

Course Syllabus: History 4317: SW1: History of Latinas/Latinos in the United States

Summer Two: Sul Ross State University/ Dr. Mark Saad Saka

Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to examine the history of Latinos in the United States, from the initial Spanish explorations and settlements through early confrontation with the Empire of the United States and subsequent colonization of numerous Latin American and Caribbean nations, migrations to the U.S. mainland, and experiences within the American political economy and society.

Required Readings

Chavez, Leo, *The Latino Threat*, Stanford University Press, 2006, ISBN # 978-0804759342,

Gonzalez, Juan, *Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America*, Penguin Press, Revised Edition, 2010, ISBN # 978-0143119289.

Martinez, Manuel Luis. *Drift: A Novel*, Picador Press, 2003, ISBN # 978-0312309954

Ramirez, Charles, *Latino Images in Film*, University of Texas Press, ISBN# 978-0292709072

Course Requirements

There are a number of course requirements. In order for you successfully complete this course, you must finish the following in a satisfactory manner.

First, you must maintain regular contact with me, through your Sul Ross email. In the past, I have had a number of students in online courses fail to regularly check their Sul Ross email and then complain at the end of the semester about not knowing anything. It is your responsibility to keep me informed on your progress.

Second, you must read and write quality book reviews on the four required books listed above. The book reviews must be at least five to eight pages long. The one exception to this is the book *Drift*, the book review for a novel should be from three to five pages.

You can either purchase the books through the Sul Ross bookstore, or obtain them through amazon.com or Barnes and nobles or a similar outlet, (kindle or Nook etc). or obtain them through libraries etc. You are responsible for locating and obtaining the required readings and then reading the books, and writing about them.

Third, you must electronically send me the book reviews. The easiest way to do this is through the your Sul Ross email as an attached. Then I will read them and electronically return them to you, as an attached email, through your Sul Ross account.

Fourth, you will research and write a ten page research paper comparing two Latino populations and a theme, that I must approve. For instance, compare and contrast the Mexican migrations to the

United States with that of Cubans; or, compare and contrast the different experiences between Puerto Ricans and Dominicans; or compare and contrast the portrayal of Central Americans and Columbians in American film and popular culture; or, compare and contrast the common struggles and successes of Puerto Ricans and Cubans in American economy; or any of dozens of other topics. Again, I must approve of your topic. The research paper must be in MLA format, properly noted and cited, one inch margins, 12 font, and the title page or endnote page, do not count as pages.

Course Outline and Schedule

Week One: June 10-18 Read the book *Harvest of Empire* by Juan Gonzalez, book review is due Friday July 18.

Week Two: June 21-June 25 Read the book *The Latino Threat* by Leo Chavez, the book review is due Friday July 25.

Week Three: June 28-August 1 Read the book *Latino Images in Film*. The book review is due Friday August 1. Read the book *Drift: A Novel* by Manuel Luis Martinez. The book review for *Drift* is due on Monday August the 4.

Week Four: August 4--August 8 (Note August 4 is the last day to drop this course with the letter grade of a W) Book review for *Drift* is due on Monday August 4. This week's assignment is to work on your research paper.

Week Five: August 11-August 13. Your research paper is due Wednesday August 13, by 12 noon.