HIST 3362: 
The Mexican in American History 
Fall 2017

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I. Course Description 

HIST 3362 is an intellectual, cultural, social, economic, and political study of the Mexican-American in the United States with particular emphasis on Mexican background, discrimination, and the struggle for equality. 

II. Student Learning Objectives 

To learn about the role of Mexicans and Mexican Americans in historical events in the landmass that became the United States we will 

1) Become familiar with the Mexican events, people, and ideas in the landmass that became the United States 

2) Trace how those events, people, and ideas changed over time 

3) Place Mexican-American history within a comparative and global context 

4) Understand key historical questions and arguments 

5) Analyze primary and secondary sources 

6) Generate a collaborative learning environment 

7) Understand the historical roots of present-day issues and current events 

III. Classroom Environment and Policies 

Electronic Devices: 

There will be no electronic devices (laptops, kindles, tablets, phones, recording devices...) in this classroom, even for note taking or lecture recording. They are distracting for students, especially in smaller classes, and the use of them in class is disrespectful towards your classmates and towards me. Using such electronic devices will hurt your attendance and participation grade because it means that you are not truly present in class. If a
student uses an unsanctioned electronic device during multiple class sessions, I may ask you to leave the class.

Communication:

I ask that you check your ASU email accounts on a regular basis. I will communicate important information about this course (such as an unexpected class cancelation, assignment due dates, or a change in assigned reading) via email if need be and you are responsible for knowing that information. You are more than welcome to contact me with questions via email (cwolnisty@angelo.edu).

You will also find your lecture outlines, study guides, and class assignments on Blackboard. Therefore, I suggest you log into Blackboard fairly regularly.

Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct that is defined as the theft of ideas or information from a source without giving proper credit. Plagiarism is a serious offense that could result in failure of the course, among other penalties. Submit only original work, complete with proper citations. There is no excuse for plagiarism. It is your responsibility to plan your semester and time effectively to avoid putting yourself in a situation where you might turn to plagiarism.

In addition, academic misconduct is not limited to plagiarism. It also includes forgery, cheating, signing attendance sheets for another student, and disruptive or disrespectful behavior. Although discussing your work with classmates may be helpful, you must also be aware of “unauthorized collaboration” as a form of academic misconduct.

Plagiarism cases will result in a 0 on an assignment for the first offense and a 0 in the entire class for subsequent offenses. In other words, just don’t do it! Life is better without it.

The ASU Student Handbook has additional information relating to the Honor Code. You can find a copy of the handbook online at the ASU website (under “Current Students” and “University Publications”) or at the Student Life Office (located in the University Center). You may view the university’s honor code at the following website:


Special Accommodations:

Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office (Room 112 University Center; (325) 942-2191 or Student.Life@angelo.edu) in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request within the
first week of the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Faculty members are not allowed to provide accommodation for a student’s disability needs without approval from the Office of Student Life.

Religious Holy Days:

Students who intend to be absent from class to observe a religious holy day (as defined in ASU OP 10.19-Don’t make stuff up!) must tell me 48 hrs prior to the absence and make up any scheduled assignments within an appropriate timeframe that I determine. While the absence will not be penalized, failure to complete the make-up assignment satisfactorily and within the required timeframe will result in penalties consistent with other absences and assignments.

Food and People:

Unless a student tells me during the first week of class they have a food allergy, it is fine to bring food and (legal) drink to class. I do ask that you do not bring random people to class with you (Yes, this includes your mom.)

University Policies:

For additional general university policies, consult the university student handbook. Here is a handbook link for you:

http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/

IV. Assignments and Grades

Assignment Types:

There are four types of grades that measure student learning objectives in this class:

1) Attendance: 10% of your final grade
2) Participation: 10% of your final grade
3) Exams: 60% (4 exams at 15% each)
4) Current Event Presentation: 20% (3 parts worth 15%, 4%, and 1% each)

CLASS TOTAL: 100%

Attendance: 10%

You will earn a full 10% of your final grade by simply showing up to class and managing to not fall asleep or to be disruptive. There will be an attendance sheet to record your attendance. You will not receive credit for attending a class if you are more than ten
minutes late. Three late arrivals will count as an absence. Three unauthorized uses of electronics will also count as an absence.

You are allowed six absences in this class. If you’re not feeling well, have an emergency, have to travel, or need a mental health day, you may use your freebies at your discretion over the course of the semester. If you miss more than six days due to serious illness or other emergencies, you will need to provide documentation. If you exceed more than six absences without providing documentation of illness, a school-sanctioned event such as athletic team travel, or other emergency, you will lose a letter grade for each day that you miss over six absences. I’m going to repeat that. If you exceed more than six absences without providing proper documentation, you will lose a letter grade off your total grade in the class. Don’t say I didn’t warn you!

**Participation: 10%**

You will have to earn another 10% of your attendance and participation grade by being an active participant in class. This is extra important in this class since it is a smaller class.

“Active participation” entails actions such as answering and asking questions, taking notes, and engaging your peers in conversations. You must also bring relevant class texts to class each day and have read them before coming to class. Because the readings are posted on Blackboard, you need to print them out before coming to class. This is absolutely key. We can’t have a productive class if nobody knows what we are talking about! If you are shy about speaking in class, I suggest you write down three things that you want to say before class.

**Exams: 60%**

There will be four exams over the course of this class. Each exam will be worth 15% of your overall grade and will require essay-format answers. I will provide you with a study guide and bluebook before each exam. We will also go over some sample answers so you know what to expect ahead of time. Students will not be allowed to make up an exam without a documented reason for missing the exam.

**Current Event Presentation: 20%**

I (and I am guessing you) am interested in learning about the intersections between historical events and current events surrounding Mexican Americans. You and a partner (or 2) will work on a 15-minute class presentation that informs the rest of the class about a current event/person/idea/work rooted in the historical themes covered in this class. You will deliver your presentation to the rest of the class towards the end of the semester, but you will have multiple opportunities to work on your project over the course of the semester-details to follow.
Grading Scale:

At the end of the semester, your accumulated point total will be put into a percentage and slotted into its respective category below. The following is a list of how grades will be assigned for the course.

1000-900 points = A
899-800 points = B
799-700 points = C
699-600 points = D
599-0 points = F

(5-9 is rounded up and 1-4 is rounded down) Poor attendance may also result in an F. See the attendance policy under Attendance.

V. Books

You do not have to buy any books for this class; I don’t want to make you spend a bunch of money on books unless you want to. All of the class readings are on Blackboard in their relevant weeks.

VI. Extra Credit

There will be several extra credit opportunities throughout the semester, especially during National Hispanic Heritage Month and through the Department of History’s War Stories Lecture Series. I will let you know when you have an extra credit opportunity coming up, but the lecture dates are Sept. 28, Oct. 30, and Nov. 15 at 7pm-details to follow.

VII. Course Schedule

What will this class look like?

1) We will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays (obviously). Tuesdays will primarily be lecture days and Thursdays will primarily be a combination of lectures and discussions over the homework.

2) Lecture outlines: There will be lecture outlines for each day on Blackboard. You are not required to use them, but they might be helpful to follow along for notes each day.

3) Homework: Your homework will consist of 1 reading assignment (and/or sometimes a video) per week due each Thursday. Obviously, you will want to study for your exams and prep for your presentation too.

1 I reserve the right to adjust the following schedule if needed.
Important Dates:
Current event presentation parts dates: Nov. 14, Nov. 28, Dec. 5 or Dec. 7

Course Schedule:

Week 1:
- Reading due Thursday: ‘Too Bad You’re Latin,’ The New York Times op.ed. piece (article posted on Blackboard under “week 1”)

Aug. 29: Syllabus, intros
Aug. 31: Topic: What does it mean to be Mexican American?

Week 2:
- Reading due Thursday: 3 primary documents from Pueblo people, María, and General Mier y Terán from Major Problems in Mexican American History (posted on Blackboard under “week 2”)

Sept. 5: Indigenous peoples and Spanish borderlands
Sept. 7: Mexican Independence

Week 3:
- Reading: 4 primary documents: Eulalia Yorba, Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, California newspaper, and Juan Cortina from Major Problems

Sept. 12: Texas Independence, Westward Expansion
Sept. 14: Westward Expansion

Week 4:
- Reading: NA-study for test

Sept. 19: United States Civil War
Sept. 21: Test #1

Week 5:
- Reading: selection from Tejanos in Gray: Civil War Letters of Captains Joseph Rafael de la Garza and Manuel Yturri

Sept. 26: United States Civil War
Sept. 28: 1870s

Week 6:
- Reading: “The Flapper and the Chaperone” from the book, From Out of the Shadows pgs. 51-71
Oct. 3: Turn of the century
Oct. 5: 1920s

**Week 7:**
- Reading: Mexican *Corridos* pg. 158-169 from *Going to the Source*

Oct. 10: Labor rights
Oct. 12: Labor rights

**Week 8:**
- Reading: NA-study for test

Oct. 17: WWI, Great Depression
Oct. 19: Test #2

**Week 9:**

Oct. 24: Interwar era
Oct. 26: WWII, project groups determined

**Week 10:**
- Reading: Isabel Gonzáles, American GI Forum documents from *Major Problems*

Oct. 31: Felix Longoria, WWII era
Nov. 2: 1950s

**Week 11:**
- Reading: Ernest Vigil document from *Major Problems* and Cesar Chavez speech: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLqDu5yZj0M&index=7&list=PLspglBIbNg6mMc2uHM0sVII84q1T4Dtt2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLqDu5yZj0M&index=7&list=PLspglBIbNg6mMc2uHM0sVII84q1T4Dtt2)

Nov. 7: 1950s, 1960s
Nov. 9: 1960s

**Week 12:**
- Reading: NA-study for test

Nov. 14: 1970s, project group topics due
Nov. 16: Test #3

**Week 13:**
- Reading: NA-Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 21: 1980s, 1990s
Nov. 23: NO CLASS Thanksgiving Break

**Week 14:**
- Reading: peruse this website from artist Claudio Dicochea
  [https://www.artsy.net/artist/claudio-dicochea](https://www.artsy.net/artist/claudio-dicochea) (No, you don’t have to buy anything!)

Nov. 28: Current event presentations work session, project paragraphs due at end of class
Nov. 30: Current event presentations workshop

**Week 15:**
- Reading: NA-work on presentations

Dec. 5: Current event presentations
Dec. 7: Current event presentations, course evaluations

**Week 16: FINALS WEEK**

Dec. 12: Final is Tuesday, 1 pm

Finals week is an official part of the academic calendar so don’t take off early!