

Chellat 111A  
Winter '07

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### **Critical Issues in Chicano Latino Studies**

CLS 111A

Tu Th 9:30-10:50 Winter 2007

Gilbert G. Gonzalez, Instructor

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### **Course Description**

The course is designed to introduce the student to the more important questions related to the study of the Chicano Latino community. Since the instructor is a historian the course will take a historical approach to the subject matter. It is the instructor's contention that no critical issue affecting the Latino community is of recent origin. It will be shown that every major question confronted in Chicano Latino studies embodies a long historical process and that to understand and explain current critical issues (such as migration) a historical approach is fundamental. A number of themes will be examined and analyzed including theoretical approaches taken in Chicano Latino Studies; U. S. Mexico economic relations; gender; migration; labor; integration and segregation; politics and more. You will note that the instructor places U. S.-Mexico relations at the center of the origin and historical evolution of the Chicano Latino peoples. However, that transnational relation is treated as an imperialist relation, of the U.S. dominating Mexico economically, a domination that goes back to the late nineteenth century. Evidence will be presented to argue that the origin and evolution of the Chicano Latino peoples cannot be explained apart from U.S. domination over Mexico. Within that imperialist relationship, the migration of Mexican labor is perhaps the most important social consequence. The course will focus on that social consequence and examine various aspects to that question, particularly the historical integration of the Mexican immigrant into the heart of the US economy. Ample time will be devoted to the discussion of that critical topic.

### **Course Outline (Subject to Change)**

#### Week One

Introduction, Overview of the course

Review the Origins of Chicano Latino Studies

Readings:

Gonzalez and Fernandez, *A Century of Chicano History*: Introduction and Chapter One

Vargas, *Labor Rights are Civil Rights*, Introduction

Hongagneu-Sotelo, *Domestica*, Preface

Gamboa, *Mexican Labor and World War II*, Introduction

Galarza, *Strangers in Our Fields*, Chapter One

Week Two

U. S. Mexico Relations and the Construction and Integration of the Mexican Community in the US: A Case of Imperialism

Readings: Gonzalez and Fernandez, *A Century of Chicano History*: Chapters Two and Five.

Slides: US-Mexico Economic Relations

Week Three/Four

Labor Activism and Civil Rights

Vargas, *Labor Rights are Civil Rights*, Chapters One-Three

Films: El Monte Berry Strike, 1933

San Joaquin Cotton Strike, 1933

Week Four/Five

Labor Activism and Civil Rights (continued)

Readings: Vargas, *Labor Rights are Civil Rights*, Chapters Four-Six

Films: Poverty in the Valley of Plenty

Uno Veinte Cinco

Week Six/Seven

Gendered Economic Integration

Readings: Hondagneu-Sotelo, *Domestica*, Chapters One-Four

Gonzalez and Fernandez, *A Century of Chicano History*: Chapters Four and Five

Film: Maid in America

Week Eight

Gendered Economic Integration (Continued)

Readings: Hondagneu-Sotelo, *Domestica*, Chapters Five-Eight

Gonzalez, *Culture of Empire*: Chapters Four.

Film: Voces del Campo

Week Nine/Ten

Gendered Economic Integration via State Managed Labor Migration: The Bracero Program

Readings: Galarza, *Strangers in Our Fields*

Gamboa, *Mexican Labor and World War II*

Films: Factory Farms  
Sad Recollections/Tristes Recuerdos

Slides: The Bracero Program in Action

Week Ten

Free Trade and State Managed Labor Migration: A New Bracero Program?

Conclusion

Reading: Gonzalez, *Guest Workers of Colonized Labor? Mexican labor Migration to the United States*, Chapter Five and Conclusion.

### Course Requirements

--Class attendance and participation in discussions. The class is organized as a research course; each class will address themes and readings and leave space for lively discussion.

--A critical, creative and well-researched final paper, approximately 15 pages in length, on a topic directly related to the subject matter covered in the course.

--Extra credit available, such as reading an extra article on a theme related to the course and a four to five-page analysis on that reading.

### Readings

#### Books

Ernesto Galarza, *Strangers in Our Fields*, Washington, D. C.: Fund for the Republic, 1956 (Copies will be handed out in class).

Erasmio Gamboa, *Mexican Labor and World War II: Braceros in the Pacific Northwest, 1942-1947*, Austin: University of Texas Press, 1990.

Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, *Domestica: Immigrant Workers Cleaning and Caring in the Shadows of Affluence*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.

Zaragosa Vargas, *Labor Rights are Civil Rights: Mexican Workers in Twentieth Century America*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005

Gilbert G. Gonzalez and Raul Fernandez, *A Century of Chicano History: Empire, Nations and Migration*, New York: Routledge, 2003. (Note: the book chapters will be emailed as attachments)

Gilbert Gonzalez, *Guest Workers or Colonized Labor? Mexican Labor Migration to the United States*, Routledge, 2007. (Note: Chapter Five and Conclusion will be mailed out as attachments)

### Films

Factory Farms, Produced and Directed by Harvey Richards

El Monte Berry Pickers Strike, Film and Photo League

The Harvesters, Produced and Directed by Harvey Richards

Maid in America, Produced and Directed by Anayansi Prado

Poverty in the Valley of Plenty

San Joaquin Cotton Pickers Strike, Film and Photo League

Sad Recollections/Tristes Recuerdos, Motor Films

Uno Veinte Cinco, Produced and Directed by Harvey Richards

Voces del Campo, Produced and Directed by Ulla Nilsen and Selena Jaramillo

### Slides

The Bracero Program in Action

U.S.-Mexico Economic Relations