

MEXICAN IMMIGRATION: A SOUTH BEND CASE STUDY

ILS45103/ ANTHROPOLOGY 45030/LAST 40650/SOC 48040

KAREN RICHMAN, PROFESSOR

M,W 3:00-4:15
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Office: McKenna B-9
Hours: M,W 12:30-1:15, W 4:30-6:00 PM
631-8146

Course Description

Mexican immigrants are the fastest growing ethnic group in South Bend. Their three-fold increase over the past decade in South Bend and myriad other U.S. cities reflects how deeply institutionalized migration has become as a domestic strategy for escape from the pressure of relentless poverty, rural decline, and underemployment in rural Mexico. Despite their massive exodus, however, Mexican migrants remain connected to their homelands, unlike earlier migrants who eventually severed their ties to their home countries. Kinship networks, economic relations, political activities and religious practices simultaneously involve Mexicans in home and diaspora locations. Emigrants send annually billions of dollars to Mexico. The Mexican government encourages the mobility of its people and offers novel ways to unify those abroad in a borderless nation.

This course combines experiential learning, research and service in the Mexican immigrant community of South Bend in order to understand how Mexican migrants conduct their lives across the vast distances separating South Bend and their homeland. Documentary film screenings, campus-wide lectures on immigration will complement readings in social science about transnationalism, Mexican-U.S. migration and the history and sociology of the local community. Students will volunteer as tutors and teachers at La Casa de Amistad and other organizations. They will learn ethical fieldwork methods in preparation for community research.

Working collaboratively as a group, students will design a research plan to gather data on local and transnational households and kin networks, political involvement, employment, health care, education, cultural beliefs and practices and religious life. The report prepared by the class will document the innovative adaptations of this migrant community, especially the growth of an ethnic enclave of small businesses that both unite Mexicans as an ethnic group and sustain their ties to their homeland. Our research will be shared with those who shared their lives with us and with entities that are committed to helping them.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Grade %</i>
Commentaries (Films and Lectures)		10
Presentations on Readings	TBA	10
2 Take-Home Essay Tests	9/24, 11/5	30
Applied Research Project	12/3-10	30
Participation	Every class	20

This class will use a seminar style. Critical thinking and dialogue are encouraged through active participation in discussions of the daily assignment. Everyone is expected to take part in leading and responding to discussion. Regular attendance is required and recorded

Resources

Books:

Hirsch, Jennifer

2004 *A Courtship after Marriage*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Hondagneu-Sotelo, Pierrette

1994 *Gendered Transitions: Mexican Experiences of Immigration*. Berkeley: University of California Press

Smith, Robert

2005 *Mexican New York*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Readings (Assigned and Supplementary, Electronic Reserves)*

Adler, Rachel 2002

Patron-Client Ties, Ethnic Entrepreneurship and Transnational Migration: The Case of Yucatecans in Dallas, Texas. *Urban Anthropology* 31(2):129-161.

Alba, Richard and Victor Nee 1997

Rethinking Assimilation Theory for a New Era of Immigration. *International Migration Review*, Vol. 31, No. 4:826-874.

Amey, Cheryl, Karen Seccombe, and R. Paul Duncan, 1995

Health Insurance Coverage of Mexican American Families in the U.S.: "The Effect of Employment Context and Family Structure in Rural and Urban Settings." *Journal of Family Issues*. 16(4):488-510.

Dinerman, Ina 1978

Patterns of Adaptation among Households of U.S.-Bound Migrants from Michoacán, Mexico. *International Migration Review* 12(4):485-502.

Glick Schiller, Nina, Linda Basch, and Cristina Szanton Blanc 1996

From Immigrant to Transmigrant: Theorizing Transnational Migration, *Anthropological Quarterly* 68(1):48-6.

Marquardt, Marie Friedman, 2005

Structural and Cultural Hybrids: Religious Congregational Life... in Immigrant Faiths: Transforming Religious Lives in America. Karen Leonard, et. al., eds., pp. 189-218- Walnut Creek: Alta Mira Press.

Massey, Douglas 2005

Five Myths About Immigration: Common Misconceptions Underlying U.S. Border-Enforcement Policy. *Immigration Policy In Focus* 4 (6).

Portes, Alejandro 1978

Towards a Structural Analysis of Illegal (Undocumented) Migration. *International Migration Review* 12(4):69-84.

Rouse, Roger 1991

Mexican Migration and the Social Space of Postmodernism. *Diaspora* 1(1): 8-23.

Rubel, Arthur, 1960

Concepts of Disease in Mexican-American Culture. *American Anthropologist*, 62 (5): 795-814.

Films (Screened in Concurrent Film Series and/or viewed independently in ILS Library)

Dying to Live, Daniel Groody, 2006 August 30, DPAC, 7:00 and 10:00 PM
El Norte, Gregory Nava, 1983, Sept. 27, DPAC 7:00 and 10:30 PM
Fuerza, Goshen College Students, 2006, Sept. 5, DBRT 126
La Boda and Escuela, Hannah Weyer, 2000 and 2002, ILS Library
Letters from the Other Side, Heather Courtney, 2006, Sept 12 DBRT 126, 7:00 PM
My American Girls: A Dominican Story, Matthew Oct 10 DBRT 126, 7:00 PM
Romántico, Mark Becker, 2006 August 30 DPAC, 7:00 PM
The Sixth Section, Alex Rivera, 2004, In Class

<u>Date</u>	<u>Theme and Assignment</u>
8/29	<u>Introductions</u>
8/30	<i>Dying to Live</i> and <i>Romántico</i> , DPAC 7:00 and 10:00 PM
9/3	<u>American Subjects, Migrant Others in the United States</u> Massey, Five Myths of Migration* Portes, Towards a Structural Analysis of Illegal (Undocumented) Migration*
9/5	<u>Between Here and Over There</u> Smith, Chapters 1 and 2 Film in Class <i>The Sixth Section</i> ILS Lecture on Immigration Policy, 4:30 PM <i>Fuerza</i> , 7:00 PM DBRT 126
9/10	Visit La Casa de Amistad Read Smith, Methodological Appendix for discussion on 9/12
9/12	Smith, Methodological Appendix, Chapters 7 and 8 Local Research Project Planning-In Class <i>Letters from the Other Side</i> , 7:00 PM DBRT 126
9/17	Smith, Chapter 9 and Recommendations and Conclusions
9/19	Adler, Ethnic Entrepreneurs*
9/24	Paper One Due No Reading Assignment; Local Research Project Planning in Class
9/26	<u>Culture and Society in Transnational Spaces: Family and Gender</u> Hondagneu-Sotelo, <i>Gendered Transitions</i> , Chapters 1 and 3

9/27	<i>El Norte</i> , DPAC
10/1	Hondagneu-Sotelo, <i>Gendered Transitions</i> , Chapters 4 and 5
10/3	Hondagneu-Sotelo, <i>Gendered Transitions</i> , Chapters 6 and 7
10/8	Immigration Forum (Start Reading <i>A Courtship</i> , Introduction)
10/10	Hirsch, <i>A Courtship after Marriage</i> , Intro., Chapter 2 <i>My American Girls</i> , DBRT 126, 7:00 PM
10/15	Hirsch, <i>A Courtship after Marriage</i> , Chapters 3 and 4
10/17	Hirsch, <i>A Courtship after Marriage</i> , Chapters 5 and 6
10/22-24	Mid-Semester Break
10/29	<u>Culture and Society in Transnational Spaces: Religion and Health</u> Rubel, Concepts of Disease in Mexican-American Culture* Amey, et. al., Health Insurance Coverage of Mexican American Families*
10/31	Marquart, Structural and Cultural Hybrids: Religious Congregational Life...*
11/5	Paper Two Due Local Research on Mexican Immigration to South Bend
11/7	Local Research on Mexican Immigration to South Bend
11/12	Local Research on Mexican Immigration to South Bend
11/14	Local Research on Mexican Immigration to South Bend
11/19	Local Research on Mexican Immigration to South Bend
11/21	Local Research on Mexican Immigration to South Bend
11/26	Local Research on Mexican Immigration to South Bend
11/28	Thanksgiving Break

12/3 Project Presentations

12/5 Project Presentations

12/10 Project Presentations