Mexican-American Politics
Political Science 464/Chicano Latino Studies 464

Mexican Americans are now the second largest ethnic minority group in the United States. As a group they face problems of poverty, unemployment, and discrimination. At the same time, Mexican Americans are culturally, economically and politically diverse. How the dynamics of race, class, and ethnicity shape Mexican American politics and Latino politics is the central focus of this class. In order to understand change and continuity in race relations, this class will emphasize the historical conflict between Mexican and Anglo Americans. The final third of the course will be dedicated to contemporary political issues.

The following texts are on reserve and are available at A Room of Ones Own bookstore for purchase:

Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzalez. *I am Joaquin.* (on reserve only)

Other readings will be posted on Learn@UW

Course Requirements

I. Class Participation

Regular attendance at lectures is indispensable; the reading material is designed to supplement and not duplicate the lectures. In addition to keeping up with the assigned reading, I encourage you to subscribe to a good daily newspaper like the *New York Times* (available at a substantial discount to students). Reading a good newspaper will enhance your understanding of the lectures and make you better able to participate in class discussions. Since this is an election year, I urge you to keep up with the latest public opinion polls. I recommend the work of these two polling companies:
http://www.pewhispanic.org/ and http://www.latinodecisions.com/ Extra credit will be given for thoughtful questions, arguments and debate.

II. Book Critiques

Time will be set aside to discuss all of the assigned books. You will be required to write four (4) book critiques. You are asked to analyze the author’s thesis, methods, evidence, and conclusions of the reading assignments. Guidelines will be handed out in class. Everyone is required to critique Carrigan and Webb, Forgotten Dead. You can then choose three other books (excluding I am Joaquin) on the reading list to critique. Remember, even if you have not written a book critique during a given week, it is still essential that you read the assigned books each week before coming to class. It is not possible to put off any of the readings before the final exam and expect to do well in the class.

III. A Research Paper

Your research paper will include a transcript and analysis of an interview with an individual, not affiliated with the University of Wisconsin System, who is involved in Mexican American politics or community affairs, broadly defined. The finished product should be about fifteen to twenty pages in length. Guidelines will be distributed in class.

Note: All paper topics and persons to be interviewed must be cleared with me by October 14th. Please make an appointment to see me in my office. Bring a one-page description of your project with you. The final paper is due on December 15th.

IV. A Comprehensive Final Examination

The final exam will take place on December 22, 2016 at 7:45 am. Location to be announced.

Course Evaluation

The grade will be determined according to the following criteria:

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Book Critiques (10% each)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation (Up to)</td>
<td>(Up to) 5% Extra Credit</td>
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Students must complete all required work in order to be eligible to receive a passing grade in the course. In calculating the final grade, number rather than letter grades will be averaged. Make-
up exams will be given only in the case of a medical emergency. Students affiliated with the McBurney Center should see me about exam arrangements and other accommodations.

Electronic Devices

The use of laptops in lecture and section is not allowed except by special arrangement. The same goes for other electronic devices. Please turn off and put away your phones before you come to lecture.

Academic Integrity

I take academic integrity very seriously. If I suspect academic misconduct, I will investigate and impose penalties in accordance with university guidelines. Depending on the severity of the offense, penalties may include failure in the course and a notice being sent to the Dean of Students. You are encouraged to study with other students, but your work must be entirely your own. If you have any questions about what constitutes academic misconduct, please see me. Academic misconduct, even if it is unintentional, can seriously damage your career and it is not worth the risk.

Office Hours

My office hours are on Wednesdays from 11:00 to 12:00 and 1:15 to 2:15 or by appointment. Please feel free to make an appointment or drop by during my office hours. I welcome students.

Please be aware that I have two offices. My Political Science office, where I will hold regular office hours, is 403 North Hall. My Chican@/Latin@ Studies office is 311 Ingraham Hall. If you make an appointment to see me be sure you know where we agreed to meet.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week One. September 6th & 8th: Course Requirements, Socio Economic Overview

a. Syllabus distributed. Introduction to class format, grading, etc.
b. Overview of Mexican American earnings, education, employment patterns
c. Book critique guidelines distributed

Week Two. September 13th & 15th: The History of Anglo and Mexican American Conflict

a. Early Southwestern History
b. Spanish and Anglo Immigration Patterns
c. Sonia Sotomayor
Week Three. September 20th & 22th: The History of Anglo and Mexican American Conflict (continued)

a. United States-Mexico War and its Consequences for Mexican Americans Research Paper guidelines distributed
b. Class discussion of Carrigan and Webb. Forgotten Dead. Critique due

Week Four. September 27th & 29th: Organizing Against Racism

a. Debating race, class and culture
b. The Mutualistas, Labor Unions and Civil Rights Groups

Week Five. October 4th & 6th: Guest Speaker/ the Chicano Movement

a. Tuesday, October 4th. Adela Licona "Fear-Inflected Imaginaries: A Focus on the Rhetorical Force & Function of the Non/Image" Readings posted on Learn@UW
b. Emergence of the Chicano Movement

Week Six. October 11th & 13th: The Chicano Movement (continued)

a. Organizations, leaders and Ideology
b. Land Grant Movement in New Mexico, Farm Workers and La Raza Unida Party

Week Seven. October 18th & 20th: The Chicano Movement (continued)

a. Identity and Party Politics. Video "I Am Joaquin." Read text on line or reserve
b. October 20th, class discussion of Beltran. The Problem With Unity. Critique due

Week Eight. October 25th & 27th: Political Organizing in the Contemporary Period

a. Foundation Money, Interest Groups and Social Movements
b. The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund

Week Nine. November 1st & November 3rd: Political Organizing in the Contemporary Period (continued)

a. Video: A Class Apart
b. Voting and Party Identification

Week Ten. November 8th & 10th: Political Organizing in the Contemporary Period (continued)

a. November 8th class discussion of Barreto and Segura. Latino America. Critique due
b. Reflection on Latinos, Voting, and the 2016 Presidential Election
**Week Eleven. November 15th & 17th: Politics and Identity (continued)**

a. Tuesday, November 15th. Paul Ortiz "The Mexican War of Independence and US History: Tearing Down American Exceptionalism and Moving Forward in the 21st Century" Readings posted on Learn@UW

b. Organizing Garment Workers

**Week Twelve. November 22nd: Politics and Identity (continued)**

a. Organizing Garment Workers—Labor and Technology

****Thanksgiving Recess November 24th – 27th****

**Week Thirteen. November 29th & December 1st: Contemporary Immigration (continued)**


b. Mexican Immigration in a Global Context

c. Video. *Harvest of Loneliness: The Bracero Program*

**Week Fourteen. December 6th & 8th: Bridging the Racial and Generational Divide**

a. The Prospects for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

b. December 6th, class discussion of Myers *Immigrants and Boomers*. Critique due

**Week Fifteen. December 13th & 15th: Bridging the Racial Divide**

a. December 15th, Summary and review for final exam