

## IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

**HIST 225/LAS 225:** Mexican-American History

**CRN:** HIST 225 is 10608, LAS 225 is 10939

**Time:** MW 1:30pm – 2:55pm

**Instructor:** Ms. Lisa Solomon

**E-mail:** lisa.solomon@imperial.edu

**Office Hours (subject to change):**

MW	10:30am – 11:30am
T	10:30am – 11:45am
Th(R)	10:30am – 12:00noon

**Term:** Fall, 2013

**Room:** 208

**Voice Mail:** 355-6453

**Office:** Room 807-C

**Appointments:** Your Instructor is available for meetings beyond the office hours. However, because of other obligations, students should contact the Instructor to set up an appointment. Contact can be made before or after class, by email, or by voice mail.

**Course Description:** Survey of the Mexican-American history with an emphasis on the development of California and the Southwest from 1821 to the present. The class examines the Spanish and Mexican roots of the Southwest, Mexican War of 1846-48 and its aftermath, the interrelationship of Mexico and United States histories between 1860 and 1910, the effects of the Mexican Revolution on Mexican-Americans in the Southwest, and the Chicana/o experience of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and early 21<sup>st</sup> century.

This course is an upper-division course. As such, it will be comprised of discussions over the readings as well as some lectures and other materials. As noted on the next page, a great portion of the course grade depends on your participation in the course. ***Because of the reading and writing requirements of this class, students who have successfully passed ENG 101 or have tested into ENG 101 will have a better chance of passing this course.***

**Course and Student Outcomes:** Upon the successful completion of the course, students will possess a broad understanding of the most important ideas, personalities, movements and events of Mexican-American history, articulate the roles played by various political and social groups, as well as be able to describe some of the recurring themes during this time in Mexican-American and/or China/o history.

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and/or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to: 1) describe an aspect of Mexican-American history; 2) express a valid opinion on the research into an aspect of Mexican-American history; 3) submit the information and opinion in the proper format and by the specified deadline.

**Required Texts:** *Occupied America: A History of Chicanos*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, by Rodolfo F. Acuña (ISBN 0-321-42738-6).

*Crucible of Struggle: A History of Mexican Americans from Colonial Times to the Present Era*, by Zaragosa Vargas (ISBN 978-0-19-515851-9).

The texts are available at the IVC Bookstore. There is also a reference copy of the Acuña text available in the library.

Additional readings/articles may be presented or assigned by me as deemed relevant.

**Exams:** There will be a midterm exam and the final exam. Both tests will be based on the texts, any additional readings, lectures (which includes Power Point presentations), and videos. ***Any student caught cheating (which includes plagiarism/copying) on a test will receive a 0 for that entire exam, and no make-up test will be allowed. Depending on the severity of the offense, I reserve the right to reduce the student's course grade by the equivalent of one letter grade (for example: a "B" becomes a "C"). If a student is caught cheating a second time, the Instructor will file a complaint with the Student Affairs Office for a formal investigation and potential removal from the class.***

Only one make-up exam will be given to a student during the semester, and must be scheduled with your Instructor. Make-up exams may be used only if the original exam was not taken at the scheduled time due to illness or verified family or work emergency, and I am notified before the test. Any make-up exams scheduled for more than a week after the original test date face a point reduction to the next lower letter grade.

**Writing Requirement:** Students will be required to complete a six to eight page research paper. Information on this will be presented by me. ***Plagiarism is the act of taking someone, anyone, else's work and passing it off as your own. Any paper found to contain plagiarized/copied material will be returned with a 0 and no substitute or rewritten paper will be accepted. Depending on the severity of the offense, the Instructor reserves the right to reduce the student's course grade by the equivalent of a letter grade (for example: a "B" becomes a "C"). I reserve the right to file a complaint with the Student Affairs Office for a formal investigation and potential removal from the class.***

**Grading:** The course maximum is 1000 points, based on the following:

Discussion/participation	175 points
Midterm exam	175 points
Research paper	300 points
Final exam	350 points

Discussion points will be deducted when a student is late (1 point each time), and/or when a student disrupts the class by talking during the lecture or videos, plays games or text messages on a cell phone, has a cell phone ring during class, etc. (1/2 point each time). Points can only be earned by a student who

asks questions and/or participates in classroom discussions. *Points are not earned simply for attendance.*

I reserve the right to have students complete additional work in class. Any such work will have points added to what is shown above. **I do NOT offer extra credit.**

Grading will be based on total points, as follows:

A = 851 – 1000

B = 776 -- 850

C = 701 – 775

D = 401 – 700

F = 0 – 400

Letter grades are not given on tests or assignments. They are only entered as a final course grade.

**Attendance:** Attendance is strongly encouraged, especially since History courses usually take a chronological approach and this class will only be meeting once a week. Therefore, absences can leave gaps that cannot easily be filled. The nature of this course includes a great deal of information being presented in the classroom; nonattendance will have a greater impact on the course grade since participation will be weaker. Participation in classroom discussions is strongly encouraged and can affect your final grade.

*Do not assume that I will drop you from the class because of poor attendance and/or poor test scores.* If you decide to drop the course, take the responsibility of notifying Admissions and Records.

Students who practice inappropriate behavior will likely be asked to leave the classroom. That includes talking during videos and/or lectures. Such disruptive behavior can also result in points being deducted from those available for Discussion/participation. Continued practice of inappropriate behavior will result in a complaint filed with the Student Affairs Office and removal from the class.

**Important Dates:** This information is also available in the Fall, 2013 Schedule of Classes.

Aug. 31	Last day to register for full-time classes; last day to drop without owing fees and/or be eligible for a refund
Sep. 02	Last day to drop without a "W" or course showing on your transcript – no refunds available after this date
Nov. 09	Last day to drop full-term classes

AFTER THIS DATE, A LETTER GRADE WILL BE GIVEN AND ENTERED ON YOUR TRANSCRIPTS.

**Miscellaneous:** Please make every effort to be in the room and ready at the starting time. Being late may be beyond a student's control; if you are late, please attempt to enter the room as quietly as possible to avoid disrupting the class.

If you know that you are going to have to miss a class or leave a class early for an appointment, the appropriate thing to do is notify the Instructor in advance and, if leaving early, sit by the door so that your departure will cause as little disruption as possible.

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT PAGERS AND/OR CELL PHONES ARE TURNED OFF DURING CLASS. Any student whose cell phone and/or pager disrupts the class will be asked to leave the room for that interrupted session. **Any device that interrupts an exam will be confiscated and held until the end of class (not when the student completes the exam).**

Students who engage in disruptive behavior, or leave the room while class is in session, will have points deducted from the total possible for Discussion/participation (see previous page). Make sure you handle all personal needs (restrooms, food, phone calls, etc.) *before class begins*. If the Instructor determines that there is no attempt to correct the disruptive behavior, the student may be asked to leave the class for the remainder of the day and to meet with the Instructor and/or the Dean of Student Development before returning to the classroom.

As per campus policy, food is NOT allowed in the classroom. Beverages will be allowed only if they are in secure containers.

Students with disabilities at IVC are eligible for accommodations related to their disability. If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact your Instructor or a counselor at DSPS as soon as possible.

*The required readings should be done before the class.*

**The schedule (subject to change):**

Aug. 19	<i>Introduction</i>
Aug. 21	<i>Early native cultures</i> Acuña: Preface and chapter 1 Vargas: Preface
Aug. 26	<i>Arrival of the Spanish; Spanish colonization</i> Acuña: chapter 2 Vargas: pp.1-29
	<b>Research paper topics due</b>
Aug. 28	<i>Attempts at independence</i> Acuña: pp. 39-40 (to "Background...")
Sep. 02	NO CLASS – Labor Day holiday

Sep. 04	<i>Independence and aftermath; Mexican Republic</i> Vargas: pp. 30-50 (to "Tejano Life...")
Sep. 09	<i>Texas</i> Acuña: pp. 40-45 (to "The Invasion of Mexico") Vargas: pp. 50-60
Sep. 11	<i>1837 to 1846</i> Vargas: pp. 61-78
Sep. 16	<i>War with U.S.</i> Acuña: pp. 45-58 Vargas: chapter 3
	<b>Research paper outline due</b>
Sep. 18	<i>Impacts in Mexico and the Southwest</i> Acuña: pp. 59-61, chapter 4-7 Vargas: chapter 4 and pp. 144-165 (to "The New Southwest...")
Sep. 23	<i>From 1900 to the Mexican Revolution</i> Acuña: pp. 151-161 Vargas: pp. 165-176
Sep. 25	<i>Mexican Revolution</i> Acuña: pp. 162-168 (to "World War I: The Shift") Vargas: pp. 177-188 (to "Immigration...")
Sep. 30	<i>Impact of "the Great War"; 1920s</i> Acuña: pp. 168-177, chapter 9 Vargas: pp. 188-212
Oct. 02	<i>The Great Depression</i> Acuña: chapter 10 Vargas: chapter 7
	<b>Midterm exam questions on Blackboard</b>
	<b>Research paper sources due</b>
Oct. 07	<i>World War II and the 1940s</i> Acuña: chapter 11 Vargas: chapter 8
Oct. 09	<b>Midterm exam</b>
Oct. 14	<i>Cold War and Activism</i> Acuña: chapter 12
Oct. 16	<i>Activism (continued)</i> Vargas: chapter 9
Oct. 21	<i>1960-1965</i> Acuña: pp. 286-296
Oct. 23	<i>1966-1970</i> Acuña: pp. 297-325 Vargas: chapter 10
Oct. 28 & 30	<i>1970s</i> Acuña: chapter 14

**Research paper draft due Oct. 28**

Nov. 4 & 6	1980s Acuña: pp. 353-368 (to “¿Gobernar...”) Vargas: pp. 344-363 (to “Mexican American...”)
Nov. 11	NO CLASS – Veterans Day holiday
Nov. 13 & 18	1990s Acuña: pp. 368-376 (to “The National Scene...”) Vargas: pp. 363-377
Nov. 20	<i>The new century</i> Acuña: pp. 376-392, chapter 16 Vargas: Epilogue
Nov. 25	<i>Current issues</i> Acuña: Epilogue
	<b>Final exam questions on Blackboard</b>
Nov. 27	<i>Identities</i>
	<b>Research paper due</b>
<b>Dec. 02 &amp; 04</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>

## **SUGGESTED RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS**

This is not an inclusive list, just some ideas

Mexican War of 1846-48

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

Cesar Chavez

El Teatro Campesino

Brown Berets

Chicanas

Bracero program

Bear Flag Rebellion

California Gold Rush

Proposition 187

Hispanics in the military

"Zoot Suit" riots

United Farm Workers Union

Milagro Beanfield War

"Corky" Gonzalez

Dolores Huerta

Hispanics and the legal system

Bilingual education

"de facto" segregation

Hispanics in politics

Immigration

Chicano art and/or music

MECHA

Ruben Salazar

National Chicano Moratorium March

Chicano/a poetry and/or music

*I am Joaquin*

Luis Valdez