chicanos in politics. Be sure to include information on participation, voting, and office holders.
- 6) Discuss Chicanos in literature. What influence have Chicanos had on literature in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 7) Discuss Chicanos in the media. What influence have Chicanos had on radio, television, movies, music, etc?
- 8) Discuss Chicano's educational achievements. Give some statistics showing achievements, failures, and improvements. How can educational failures be changed to success, achievements and improvements continued?
- 9) Discuss Chicano culture. Include information on the different regions of the United States, as well as Mexico. Is there one single Chicano culture, or several distinct groups following different cultural traditions?
- 10) Any subject not mentioned here, with the approval of the instructor.