CHICANA AND CHICANO STUDIES 191

Chicanas/Chicanos and the Schools: The Legacy of *Mendez v. Westminster* and Sal Castro

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Summer 2015 - June 23 – July 30
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COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course presents an overview of Chicana/Chicano educational issues in the United States. Special emphasis will be placed on several important historical events that exemplify the struggle for educational justice and equity that affected Chicana/Chicano education: the *Mendez v. Westminster* (1946) desegregation case, and the 1968 high school Chicana/o student Walkouts. Through oral history projects, students will document the legacy of Sal Castro, Chicano teacher and central figure in the 1968 Walkouts, and Sylvia Mendez, who experienced segregation in a “Mexican school” in the 1940s. We will also examine how historical, social, and political forces impact on the Chicana and Chicano educational experience.

The goals of the course are:

1. To examine the fundamental theories, concepts, methods, and data used in the study of Chicana/o education in the U.S.
2. To explore the historical and contemporary educational experiences of Chicana/os in the U.S.
3. To examine the relation between the schools and the Chicana/o community, with a focus on two historically significant examples of community activism in the schools, the *Mendez* case of 1946 and the 1968 student Walkouts.
4. To develop social science research skills within an educational context in relation to the Chicana/o population.
   • To develop oral history research skills to implement an oral history project centered on the *Mendez* case or Sal Castro and the 1968 Walkouts to create a counterstory; or.
   • To learn research skills to access and analyze an archival collection of primary resource materials for a report on a school desegregation case.
5. To conduct reading, analysis, and discussion in Chicana/o education literature.

COURSE READINGS

Required Text:

Course Reader (articles from the course reader are required reading each week of the class).

Course Video Catalog (video documentaries and interviews focusing on Mendez, the Walkouts and Sal Castro).

**Recommended Readings:**