

Course Syllabus: Spring 2017: History 3313: W01/History of Mexican Americans

Dr. Mark Saad Saka/Sul Ross State University

Msaka@sulross.edu/ 432-8304

Course Objectives:

This is an online; web-based course designed to introduce you, the student, to the history Mexican Americans. We will examine Mexican Americans, their origins during the Spanish colonial era, through Mexican Independence, the incorporation into the United States, and their history since 1848. Included in this course will be examine the fluidity of race and ethnicity in the United States and how Mexican Americans have traversed an ever changing ethnic identity over the course of nearly two centuries. This course also includes the history of other Latinos in the United States and will serve as a comparative backdrop to the Mexican American experience.

Required Readings:

Gonzalez, Juan. *Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America*. Penguin Books, 978-0-14-025539-3

Martinez, Manuel Luis, *Drift: A Novel*, Picador Press, 2003. ISBN # 0-312-30995-3

Rodriguez, Gregory, *Mongrels, Bastards, Orphans, and Vagabonds: Mexican Immigration and the Future of Race in America*. Vintage Books Press, 2008. ISBN # 978-0-375-71320-0

Course Requirements:

There are a number of requirements for this course.

1. You need to obtain (buy, rent, or borrow) the three books listed above.
2. You need to read the three books.
3. You need to write reviews of the books, as broken down into the sections listed below in the Course Outline. The reviews must be four to five pages each, double spaced, 12 font, one inch margins. The reviews should be sent to me through Blackboard. The reviews should explain what the section was about and how it relates to the broader theme of Mexican American and Latinos in America.
4. You need to write a research paper comparing Mexican Americans to one other Latino group in the United States (Puerto Ricans, Cubans, Dominicans, Guatemalans, Salvadorians, Panamanians etc.) The research paper should use the Chicago Style for notes and citations.

Distance Education Statement

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard or SRSU email, which require secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education

courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

Course Outline:

Jan. 23, 2017—chapters one and two in Rodriguez book.

Jan. 30, 2017—chapters three and four in Rodriguez book.

Feb. 06, 2017—chapters five and six in Rodriguez book.

Feb. 13, 2017—chapters seven, eight, and nine in Rodriguez book.

Feb. 20, 2017-- book review over the novel *Drift* due.

Feb. 27, 2017—chapters one, two, and three in Gonzalez book.

Mar. 06, 2017—chapters four and five in Gonzalez book.

Mar. 13, 2017—spring break

Mar. 20, 2017—chapters seven, eight, and nine in Gonzalez book

Mar. 27, 2017—chapters ten and eleven in Gonzalez book

Apr. 03, 2017 —chapters twelve, thirteen, and fourteen in Gonzalez book. Also, on this date, you must have your research paper topic approved by me.

May 01, 2017—research papers due.