

NEW COURSE FOR FALL 2017

CMC HIST 112: Special Topics in History: Latinx Immigration

TR 2:45-4:00

Kravis Center Lower Courtyard 61



In 2014, over 17% of the US population was Latinx, and a third of those people were born outside of the US. What has motivated Latinx immigrants to journey from their native countries to settle in the United States? How have their experiences changed them, as well as transformed the United States and Latin America?

Students will interrogate these questions by examining long-standing immigration issues that have transformed various Latinx populations such as Mexican, Central American, Puerto Rican, and Cuban communities in the United States from colonial encounters, through the twentieth century, and up to today, with a particular focus on California. Critical examination of push/pull factors, social networks, territorial conquest, colonialism, and borders, will be highlighted by larger discussions of race, ethnicity, and gender. Through debate and discussion, students will encounter various perspectives on immigration issues past and present.

Several guest speakers will present on contemporary immigration issues in Latinx communities throughout the semester. We will also read historical texts, journal articles, poetry, and short stories, watch movies, and take a field trip. Using what you learn in this course, you will develop a final research paper drawing from both primary and secondary sources.



About the professor: Professor James Mestaz is a postdoctoral fellow who specializes in modern Latin American history with a particular focus on the ethnohistory and environmental history of Mexico. He earned his B.A. from U.C.L.A., M.A. from the University of Miami, and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Questions? Contact Prof. Mestaz at j_mestaz@yahoo.com for more information.