

**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)**

Kathleen Benton-Cohen. *Borderline Americans: Racial Division and Labor War in the Arizona Borderlands*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2011.  
ISBN-10: 0674060539

Matt Garcia. *From the Jaws of Victory: The Triumph and Tragedy of Cesar Chavez and the Farm Worker Movement*. Berkeley: UC Press, 2012.  
ISBN-10: 0520259300

Lynn Stephen. *Transborder Lives: Indigenous Oaxacans in Mexico, California, and Oregon*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2007.  
ISBN-10: 822339900

## **CLASS SCHEDULE, Winter 2013**

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

READ: David M. Pletcher, "Consul Warner P. Sutton and American-Mexican Border Trade during the Early Díaz Period," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 79 (4) (April 1976): 373-99; Mark C. Anderson, "'What's to Be Done with 'Em?': Images of Mexican Cultural Backwardness, Racial Limitations, and Moral Decrepitude in the U.S. Press, 1913-1915," *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos* 14 (1) (Winter 1998): 23-70; Benton-Cohen, *Borderline Americans*, Chapters 1-3.

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

READ: Benton-Cohen, Chapters 4-6; Joon K. Kim, California's Agribusiness and the Farm Labor Question: The Transition from Asian to Mexican Labor, 1919-1939," *Aztlán* 37 (2) (Fall 2012): 43-72; Mark Reisler, "Always the Laborer, Never the Citizen: Anglo Perceptions of the Mexican Immigrant during the 1920s," *Pacific Historical Review* 45 (2) (May 1976): 231-54; Neil Betten and Raymond A. Mohl, From Discrimination to Repatriation: Mexican Life in Gary, Indiana during the Great Depression," *Pacific Historical Review* 42 (3) (Aug. 1973): 370-88.

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

READ: Benton-Cohen, Chapter 5-end; Sidney W. Mintz, and Eric R. Wolf, "An Analysis of Ritual Co-Parenthood (Compadrazgo)," *Southwestern Journal of Anthropology* 6 (4) (Winter 1950): 341-68; Douglas Monroy, "'Our Children Get So Different Here': Film, Fashion, Popular Culture, and the Process of Cultural Syncretization in Los Angeles, 1900-1935," *Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies* 19 (1) (Spring 1988-90): 79-108; Elizabeth R. Escobedo, "The Pachuca Panic: Sexual and Cultural Battlegrounds in World War II Los Angeles," *Western Historical Quarterly* 38 (2) (Summer 2007): 133-56; Gabriella Ricciardi, "Telling Stories, Building Altars," *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 107 (4) (Winter 2006): 536-52.

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

Carlos Blanton, "George I. Sánchez, Ideology, and Whiteness in the Making of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement, 1930-1960," *Journal of Southern History* 72 (Aug. 2006): 569-64; Steven H. Wilson, "Brown Over 'Other White': Mexican Americans' Legal Arguments and Litigation Strategy in School Desegregation Lawsuits," *Law and History Review* 21 (1) (Spring 2003): 145-94.

### **WEEK FIVE (Feb. 5, 7): THE POLITICIZATION OF IDENTITY IN THE 1960S (NOTE: TAKEHOME MIDTERM DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS, FEB. 5).**

READ: García, *From the Jaws of Victory*, Chapters 1-4; Ian F. Haney-López, "Protest, Repression, and Race: Legal Violence and the Chicano Movement," *University of Pennsylvania Law Review* 150 (1) (Nov. 2001): 205-44; Alma García,

“The Development of Chicana Feminist Discourse, 1970-1980,” *Gender and Society* 3 (2) (June 1989): 217-38.

**WEEK SIX (Feb. 12, 14): GLOBALIZATION AND THE RISE OF THE NEOLIBERAL ECONOMIC ORDER, 1973-2000 (NOTE: TAKEHOME MIDTERM DUE IN CLASS, FEB. 12).**

READ: García, Chapter 5-end; Wayne A. Grove, “The Mexican Farm Labor Program, 1942-1964: Government Administered Labor Market Insurance for Farmers,” *Agricultural History* 70 (2) (Sept. 1996): 302-20; Nestor Rodríguez, “Workers Wanted’: Employer Recruitment of Immigrant Labor,” *Work and Occupations* 31 (4) (Nov. 2004): 453-73.

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

READ: Patricia Fernández-Kelly and Douglas S. Massey, “Borders for Whom? The Role of NAFTA in Mexico-U.S. Migration,” *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 610 (1) (Mar. 2007): 98-118; Raúl Delgado Wise and Humberto Márquez Covarrubias, “Capitalist Restructuring, Development and Labor Migration,” *Third World Quarterly* 29 (7) (Oct. 2008) 1359-74; Nicholas De Genova, “The Legal Production of Mexican/Migrant ‘Illegality’,” *Latino Studies* 2 (2) (July 2004): 160-85.

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

READ: Stephen, *Transborder Lives*, Chapters 1-3; Rakesh Kochhar, “The Occupational Status and Mobility of Hispanics,” Washington, DC: Pew Hispanic Center, Dec. 2005), <http://pewhispanic.org/2005/12/15/the-occupational-status-and-mobility-of-hispanics/> ; Pew Hispanic Center, “The Mexican American Boom: Births Overtake Immigration,” (Washington, DC: Pew Hispanic Center, July 2011), <http://pewhispanic.org/2011/07/14/the-mexican-american-boom-brbirths-overtake-immigration/>.

**WEEK NINE (Mar. 5, 7): CULTURE AND POLITICS IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

READ: Stephen, Chapters 4-6; Josué David Cisneros, “(Re)Bordering the Civic Imaginary: Rhetoric, Hybridity, and Citizenship in La Gran Marcha,” *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 97 (1) (Feb. 2011): 26-49; Marco E. Hewitt, “Cartographies of Hybridity: A Mexican American Case Study Exploring the Juncture Between Globalization, Cultural Identity, and Social Space,” *Limina: A Journal of Historical and Cultural Studies*, 13 (2007): 10-22, <http://www.limina.arts.uwa.edu.au/previous>

**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).**

READ: Finish Stephen, *Transborder Lives*; David Bacon, “Equality and Rights for Immigrants: The Key to Organizing Unions,” *Monthly Review* 62 (5) (Oct. 2010): 34-48.