Dr. Gregorio Mora Torres MAS 105

U.S.-Mexican Relations Fall, 2011

Office: YUH 36

Office Hours: M-W, 2:00 pm-3:00 p.m.

Telephone: 924-5472

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The basic premise of this course is that Chicanos are products of both Mexican and United States cultures. Unlike other ethnic groups, Chicanos, mainly because of uninterrupted Mexican immigration and their close proximity to Mexico, have retained strong historical, economic, political, linguistic, and cultural ties to their ancestral homeland. This course will focus on how Chicanos have developed a unique character which allows them to acclimate themselves to United States society while, at the same time, enables them to understand the Mexican ethos. Chicanos may be able to play a prominent role in promoting better relations and a greater understanding between the United States and Mexico—two countries that traditionally have had a long history of conflict. Harmony and cooperation are essential since both nations seem destined to be drawn closer together. Topics include: Mexican and U.S. colonial history, Mexican American history, Mexican immigration, Mexican American and Chicano politics, Mexican American and Chicano cultures, U.S.-Mexico border issues, border culture, U.S.-Mexico relations, and U.S.-Mexico economic integration and cultural penetration.

This course will be organized along a lecture and seminar format. It is essential that students come prepared to discuss their views with the benefit of the assigned readings.

**GRADES:**

Midterm Examination: 30%

Final Examination: 30%

Term paper (7-10 pp.): 30%

Class Participation: 10%

All the examinations will consist of short and long essay questions that will be derived either from class lectures or the required readings.

The term paper can be based on any topic covered by the class. Through the papers students will have the opportunity to research the economic, cultural, political, diplomatic, historical or social links that exists between Mexico and the United States.

### Academic Integrity Policy

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University, and the University’s Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic coursework. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The policy on academic integrity can be found at [http://sa](http://sa/).sjsu.edu/student conduct.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the Americans with Disability Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with us as soon as possible, or see us during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to establish a record of disability.

# **REQUIRED BOOKS**

Richard Griswold del Castillo, The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, University of Oklahoma Press, 1990

Alicia Hernández Chávez, Mexico: A Brief History, University of California Press, 2006.

Oscar J. Martinez, Troublesome Border, University of Arizona Press, Second Edition, 2006

Sam Quinones, Antonio’s Gun and Delfino’s Dream: True Tales of Mexican Migration, University of New Mexico Press, 2007.

**COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS:**

**WEEK 1**

Aug 24 Introduction

Early History of Mexico

The Mexican Colonial Experience and its Legacies

Readings: Hernández Chávez, Chapts. 1& 2.

**WEEK 2**

Aug 29-31 The Colonial Experience in the United States

The Troubled Birth of the Mexican Nation

Readings: Hernández Chávez, Chapts. 3 & 4; Griswold del Castillo, pgs. 1-29.

**WEEK 3**

Sept 7 Manifest Destiny and American Expansion into the Northern Mexican territories

The U.S/Mexican Wars

Readings: Hernández Chávez, Chapt. 5; Griswold del Castillo, pgs. 30-176.

**WEEK 4**

Sept 12-14 U.S.-Mexico Border Conflicts

The American Industrial Revolution

Mexican Economic Development during the Porfiriato

Readings: Hernández Chávez, Chapts 6 & 7; Oscar Martinez, pp. 3-45.

**WEEK 5**

Sept 19-21 The Outbreak of the Mexican Revolution

The Mexican Revolution: Internal Conflicts amongst the Revolutionaries

The Mexican Revolution and its cultural legacy

**Submission of Term Paper Proposal (Sept 21)**

Readings: Hernández Chávez, Chapts. 8 & 9; Oscar Martinez, pp. 48-99.

**WEEK 6**

Sept 26-28 The Great Mexican Immigration to the United States

Life in the Colonias

Readings: Oscar Martinez, pp. 100-116; S. Quinones, Introduction & Chapt. 1.

**WEEK 7**

Oct 3-5 From Open Door Policy to Repatriation

Mexico's Nationalist Economic Policies

**MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

Readings: Hernández Chávez, Chapt. 10; S. Quinones, Chapt. 2.

**WEEK 8**

Oct 10-12 U.S. Views on Mexican Migrations: Inconsistent Immigration Policies

The Bracero Program vs. "Operation Wetback"

Readings: Hernández Chávez, Chapt. 11; S. Quiñónes, Chapt. 3.

**WEEK 9**

Oct 17-19 The End of the Mexican Economy Miracle

The Border Industrialization Program: Maquiladoras along the Mexican Border.

Readings: Oscar Martinez, pp. 117-130; S. Quinones, Chapt. 4.

**WEEK 10**

Oct 24-26 The 1970’s Re-Structuring of the American Economy

The Effects of American Economic Decline in the Southwest

Readings: Hernández Chávez, Chapt. 12; S. Quinones, Chapt. 5.

**WEEK 11**

Oct 31-Nov 2 Mexican Economic Decline in the 1970s and Mass Migration to the U.S.

The Impact of Mexican Immigration on the U.S. Economy

American Reactions to Mexican Immigration

Readings: S. Quinones, Chapt. 6.

**WEEK 12**

Nov 7-9 U.S.-Mexico Economic Integration

The Expansion of Maquiladoras

U.S.-Mexico-Canada's Economic Integration: NAFTA

Readings: S. Quinones, Chapt. 7.

**WEEK 13**

Nov 14- 16 Contemporary Issues: Pollution and the Environment

Contemporary Issues: Immigration

Class Discussion

Readings: Oscar Martinez, pp. 131-152; S. Quinones. Chapt. 8.

**WEEK 14**

Nov 21-23

A Changing Border and its Cultures

Readings: S. Quinones, Chapt. 9 & Epilogue.

**WEEK 15**

Nov 28- 30 The Emergence of Mex-America

Film: Two Nations, One River

Class Discussion

**DUE DATE FOR TERM PAPER (Nov 30)**

**WEEK 16**

Dec 5-7 The Future of Chicanos in Two Worlds

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FINAL EXAMINATION: **Tuesday, December 13, 0715-0930**