CHICANA/O POLITICS & ACTIVISM

Chicana/o Studies 200W, 3 Units
Wednesdays 7-9 PM
Location: Building 240 (CSRE), Room 108
Spring 2001

Course Syllabus

Student Facilitators: Lorry Palacios <lorry@Stanford.Edu>, Ernest C. Bustamante, <ernestcb@Stanford.Edu>

Course Description: This is a student-facilitated course in Chicana/o politics and activism. The course intends to provide an overview of the involvement of Chicanos in politics in the United States. The topics to be covered include the Chicano movement, specifically focusing on the United Farm Workers and La Raza Unida Partido, the role of Chicana activists, student activists, voting rights, Latino political incorporation, and the major policy issues confronting Latinos today. The class will also include guest speakers including Stanford faculty and graduate students.

Requirements: Each student will be required to complete 3 short papers (3-5 pages); a film critique on one of the films shown in class, a short biography of a Latino elected official or activist, and a take-home final exam.

Film Critique 20%
Biography and Presentation 20%
Take-Home Final Exam 20%
Participation/Attendance 40%

Texts:

Required, Course Reader

Recommended,

Week One, April 4th: Class Overview
Film
Week Two, April 11th: United Farm Workers

Film
Chicano! Episode Four: Fighting for Political Power. ZVC 10520

Week Three, April 18th: La Raza Unida Partido

Readings

Gutierrez, Jose Angel. “Mexicanos Need to Control Their Own Destinies.” http://clnet.ucr.edu/research/docs/razaunida/control.htm. 6 pages.


Film

Week Four, April 25th: Chicana Activism

Readings


Guest Speaker: Marisela Chavez, graduate student in History.

Week Five, May 2nd: Chicana/o Theater and Politics

Guest Speaker: Alma Martinez, graduate student in Drama.

Week Six, May 9th: Student Activism: MEChA

Readings:
Handout on History of MEChA and El Plan de Santa Barbara

Film
Interviews with five striking Chicana/o students: May 6, 1994. ZVC 7261.

Guest Speaker: Gabby Rico, Co-Chair of MEChA

***Student Presentations on Latino Elected Officials and Activists

Week Seven, May 16th: Voting Rights

Readings:

**Guest Speaker:** Prof. Luis Fraga, Department of Political Science

**Week Eight, May 23rd:** Latino Grassroots Coalition Building  
**Guest Speaker:** Prof. Al Camarillo, Department of History

**Week Nine, May 30th:** TBA