Chicana/o Studies M125: U.S.-Mexico Relations
(Same as Labor & Workplace Studies M125)

Instructor Albert Ponce M.A., Ph.D. Candidate UCLA Department of Political Science
Instructor of record: Prof. Abel Valenzuela, Jr.

Class meetings: Monday-Wednesday 11:00-1:05pm Room # Haines A76 Summer Session A 2013 Email: albertponce@ucla.edu

Office: Bunche 7382 Office Hours: Wednesday 1:15-2:45pm, or by appointment

Course Description

This course will explore the historical trajectory of United States and Mexico relations into the contemporary moment. We will begin by examining the conflict during the Mexican-American War and tracing how this initial encounter has influenced policy making on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. Focusing on the phenomenon of migration we will interrogate the social, political and economic forces intertwined in the historical and contemporary movements of people and capital. Situating an analysis of both nation-states within the context of modern globalization will provide an understanding of the tensions, which have and continue to exist amongst them. Taking an interdisciplinary approach which engages the fields of political science, sociology, history and ethnic studies will enable a more comprehensive understanding of the roles of nation-state institutions (e.g. executive, legislative, judicial institutions etc) and non-state actors (e.g. nativists, NGO"s, activist org.’s and civil society) in the development and integration of these two North American economies, peoples, cultures and politics. Particular attention will be paid to the political economy of migrant labor and its institutionalization in both the United States and Mexico.

Questions to consider are: How does the initial integration of Mexicans into the United States affect contemporary social, political and economic relations across countries? How has the economic development of Mexico affected its asymmetry with the United States? Is the economic dominance of the United States over Mexico insurmountable? What role does the political economy of migrant labor play in this fact? Has the construction of racial difference assisted in maintaining this asymmetrical relationship? These are all pertinent issues which we will be centering our interrogation throughout this summer session.
Required Texts


Ronald Mize & Alicia C.S. Swords, *Consuming Mexican Labor, From the Bracero Program to NAFTA*, (North York, University of Toronto Press, 2011).

*Los Angeles Times* (Daily) on line: www.latimes.com NOTE: ALL OTHER ASSIGNED READINGS AND ARTICLES WILL BE POSTED ON COURSE WEBPAGE.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance/Participation and Weekly Critical Reflections (to be posted on course webpage every Tuesday by 8:00pm beginning week 1 JUNE 25, 2013, No Late Postings will be accepted) 100 points

2. Student Group Presentations 50 points

3. Midterm (In Class) 100 points

4. Final (Take Home) 100 points

Grading Scale Total 350 points

A 329-350
A- 315-328
B+ 304-327
B 290-303
B- 280-289
C+ 269-279
C 255-268
C- 245-254
D+ 234-244
D 220-233
D- 210-219
Expectations:

I expect you all to take the topics that we discuss and learn about seriously. To do this, it is essential that you complete all assigned readings. Reading the newspaper daily (on-line) will assist you in understanding how the foundations of U.S. and Mexican institutions and society are linked to contemporary issues and debates. This course will be interactive, meaning your participation is not only critical for your own self-development, but will be instrumental in determining your final grade. We will also be discussing some controversial ideas and theories, so we will ensure that lecture is a safe space for all individuals regardless of creed or background, to talk openly and without fear in developing critique and analysis.

Rules:

1. Arrive on time and do not leave early (be mindful that arriving late or leaving early will influence your attendance grade)

2. Do not use your Ipod, cell phone, NO TEXTING (turn off before class) or other electronic devices during class. The use of laptop computers for note-taking only must be cleared with the professor.

3. Do not fall asleep during class

4. Be respectful of diverse viewpoint

5. No assignments will be accepted late or via email

Academic IntegrityPlagiarism is theft. The UCLA Student Conduct Code defines plagiarism as follows (Section 102.01c): Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use of another"s words or ideas as if they were one"s own, including, but not limited to, representing either with the intent to deceive or by the omission of the true source, part of or an entire work produced by someone other than the student, obtained by purchase or otherwise as a student"s original work. (UCLA Student Conduct Code, 1 July 2007, p.4, emphasis added). If you are at all uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism, go to the following website:
http://www.humnet.ucla.edu/humnet/musicology/current/plagiarism.html

Attendance/Participation and Weekly Critical Reflection Postings: 100 points attendance is mandatory. To earn the full portion of your attendance grade, you must come to lecture regularly. You are allowed 1 free absence from lecture, but anything beyond results in a 6 point loss per absence. Also, excessive tardies will greatly affect your grade and the professor holds the right to drop you from the course. You must notify the professor ahead of time if you will be absent. The best way to contact me is via email. Participation in class is essential to doing well in the course. Grading participation will be based on student’s active involvement in lecture, asking questions and providing your
**analysis** of the issues discussed will be rewarded accordingly, remember we all learn together—this is a collective effort! *Simply being present every class session and not participating will not receive full points* (TIP: your discussion board postings will assist you in initiating your participation in class). **Discussion board postings** will cover the each week’s readings are to be posted **every Tuesday by 8:00pm beginning week 1 JUNE 25, 2012.** This must be in analytic form engaging the central arguments/concepts as well as responding to your peers. NO SUMMARY of readings

**Presentations: 50 points**

Each week a group of 3-4 students will be assigned to give a 15 minute presentation to the class. We will sign up for these presentations in week 1. The format of the presentation is as follows: Each person must present on the following topics below and speak for at least 3 minutes.

1. What important lesson did you learn from this week’s readings?
2. What were the central concepts and themes?
3. What question(s) were raised and why?
4. How does this relate to contemporary U.S.-Mexico social, political or economic issues?
5. What question(s) would you pose to the class?

To end your 15 minute presentation after each person has spoken for 3 minutes, you must have the class complete a short activity. Be creative! For example, you could: give a “mock quiz” consisting of a multiple choice test for everyone to see how well they are doing; a quick journal where the class reflects on their own personal experiences related to the week’s concepts; a brief review game that gets the class thinking about the ideas of the day, or an interactive power point presentation. It is entirely up to your group how you want to express this portion of the presentation. Every group must meet with the professor prior to their presentation to discuss your ideas.

**Midterm: 100 points**

In-class exam (blue book required) will cover all materials from week one. Format will include identification section along with two extensive essay questions.

**FINAL: 100 points** Final will be take-home and **must be completed to receive grade for the course.** NO make-ups or incompletes will be granted (unless documented excuse).

**Important Due Dates:**

**Midterm:** July 10th
WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION TO US-MEXICO RELATIONS AND HISTORICAL RACIALIZATION


June 26: Beyond Borders: Introduction, Chapters 1 & 2

WEEK 2


July 3: Consuming Mexican Labor: Preface, Introduction and Chapters 1 & 2

WEEK 3: FREE TRADE, LABOR, DOMINATION AND RESISTANCE

July 8: Beyond Borders: Chapter 5 & Conclusion Consuming Mexican Labor: Chapters 4 & 5


WEEK 4

July 15: Midterm In-Class (Blue Book) Consuming Mexican Labor: Chapter 9, 10 & Conclusion


WEEK 5: MIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP IN THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION


WEEK 6


FINAL DUE FRIDAY AUGUST 2, 2013-MUST TURN IN HARD COPY (No email attachments accepted)