

Chc/Lat 169  
F'04

**Imperialism and the Chicano Latino Community**  
Chc/Lat 169/Soc Sci 189  
TTh 9:30-10:50 SST 318

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**Course Description:**

The course will examine U. S. imperialism and its interconnection with the history of the ethnic Mexican community. Few in academia, the news media and political bureaucracies acknowledge the U.S. as an imperialist power; however, this course will place imperialism at the center of the ethnic Mexican experience. Using various published analyses as a foundation (from neo-conservatives, liberals and leftists), we will examine the United States imperialism with particular attention to the northern power's relations with Mexico. Rather than viewing this relationship as one of equality and reciprocity, the assigned readings depict the U. S. an imperial power seeking to dominate Mexico economically and ultimately realizing that goal (through NAFTA for example). The evidence presented in class supports the thesis that the U.S. has acted in a classic imperialist fashion in relation to Mexico since at least the 1880s. Many believe that this relationship is little more than a conventional association that many nations engage. However, it shall be demonstrated that the relation between the U. S. and Mexico parallels Europe's relations to its colonies during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Among the themes to be addressed will be the following:

- The economic conquest of Mexico
- The mass dispossession of the peasantry in Mexico
- The creation of internal migration by the actions of U.S. capital in Mexico
- The creation of a classic imperialist characterization of Mexico by Americans
- Migration to the United States as a consequence of U. S. capital in Mexico
- The formation of the Mexican community in the United States
- The culture of imperialism and public policy towards the Mexican community in the US.

## Course Outline

### Introduction

#### Theme I: Discussion of theories of Imperialism

##### Readings:

“The Economics, Politics, and Culture of U. S. Imperialism,”  
quotations compiled by Gilbert Gonzalez

“Empire and the Origins of Twentieth Century Migration from Mexico to  
the United States” by Gilbert Gonzalez and Raul Fernandez from *A  
Century of Chicano History* (Routledge, 2004)

“Introduction” from *Culture of Empire: American Writers, Mexico And  
Mexican Immigrants*

#### Theme II: The “Peaceful Conquest” of Mexico by the United States

##### Readings:

Chapter One from *Culture of Empire: American Writers, Mexico And  
Mexican Immigrants*.

“Why the Mexican Rural Sector Can’t Take it Anymore” by  
Victor Quintana from *Labor Versus Empire: Race, Gender and Migration*

Slides: The Peaceful Conquest of Mexico compiled by Gilbert  
Gonzalez

#### Theme III: The Culture of Imperialism

##### Readings:

Gonzalez, Chapters Two and Three from *Culture of Empire*

Samuel Huntington, “The Hispanic Challenge”

Gonzalez, “ ‘The Hispanic Challenge’ or the Imperialist  
Challenge?” forthcoming in *Race and Class*

Gonzalez and Fernandez, “Denying Empire: The Journal of American  
History on the Ideological Warpath,” in *A Century of Chicano History*

#### Theme IV: Labor and Migration

##### Readings:

Gonzalez and Fernandez, “Empire and the Origins of Twentieth Century  
Migration from Mexico to the United States,”

Gonzalez, "Imperialism and Labor: Mexican, Indian and Algerian Labor Migrations in Comparative Perspective,"

Gonzalez, "The Bracero Program: Imperialism and the Importation of Indentured Labor,"

Gonzalez, "Economic Power versus Academic Freedom: The Case of Henry P. Anderson and the University of California"  
Slides: Braceros in Mexico and the United States compiled by Gonzalez

#### Theme V: Public Policy and Imperialism: Education

Readings:

Gonzalez, Chapters Four, Five, Six and Conclusion from *Culture of Empire*

Slides: A Historical Overview of the Education of Mexican Children compiled by Gonzalez

#### Conclusion

Gonzalez and Fernandez, "Chicano History into the Twenty-first Century," from *A Century of Chicano History*.

#### **Course Requirements:**

---Final take home exam due on date of scheduled final exam

---Short research paper, 10 or more pages in length, on a topic related to the class, due on the date of the scheduled final exam.

#### **Assigned Readings:**

Book:

Gilbert G. Gonzalez, *Culture of Empire: American Writers, Mexico and Mexican Immigrants, 1880-1930* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2004)

Articles and Chapters:

Gilbert G. Gonzalez, "The Bracero Program: Imperialism and the Importation of Indentured Labor,"

-----, "Economic Power Versus Academic Freedom: The Case of Henry Anderson and the University of California,"

-----, "Imperialism and Labor: Mexican, Indian and Algerian Labor Migrations in Comparative Perspective,"

-----, "The Hispanic Challenge or the Imperialist Challenge?" forthcoming in *Race and Class*.

Gilbert G. Gonzalez and Raul A. Fernandez, "Empire and the Origins of Twentieth Century Migration from Mexico to the United States"; "Denying Empire: The Journal of American History on the Ideological Warpath," and "Chicano History into the Twenty First Century," in *A Century of Chicano History: Empire, Nations and Migration* (New York: Routledge, 2004)

Samuel P. Huntington, "The Hispanic Challenge" *Foreign Policy*, April/May, 2004.

Victor Quintana, "Why the Mexican Rural Sector Can't Take it Anymore," in Gilbert G. Gonzalez, et al, Eds., *Labor Versus Empire: Race, Gender and Migration* (New York: Routledge, 2004)

#### Quotations

"The Economics, Politics and Culture of U. S. Imperialism" compiled by Gilbert Gonzalez

#### Slides

The Peaceful Conquest of Mexico organized by Gilbert Gonzalez

A Historical Overview of the Education of Mexican Children organized by Gilbert Gonzalez

Braceros in Mexico and the United States organized by Gilbert Gonzalez