

MEXICAN MIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES

HIST354 // Spring 2016 // MW 8:30-9:50am // WPH 201



Today, some 34 million people of Mexican origin live in the United States, including more than 11 million immigrants. Mexicans represent the largest immigrant group in the country and make up 11% of the total population. This course explores the history of Mexican migration to the United States since the 19th century. It examines Mexican American community formation, while also recognizing continued migration from Mexico and return migration to Mexico, whether by choice or force. Students will learn about the diverse experiences of migrants and how migration has changed over time through a close examination of primary sources, in addition to works of history, sociology, ethnography, fiction, and film. We will cover, among other topics, the Bracero Program; the creation and militarization of the US-Mexico border; the history of undocumented migration; how Mexico shapes migration and how migration shapes Mexico; the impact of NAFTA on migration; deportation's punitive turn since 1996 and the growth of the business of immigration enforcement; and the DREAM movement and transnational immigrant activism on both sides of the border. Ultimately, we will come to understand not only the history of Mexican migration, but also the interconnected histories of the United States and Mexico. Have questions or want more info? Email Prof. Adam Goodman at adamgood@usc.edu.