

Anti-Latinx Discrimination: Foreigners in Their Own Land

This week we discuss:

- **“Latino Americans: Episode 1—Foreigners in Their Own Land.”** Video available on PBS.org. (54 min.) Explores the period from 1565-1880, as the first Spanish explorers enter North America, the U.S. expands into territories in the Southwest that had been home to Native Americans and English and Spanish colonies, and as the Mexican-American War strips Mexico of half its territories by 1848. <https://www.pbs.org/video/latino-americans-episode-1-foreigners-their-own-land/>
- **“Racism, not a lack of assimilation, is the real problem facing Latinos in America.”** Article published on NBCnews.com. Experts say that telling Latinos to assimilate focuses on the wrong issue, which is centuries of discrimination and exclusion. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/racism-not-lack-assimilation-real-problem-facing-latinos-america-n974021>

Goal for Class

The goal of this class is to learn the history of Latinx populations in America, especially that of the Southwest, and the development and continuation of anti-Latinx discrimination.

Questions for Discussion

- What did you learn about the complex mix and conflict of cultures in the Southwestern United States?
- What did you learn about anti-Latinx discrimination?
- What do you observe about the treatment of Latinx people in the U.S. and specifically in Santa Fe today?

Additional Resources

- **Laura Gomez presentation** at UNM Taos Lecture Series on “The 1847 Revolt.” Dr. Gomez, a law professor at UCLA, discusses the first Mexican Americans, the origins of New Mexico’s tri-cultural myth, and the remembering (and forgetting) of past traumas. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oD3AkIqXoQ>
- **“The Brutal History of Anti-Latino Discrimination in America.”** Article published on History.com. School segregation, lynchings and mass deportations of Spanish-speaking U.S. citizens are just

some of the injustices Latinos have faced. <https://www.history.com/news/the-brutal-history-of-anti-latino-discrimination-in-america>

- **“History of Anti-Hispanic Bigotry in the United States.”** Article published in The Washington Post, August 19, 2020. Never before have things seemed so hard for Hispanics. The ground seems to have shifted, but it has not. These are long-held resentments. The animus bubbles up frequently, with devastating results. (Attached)
- **Other five episodes of the PBS series Latino Americans.** The remaining episodes of this series trace the history of Latinx populations during the large influx of immigrants in the 1800s, World War II, immigration from Puerto Rico and Cuba, creation of “Chicano” identity and political empowerment, and a second wave of Cubans and people from Central America. <https://www.pbs.org/show/latino-americans/episodes/season/1/>
- **“When Americans Lynched Mexicans”** by William D. Carrigan and Clive Webb, Feb. 20, 2015 NYTimes. From 1848 to 1928, mobs murdered thousands of Mexicans. These lynchings occurred not only in the southwestern states of Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas, but also in states far from the border. <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/20/opinion/when-americans-lynched-mexicans.html>
- **“Indian Slavery Once Thrived in New Mexico. Latinos Are Finding Family Ties to It”** by Simon Romero, Jan. 28, 2018, New York Times. Latinos in New Mexico are finding ancestral connections to a flourishing slave trade in the American Southwest. Their captive forebears were Native Americans — slaves frequently known as Genízaros (pronounced heh-NEE-sah-ros) who were sold to Hispanic families when the region was under Spanish control. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/28/us/indian-slaves-genizaros.html>

Action Items

- Be a First Responder to the need of many SFCC students during this time of COVID-19. Give to the Student Emergency Assistance Fund. <https://sfcc.amplodance.com/pages/home-2131>
- Donate to the Hispanic Scholarship Fund. The HSF Scholarship is designed to assist students of Hispanic heritage obtain a university degree. <https://www.hsf.net/scholarship>

Additional Items of Interest

At the class on July 31st, Ricardo Cate and others mentioned some books and authors of interest:

- Vine Deloria, Jr., author of 27 books with his first in 1969 *Custer Died for Your Sins*, probably his most notable; *We Talk, You Listen*, which is what Whites are being encouraged to do now; and *American Indian Policy in the Twentieth Century*, a scholarly work. Dennis Sanderson has these available for loan.
- Vine Deloria, Jr., *God Is Red: A Native View of Religion*.
- *The Earth Shall Weep* by James Wilson