

**History 265**  
**Mexican-American History**  
**Gustavus Adolphus College**  
**TR 12:00-1:20**  
**SSC 106**

**Sujay Rao**  
**Social Science Center 216**  
**Office Hrs: MTR 1:30 – 2:30**  
**Telephone: x7434**  
**Email: srao@gustavus.edu**

### **COURSE SYLLABUS – Fall 2006**

**Overview:** This course will focus on the history of the peoples and places along the US-Mexican border over the past 200 years. Topics will include the US-Mexican War and the emergence of “Mexican Americans,” immigration and the growth of Mexican American communities in Los Angeles and other border cities, cultural expression along the border (the arts, literature, and music), political movements along the border, and the drug trade.

**Assignments:**

- Attendance and informed participation, 20%
- 5-page Paper (due Tuesday, October 3), 15%
- Midterm exam (in class Tuesday, October 17), 15%
- Source Report (due in class Thursday, November 16), 5%
- Oral Presentation (in class Thurs., Nov. 30 to Tues., Dec. 12), 10%
- Final Exam (Monday, December 18, 1:00PM – 3:00PM), 15%
- 10-page Term Paper (due no later than Tuesday, December 19), 20%

**Readings:** The following books are available for purchase at the Book Mark:

- Linda Gordon, *The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction* (required)
- George J. Sánchez, *Becoming Mexican American* (required)
- David J. Weber, *Foreigners in Their Native Land* (required)

**Grading Policies and Late Work:** Assignments are due at the beginning of class unless otherwise noted. You may *request* an extension for the 5-page Paper or the Source Report provided that you make the request at least one week before the due date. Any other late work will be penalized at the rate of 1/6 of a letter grade per day (for example, an A- paper turned in two days late would receive a B+) with exceptions for documented illnesses and other emergencies. If you cannot avoid turning an assignment in late, please talk to Sujay *in advance*.

**Attendance and Participation:** Attendance at all meetings is mandatory and will be recorded. Please make every effort to ensure that other activities do not interfere with regular attendance. If an absence is absolutely unavoidable, please talk to Sujay *in advance*. 2 or more unexcused absences will certainly not help your grade, 3 or more unexcused absences will lead to an automatic reduction of your overall course grade. Participation is not entirely voluntary – at times students will be called on to contribute to discussions.

**Week 1:**

**Thursday, September 7: Welcome to History 265 – Mexican-American History**

- Handout: Syllabus

**Week 2:**

**Tuesday, September 12: In the Beginning...**

- Reading due: David J. Weber, *Foreigners in Their Native Land: Historical Roots of the Mexican Americans*, Part I, pp. 11-50.

**Thursday, September 14: Here Come the Yankees**

- Reading due: Weber, *Foreigners*, Part II, pp. 51-86.
- Handout: The Paper Proposal

**Week 3:**

**Tuesday, September 19: War**

- Reading due: Weber, *Foreigners*, Part III, pp. 88-137.
- Handout: 5-page Paper Assignment

**Thursday, September 21: The Mexican Americans**

- Reading due: Weber, *Foreigners*, Part IV, pp. 139-202.

**Week 4:**

**Tuesday, September 26: Living Together**

- Reading due: Weber, *Foreigners*, Part V and Afterword, pp. 203-264.
- Discussion: Note-taking strategies

**Thursday, September 28: The Making of the Southwest**

- Reading due: Linda Gordon, *The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction*, pp. 1-79.
- Discussion: Writing with sources

**Week 5:**

**Tuesday, October 3: NO CLASS – NOBEL CONFERENCE**

- **5-page Paper due**

**Thursday, October 5: A Mexican Community**

- Reading due: Gordon, *Orphan Abduction*, pp. 80-158.
- Handout: Midterm exam study questions

**Week 6:**

**Tuesday, October 10: A Company Town**

- Reading due: Gordon, *Orphan Abduction*, pp. 159-245.

**Thursday, October 12: Race in the Southwest**

- Reading due: Gordon, *Orphan Abduction*, pp. 246-318.

**Week 7:**

**Tuesday, October 17: MIDTERM EXAM**

**Thursday, October 19: Crossing Borders**

- Reading due: George J. Sánchez, *Becoming Mexican American: Ethnicity, Culture, and Identity in Chicano Los Angeles, 1900-1945*, Part I, pp. 15-83.

**Week 8:**

**Tuesday, October 24: NO CLASS – READING DAY**

**Thursday, October 26: Divided Loyalties**

- Reading due: Sánchez, *Becoming Mexican American*, Part II, pp. 85-125.
- Handout: The Source Report
- **Paper Proposal due** (counts toward grade for term paper)

**Week 9:**

**Tuesday, October 31: Shifting Homelands**

- Reading due: Sánchez, *Becoming Mexican American*, Part III, pp. 127-206.

**Thursday, November 2: Ambivalent Americanism**

- Video (in class): *The Zoot Suit Riots*
- Reading due: Sánchez, *Becoming Mexican American*, Part IV, pp. 207-274.
- Instructions for e-reserve readings

**Week 10:**

**Tuesday, November 7: Exceptions**

- Reading due: Daniel Tichenor, *Dividing Lines: The Politics of Immigration Control in America*, Chapter 6, pp. 150-175 (on e-reserve).
- Discussion of the film *My Family* (to be viewed prior to class)

**Thursday, November 9: Braceros**

- Reading due: Manuel García y Griego, “The Importation of Mexican Contract Laborers to the United States, 1942-1964,” in *Between Two Worlds*, pp. 45-85 (on e-reserve).

**Week 11:**

**Tuesday, November 14: César Chávez and the Delano Grape Strike**

- Reading due: Susan Ferriss and Ricardo Sandoval, *The Fight in the Fields*, Chapter 4, “*Huelga!*,” pp. 91-123 (on e-reserve).

**Thursday, November 16: Stand and Deliver**

- Discussion of the film *Stand and Deliver* (to be viewed prior to class)
- **Source Report due**

**Week 12:**

**Tuesday, November 21: Building the Border/Narcocorridos**

- Reading due: Tom Barry, et al., *Crossing the Line: Immigrants, Economic Integration, and Drug Enforcement on the US-Mexico Border*, Chapters 4-6, pp. 53-95 (on e-reserve).
- Reading due: Elijah Wald, *Narcocorrido: A Journey into the Music of Drugs, Guns, and Guerrillas*, Introduction and Section 1, pp. 1-43 (on e-reserve)
- **NOTE: Pick one of the two readings for today.**
- Handout: The Oral Presentation

**Thursday, November 23: NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK - ENJOY**

**Week 13:**

**Tuesday, November 28: Crossing the Border**

- Reading due: Daniel Rothenberg, *With These Hands: The Hidden World of Migrant Farmworkers Today*, Chapter 5, “Pasando al otro lado: The US/Mexico Border,” pp. 121-153 (on e-reserve).
- Handout: Final exam study questions

**Thursday, November 30: Oral Presentations**

**Week 14:**

**Tuesday, December 5: Oral Presentations**

**Thursday, December 7: Oral Presentations**

**Week 15:**

**Tuesday, December 12: Oral Presentations**

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY**

Every Gustavus Adolphus College student now agrees to abide by the academic honesty policy and honor code as a condition for enrollment. The honesty policy stipulates:

In all academic exercises, examinations, presentations, speeches, papers, and reports, students shall submit their own work. Footnotes or some other acceptable form of citation must accompany any use of another's words or ideas. Students are especially cautioned that quoting from or paraphrasing from electronic sources without proper citation is as serious a violation as copying from a book or other printed source.

In addition, the policy states "a student may not submit work that is substantially the same in two courses without first gaining permission of both instructors if the courses are taken concurrently, or permission of the current instructor, if the work had been submitted in a previous semester."

In this course, any violation of the academic honesty policy will carry the following penalty: failure of the assignment and, at the discretion of Dr. Rao, failure of the course. Students who dispute an allegation of academic dishonesty may request a hearing before a joint student/faculty honor board.

As your instructor I will attempt to clearly define the level of authorized aid appropriate to a particular assignment. However, you are responsible to ask questions about any reasonable doubt you have regarding my definition of authorized aid.

Under the honor code policy, the proctoring of exams is at the discretion of the instructor. I do intend to proctor exams in this course.

Finally, an integral part of the honor code is non-tolerance of violations. Under our code students are not expected to police others' actions. Rather, you agree to report violations of which you become aware. Failure to do so will constitute an honor code violation in this class.