SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY
FALL 2016
CLASS: Culture and Society of Tijuana (320) Section 2
Wednesday 7 pm – 9:40 pm
Professor Victor Clark - Alfaro
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Note. First class, a class half the semester and last class will be in Storm Hall Room 221, the rest of the course in Tijuana.

Text:
Urrea, Luis, By the Lake of Sleeping Children, Anchor, 1996.(Reader)
Byrd Bobby & Susannah Mississippi Byrd, The Late Great Mexican Border: Reports From a Disappearing Line, Cinco Puntos Press, 1996,(Reader)
Quinonez, Sam, True Tales from Another Mexico: the Lynch, Mob, the Popsicle Kings, Chalino, and the Bronx, University of New Mexico Press, 2001 (Reader)

Reference books:

Mexico’s border is an advantage to SDSU, due to its closeness that allows us to develop the class, and teach the student the other face of the border culture, and a door to Latin America. With this course the student would see Tijuana’s other faces rather than the tourist view.
This class offers you the opportunity to know the richest part of Mexican culture, stay in touch with social institutions, daily life customs, city’s important people in order to have a social, cultural and economic perspective.
Tijuana, it is the four most important city of Mexico, and in the latest years it is transformed in a cosmopolitan city, with a cultural diversity due to migration massive arrival from all geographical points of the whole country. Besides, it is one of the most important cities border with the United States, which does make Tijuana a tourist city. The tourist industry, usually make up Tijuana’s real life, behind that reality, Tijuana other’s face is hidden, the one this class is offering to the student.
This class it is divided on different specific topics: tourist, adolescents and migrant children, street vendors, public health, filmmakers, among others. The student will see no tourist view. Paradoxically speaking, one of the classes deals with the tourist theme as an introduction like process, to give the student the opportunity to introduce them to the border social and economy topics.

Requirements to participate:
In order to participate in this class, students must have a valid passport, passport card, or border crossing card. Students must attend the first class session and have enrolled
in the Aztecs Abroad database successfully. Instructions on enrolling are located in Blackboard. Students who do not meet these requirements may be dropped from the course.

Students must purchase SDSU’s Foreign Travel Insurance. The cost is $60/semester. Students will be automatically enrolled in the insurance program once they complete the Aztecs Abroad application and the fee will be charged to their SDSU student account.

Questions regarding these requirements may be directed to Alana Rodriguez, Latin American Studies Coordinator, at alana.rodriguez@mail.sdsu.edu.

**General Objectives**

This is a course with Special conditions: is a practical course, because most of the time is spent activities within the field. Developed the course in Tijuana, it provides students a unique opportunity to come into contact with a different culture and society. This course provides the student with a micro social, cultural and political vision of the Mexican border, having Tijuana as an example. At the end of the semester, it is expected that students will have knowledge and understanding of:

- The diversity of the subjects and their cultural practices,
- Realize the interrelationships between cultural and social dimensions,
- The social context of everyday life at the border (Tijuana)
- Identify different urban contexts of the city
- Compare and contrast student culture, as a cultural reference, with a different culture: the Mexican border culture
- Being able to distance himself from ethnocentric positions and adopting a holistic, comparative and thoughtful insight into the study of the border Mexican reality
- Foster the capacity for tolerance and respect for stimulating social commitment.

**Skill Objectives**

The course aims to develop the ability of students in the critical observation of another culture and the environment in which it develops, together with Strengthen their critical and analysis skills.

**Grading**

Halfway through the course (October 5), the student will turn in a paper with his/her comments and thoughts regarding one of the subjects examine up to that point in the class. This work should consist of between six to eight pages. At the end of the course (December 7), an essay will be due on topic of the student’s choosing and/or one of the topics taken up during the class, taking Tijuana as reference. The work should consist of between six to eight typewritten pages.

The student shall prepare two essays on two of the books you choose (8 to 10 pages). The first essay will be turned in on November 2 and the other essay at the end of the course December 7.

Grades are based on:
1. Attendance to classes; 2 Participation in class with your comments, analysis, observations, etcetera; 3. Delivery of the essays required for the course; 4. Halfway the course and final class, participation of each student with comments on one of the books and/or topics of the course.

**August 31 Wednesday**
Introduction to Tijuana. Tijuana and the Mexican border area. In the second part of the class, invited guest Mario L. Lopez Border Group.

**September 7 Wednesday**
Tourism in Tijuana. Tourism has been part of the economic activities of Tijuana. Round table discussion with directors of Committee of Tourism and Conventions (Comite de Turismo y Convenciones) (Cotuco).

**September 14 Wednesday**
Independent Culture Institutions. In recent years the city has a booming of cultural activities (galleries, cultural centers, etc.), that are changing the city profil. Visit to The Cultural Center Pasaje Rodriguez and round table discussion with Luis Montijo, Cultural Manager and Alexis Romero, Public and Business Development, Cultural Center Pasaje Rodriguez.

**September 21 Wednesday**
The Red Light District. Tijuana important area to understand the social and economic dynamic or the city. Tour at the Red Light District.*

**September 28 Wednesday**
Rehabilitation Center. Tijuana is one of the first places in drug addiction in Mexico, as a result there is a response from society, with the opening of numerous rehabilitation centers. Visit to a Rehabilitation Center Alcance Victoria, and table discussion with directors and inmates.

**October 5 Wednesday**
Class at San Diego State University, Comments, questions and analysis on the topics covered so far in class. Turn in an essay (6 to 8 pages) with comments and thoughts regarding one of the subjects examined up to this point in class.

**October 12 Wednesday**
Adolescents and Migrant Children. In recent months this migration has become an immigration and humanitarian emergency. Visit YMCA migrant shelter. Round table discussion with director Uriel Gonzalez and migrants.

**October 19 Wednesday**
Violence in Tijuana? The city has a stigma of a violent city, which has damaged its image nationally and internationally. With Round talbe discussion with the Secretaries of Public Security (Municipal Police).
October 26 Wednesday
State Autonomous University of Baja California (Universidad Estatal Autonoma de Baja California). Round table discussion with students of the faculty of tourism, on various topics of the border (culture, society, tourism, etc.)

November 2 Wednesday
Businessmen and the culture of business in Tijuana. Meeting with the directors of the Jewish Community Center of Baja California. Round table discussion. Turn in essay on a book you chose (8 to 10 pages).

November 9 Wednesday
HIV/AIDS, a health problem at the border. Meeting with directors and patients, of Centro de Recuperacion e Integracion Jardin de las Mariposas, a Center with attention to the LGBT community.

November 16 Wednesday
Journalists at the border. In the last decade, Mexico has become one of the most risky countries for journalists. We will know firsthand the work of journalists at the border, their risks, and their challenges. Round table discussion with local Journalists.

November 23, 24, 25 – Thanksgiving Break

November 30 Wednesday
The political scenario in the city. For the first time in the political history of Mexico, in the last elections (2016) we have the political figure of Independent Candidates. The elections, the challenges, the political system, corruption. Round Table discussion with guest former independent candidate for mayor Gaston Luken.

December 7 Wednesday
Final conclusions. Comments from each students. Turn in essay on a subject your choosing and/or one of the subjects taken up in class, taking Tijuana as a reference (6 to 8 pages) and turn in an essay on one of the books you chose (8 to 10 pages).

* No cameras

Disability Statements
“If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Service at (619-594-6473). To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Service as soon as possible.