

## Ethnic Studies 116-The US Mexico Border in Comparative Perspective

Spring 2007  
Tuesday/Thursday 5:00pm-6:20pm  
Peterson Hall 103

Professor: Ofelia Ortiz Cuevas  
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 12-2  
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Twentieth century innovations in technology, communication and transportation have made an intensely interconnected world where clearly demarcated borders are diminishing around the world. Yet, the Mexican-US border continues to define ethnic and racial identities that organize individuals economically, politically and socially. In schools, workplace and the public sphere issues regarding immigration are on the forefront of public discourse. As consequence of the tensions that arise from a border that both defines and defies space, people and labor are highly charged social debates that generate both an anti-immigrant sentiment and practice. This course will consider the US Mexican border in the contexts of other global/international boundaries in order to first examine the ways in which borders are produced through ideological and material patterns and second how they generate racial meanings.

We will first examine the early history of early border making between US and Mexico and the political economic settlement of the Southwest. Then the course will focus on post 1965 immigration and the policies and discourse of Mexican and Latino immigration. We will examine the causes and consequences of immigration, patterns of economic and social adaptation and culture in order to debunk, interpret and analyze the myths and dominant discourses of immigration and the effects on Mexicans and Chicanos in the US.

### Course Requirements

1.) Quiz 15% of final grade

Every two weeks students are required to take a pop quiz on weekly readings. There are no make-up quizzes and they are used in part as a proxy for your attendance.

2.) Attendance and Participation 10% of final grade

Class meetings will function as both lecture and discussion section, based primarily upon the reading assignments, so it is absolutely imperative that students come to class having completed the readings for that day. To facilitate student engagement with the readings, students will take turns leading discussions, preparing brief summaries of each of the readings, then posing a list of questions designed to generate discussion. When questions are posed to the class, either by me or by student discussion leaders, students should be prepared to answer and engage questions.

3) Midterm Exam (fifth week) 30% of final grade

This in-class, blue book exam will be based upon readings and lectures during the first half of the quarter and will include short identifications and an essay question.

4) Research Project Presentation 25%

5) Take-Home Final (5-7 pages)

40%

This assignment will be handed out the last day of class and it will ask you to incorporate course readings and lecture material from the second half of the quarter. **Note: LATE FINAL PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

### Course Expectations

1. Each student is expected to attend all classes in a timely manner (don't arrive late and don't leave early), to participate fully in classroom discussions and complete all class assignments. Discussion is important. I look forward to hearing your views, experience and knowledge regarding the issues at hand.
2. Each student is required to take a bi-weekly quiz that will cover the past and present week's readings, lecture and films. There are no make-up quizzes.
3. Each student is expected to schedule an office hour appointment at least once during the quarter. This will help me become familiar with you and your work and your participation in class.

### **Week One: Introducing Borders**

Balibar, Etienne, & Wallerstein, Immanuel. Race, Nation, Class: Ambiguous Identities. Is There a Neo Racism? pp. 17-28

Said, Edward. "Orientalism". B. Ashcroft, G. Griffiths, H. Tiffin. The Post-Colonial Studies Reader. New York. 1995.

### **Week Two: Conceiving Borders on the Global Stage**

Wallerstein, Immanuel. Historical Capitalism. Chapter 2

Sadowski-Smith, Claudia. Introduction: Border Studies, Diaspora and Theories of Globalization. In Globalizing the Line. New York. Palgrave Macmillian. Chapter 1

### **Making of the US Mexican Border**

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

Horsman, Reginald. Race and Manifest Destiny: The Origins of Racial Anglo Saxonism pp.149-151

Barrera, Mario. Race and Class in the Southwest: A Theory of Racial Inequality. Chapter 3 pp 35-57 & Chapter 7 pp. 175-219

### **Week Three: Signs of Race**

Sanchez George. Becoming Mexican American. Chapter 2

Foley, Neil. White Scourge: Mexicans, Blacks and Poor Whites in Texas Cotton Culture .  
Introduction and Chapter 1 and 2

### **Week Four: 1965 Immigration Act and the Browning of US Immigration**

Perea, F. Juan. Immigrants Out! The New Nativism and the Anti-Immigrant Impulse in the United States. Chapter 2. pp.1-4 Chapter 12

Foley, Neil. White Scourge: Mexicans, Blacks and Poor Whites in Texas Cotton Culture .  
Introduction and Chapter 3

Calavita, Kitty. *Inside the State: the Bracero Program, Immigration and the INS*. New York. Routledge. 1992

### **Week Five: Restructuring Boundaries**

Bluestone, Barry & Harrison, Bennett. The Deindustrialization of America: Plant Closing, Community Abandonment, and the Dismantling of Basic Industry. New York. Basic Books. 1982.

Perea, F. Juan. Immigrants Out! The New Nativism and the Anti-Immigrant Impulse in the United States. Chapter 4, Chapter 9, Chapter 11.

### **Week Six: Post 187 Immigration: California Protecting White Investment**

Inda, Jonathan. *"Foreign Bodies: Migrants, Parasites and the Pathological Nation"*. Discourses, 22.3 Fall 2000.

Aldama, Arturo. Borders Violence and The Struggle for Chicana and Chicano Subjectivity. In *Violence and the Body; Race, Gender, and the State*. Bloomington. Indiana University Press. 2003.

### **Week Seven: Immigration in a Time of Globalization: Paradoxes of Work, Identity and Sentiment**

Perea, F. Juan. Immigrants Out! The New Nativism and the Anti-Immigrant Impulse in the United States. Chapter 16 pp. 300-317

Sanchez, George E. 1997 "Face the Nation: Race Immigration and the Rise of Nativism in Late Twentieth Century America." *International Migration Review*. 31(4): 1009-1030.

Overview of NAFTA-Handouts

Sassen, Saskia. Globalization and It's Discontents. Chapter 7 pp. 137-151

