Course Description: This course traces the legal history of Chicanas/os in the United States from the mid-19th century to the present. It also provides students with a graduate-level introduction to the field of Latino Critical Race Theory or “LatCrit.” This course examines landmark legislation and key appellate decisions which have impacted the Chicano/Latino community since 1848. Topics of examination include: critical race theory, the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, the legal construction of Mexican American racial identity, historic educational segregation, contemporary educational issues, jury rights, the Chicano movement, and undocumented immigration.

This course is excellent preparation for students who are interested in pursuing academic research in the fields of legal history, critical race studies, and law & society. Through the wide range of methodologies, approaches, and theoretical frameworks examined, students will learn how to research and write a compelling legal history. Based upon the broad range of legal topics and issues covered by this course, it also prepares students to teach a wide variety of courses in law, critical race theory, and legal history.

Course Readings: Readings are based upon classic and cutting-edge scholarship in the fields of Chicana/o legal history and Critical Race Theory.

Delgado, Richard and Stefanic, Jean. Critical Race Theory: An Introduction

Donato, Ruben. Mexicans and Hispanics in Colorado Schools and Communities, 1920-1960
Garcia, Ignacio. *White But Not Equal: Mexican Americans, Jury Discrimination and the Supreme Court*

Gomez, Laura. *Manifest Destinies: The Making of the Mexican-American Race*

Griswold del Castillo, R. *The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo: A Legacy of Conflict*

Haney-Lopez, Ian. *Dog Whistle Politics*


Hernandez, Kelly Lytle. *City of Inmates: Conquest, Rebellion, and Rise of Human Caging in Los Angeles, 1771-1965*

San Miguel, Guadalupe. *"Let All of Them Take Heed": Mexican Americans and the Campaign for Educational Equality in Texas, 1910–1981*


**Course Requirements:**

1. **Two-page written critiques of weekly readings (70%).** Students will be required to submit two-page written critiques for each of the weekly reading assignments.

2. **Oral presentations on 3 assigned readings (30% total)(10% per presentation).** As a second course requirement, students will be required to make presentations on two of the assigned readings. Each presentation will account for 10% of the overall course grade.

**Course Syllabus:**

**Week One: April 1**

Latino Critical Race Theory

Readings:
Delgado, Richard and Stefanic, Jean. *Critical Race Theory: An Introduction*

**Week Two: April 8**

The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo
Readings:
Griswold del Castillo, R. *The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo: A Legacy of Conflict*

Week Three: April 15
New Mexico and the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo

Readings:
Gomez, Laura. *Manifest Destinies: The Making of the Mexican-American Race*

Week Four: April 22
Chicanos and Legal Constructions of Whiteness

Readings:

Week Five: April 29
*Hernandez v. Texas*, Jury Rights, and the “Other White” Legal Strategy

Readings:
Garcia, Ignacio. *White But Not Equal: Mexican Americans, Jury Discrimination and the Supreme Court*

Week Six: May 6
Educational Segregation in California

Readings:

Week Seven: May 13
Educational Segregation in Texas

Readings:
San Miguel, Guadalupe. *"Let All of Them Take Heed": Mexican Americans and the Campaign for Educational Equality in Texas, 1910–1981*

Week Eight: May 20
Education Segregation in Colorado

Readings:
Donato, Ruben. *Mexicans and Hispanos in Colorado Schools and Communities, 1920-1960*

Week Nine: May 27 (No class—Memorial Day)
Trumpism

Haney-Lopez, Ian. *Dog Whistle Politics*

Week Ten: June 3
Mass Incarceration

Readings:
Hernandez, Kelly Lytle. *City of Inmates: Conquest, Rebellion, and Rise of Human Caging in Los Angeles, 1771-1965*

*Final Papers Due Friday, June 14 at 11:59 p.m. (submit via Turn-it-In)*