The southern border of the United States, stretching from California to Florida, is the longest physical divide between the First and the Third Worlds. The border is a cultural mosaic, a zone that abruptly brings together diverse experiences from the North and the South. It is also a place where one can see larger social, economic, and political processes at work on both sides of the boundary. This course will look at the southern border from both these perspectives: as a distinct landscape where North-South relations take on a specific spatial and cultural dimension; and as a broader region which has seen the emergence of many issues of national significance, such as bilingual education, immigration, ethnic politics, remittances and free trade.

While many patterns of change were established during the nineteenth century, the twentieth century has brought new dimensions of economic expansion, transforming the border region. A restructuring of regional economic and political power caused a tilting of capital, resources, and population toward the previously less-settled zones of the South and Southwest of the US and to the northern frontier of Mexico. This transformation has been accompanied by changes in immigration patterns; the contemporary shift in immigration sources from the Atlantic Rim to the Pacific Rim and the Caribbean has been dramatic. The border states have felt these changes keenly. Areas such as California, Texas, and Florida have become important centers for international trade, as well as gateways for new immigrants and refugees. Since 1950, the frontier zone between the United States and Mexico has been transformed into the most heavily populated border region in the world; by the turn of the century, some ten million people will inhabit this new urban corridor. Cities such as Miami and Los Angeles, the east and west anchors of the new immigration, have emerged as urban centers of intense diversity and sometimes conflict.

In this course we will trace the origins of the changes that have defined today's southern border. After this historical overview, we will look critically at debates on immigration reform, education, trade, and politics as well as new cultural and political identities in the border regions.
mid-term 1    October 2
mid-term 2    November 6
final         December 15, 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Mid-terms = 60% of final grade
Final exam = 40% of final grade

THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS

Class E-Mail Lists

There will be two mailing lists from which students will receive course updates and additional materials via e-mail. To be listed on these mailing lists, students must have an e-mail account and then subscribe to them individually. The first mailing list is required, and the second mailing list is optional. Some readings for the course as well as a host of course-related material are available online at the Southern Border Web site: http://southernborder.berkeley.edu or at the Center for Latin American Studies website at: http://clas.berkeley.edu.

To be listed on these mailing lists, students must have an e-mail account and then subscribe to them individually. If you don't have your own e-mail account and you are a UC Berkeley student, you can create a Calmail e-mail account.

To subscribe to the required list

- https://calmail.berkeley.edu/manage/list/listinfo/rborder2008@lists.berkeley.edu

To subscribe to the optional list

- https://calmail.berkeley.edu/manage/list/listinfo/oborder2008@lists.berkeley.edu

For more information on subscription to mailing lists, visit Majordomo Subscriber's Guide

Readings

REQUIRED BOOKS
(All books are available at ANALOG BOOKS, 1816 Euclid Avenue, and at ASUC)


Required reader available at Copy Central, 2650 Bancroft Way.

**OPTIONAL BOOK**


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**Graduate Student Instructors: Sections and Office Hours**

**Yalda Asmatey**
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Sections: F 10-11 AM & 11 AM - 12 PM, 104 Barrows
Office hours: TBA

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Josh Troncoso  
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Office hours: TBA

Schedule

WEEK 1 – HISTORICAL FRAMEWORK

August 28 – Introduction

WEEK 2 – MEXICAN HISTORY

September 2 – Mexico: the Conquest to Independence


September 4 – Mexico: Manifest Destiny and war


Recommended:


WEEK 3 –HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

September 9 – Central America/Caribbean


September 11 – Californios / The Depression: Migration and Deportation


WEEK 4 – MEXICO IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

September 16 – The Mexican Revolution


September 18—Post-revolutionary Mexico


WEEK 5 – NEW DIRECTIONS: WHITHER MEXICO?

September 23 – Current Challenges for Mexico


September 25 - Contemporary Political Context


WEEK 6 – CHALLENGES FOR MEXICO

September 30 – Energy & Alternative Energy

- Cárdenas, Cuauhtémoc, “Reforming Pemex”, Berkeley Review of Latin American
Studies, Spring 2008.
- Dickerson, Maria, "Woes mount for Mexico's state oil titan", Los Angeles Times, January 2, 2008.

Recommended:

October 2 –***MIDTERM 1***

WEEK 7 – CHALLENGES FOR MEXICO: PART II

October 7 – Immigration Reform: the context
- Roberts, Sam, "In a Generation, Minorities May Be the U.S. Majority, New York Times, August 14, 2008.

October 9 – Immigration Reform: the debate

Recommended:

WEEK 8 – CHALLENGES FOR MEXICO: PART III

October 14 – Crossing Borders: A Personal Journey
- Documentary: "Matias," Frontline World, Claudine Lomonaco and Mary Spicuzza,
2004.

Recommended:

October 16 – Drugs & Violence


WEEK 9. CENTRAL AMERICA

October 21 & 23 -


WEEK 10. EDUCATION

October 28


October 30 -The Latino Vote

WEEK 11. NEW DIRECTIONS FOR MEXICO/CALIFORNIA

November 4 – Political Context in the Americas


November 6 – *** SECOND MIDTERM ***

WEEK 12. TRADE AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION NAFTA/CAFTA

November 11 – Veterans Day (no classes)

November 13 – NAFTA, CAFTA & Maquiladoras

- Documentary: “Maquilapolis”, Directors, Vicky Funari and Sergio De La Torre.

WEEK 13. TRADE AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION NAFTA/CAFTA & HAITIAN MIGRATION

November 18 – NAFTA, CAFTA & Maquiladoras


November 20 – Mexico in the Global Economy


Available online: http://www.clas.berkeley.edu:7001/Publications/workingpapers/

WEEK 14. HAITI

November 25– Haitian Immigration

- Stepick, Alex, et al., This Land is our Land: Immigrants and Power in Miami, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003), Chapters 1 and 4.

November 28 - *THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY*

WEEK 15. CUBA
December 2 – Cuba: the Cold War context


December 4 – Cuba continued

- Stepick, Alex, et al. This Land is our Land: Immigrants and Power in Miami, Chapters 2, 3, 5.

December 9 – Summing Up

December 15, 12:30 - 3:30 PM - ***FINAL EXAM***