

"Interculturalism in the U.S.-Mexican Borderlands"

Instructor: Prof. Dr. Josef Raab

Course Description

The Southwest of the United States of America is an area characterized by intercultural encounters. Anglo-American and Mexican backgrounds are in contact with each other as well as with African-American, Native-American and other ethnic groups. We will examine the historical development of intercultural relations in the U.S.-Mexican borderlands over the past century and a half by looking at literary works, essays, historical documents, films, art, music, and other materials. Our focus will be on U.S. Latinos.

Course Readings

Luis Valdez, *Zoot Suis and Other Plays*. Arte Público Press and Players Press.
Rolando Hinojosa, *We Happy Few*. Arte Público Press.

Course Outline

Week 1 **Introduction, The Mexican-American War**

Week 2 **Holiday - No class!**

Week 3 **The Mexican-American War and Its Consequences**

Rodolfo Acuña, "A Legacy of Hate: The Conquest of Mexico's Northwest"
Manuel G. Gonzales, "The American Southwest, 1848-1900"
Selections from Ilan Stavans, *Latino USA: A Cartoon History*

Week 4 **The Other Side**

Touch of Evil (dir. Orson Welles)
Charles Ramírez Berg, "A Crash Course on Hollywood's Latino Imagery"

Week 5 **The Chicano Movement**

Américo Paredes, "The Mexico-Texan"
Manuel G. Gonzales, "The Chicano Movement"
"El Plan Espiritual de Aztlán"
Rodolfo 'Corky' Gonzalez, "I Am Joaquín"

Week 6 **Dispute**

Luis Valdez, *Zoot Suit*

Week 7 **Suffering**

Cherrie Moraga, *Heroes and Saints*

Week 8 Border and Identity Matters

Selections from Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera*

Guillermo Gómez-Peña, "The Dangers of Being a Biracial Kid"

Samuel P. Huntington, "The Crisis of National Identity"

Week 9 Border Women

Helena María Viramontes, "The Cariboo Café"

Sandra Cisneros, "Woman Hollering Creek"

Special Lecture U.S. Latino Painting and Film

10.15 a.m.: Guest Lecture by Prof. Gary Keller on Interculturalism in Painting

2.15 p.m.: Guest Lecture by Prof. Gary Keller on Interculturalism in Film

Week 10 Music: From Ritchie Valens to El Vez

Hanjo Berressem, "'Think Globally, But Better to Act Elvisly': Elvis and El Vez"

Josef Raab, "Symbiose, Hybridisierung und Entgrenzung in der zeitgenössischen mexikanisch-amerikanischen Kultur"

Week 11 Borderlines and their Illusion

Lone Star (dir. John Sayles)

Week 12 Changing Norms

Latinos on Television

Rolando Hinojosa, *We Happy Few*

Week 13 Changing Norms

Rolando Hinojosa, *We Happy Few*

Closing discussion