

Cerritos College Library

In the Wilford Michael Library & Learning Resource Center

SPANISH 245 – INTRO TO CHICANO/MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURE

Getting Background Information on Your Topic

Within the guidelines of the assignment given to you by your instructor, select a topic that is of interest to you. Once you have selected a topic for your paper, use the general reference books available in the library to get background information on your topic. Reference books such as the encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks, and the current issue titles listed below are a good starting point for your research because they help you become better acquainted with your topic.

SPAN 245 – A study of the culture of the Chicano/Mexican American student. Analyzes the family, religious institutions, contributions, advancements and problems of the Chicano in the United States and aids students to achieve self-identification and understanding of their relationship to their own community. Develops insight into the special nature of Chicano culture for those outside that culture. Conducted in English and open to all students. (Excerpt taken from CERRITOS COLLEGE GENERAL CATALOG AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF COURSES ACADEMIC YEAR 2010-2011).

Reference Books

Dictionary of Mexican American History.
REFERENCE E184.M5 M453

Dictionary of Chicano Folklore.
REFERENCE GR111.M49 C37 2000

The Mexican American Experience : an Encyclopedia.
REFERENCE E184.M5 M4535 2003

Mexican-American Folklore : Legends, Songs, Festivals, Proverbs, Crafts, Tales of Saints, of Revolutionaries, and More.
REFERENCE GR111.M49 W47 1988

Mexican American Biographies : a Historical Dictionary, 1836-1987.
REFERENCE E184.M5 M454 1988

The Mexican American : a Critical Guide to Research aids.
REFERENCE Z1361.M4 R63 V 1

Encyclopedia of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement.
REFERENCE E184.M5 M458 2000

The Education of the Mexican American ; a Selected Bibliography.
REFERENCE Z5814 .B44 1979

Handbook of Hispanic Cultures in the United States. (4 volumes)
REFERENCE E184 .S75 H365

The Latino Encyclopedia.
REFERENCE E184 .S75 L357 1996

Reference Library of Hispanic America.
REFERENCE E184 .S75 R44 1993

Books

Use the [Library Catalog](#) located on the Cerritos College [Library Home Page](#) to find books on your topic that are available in the Cerritos College Library.

SPANISH 245 – INTRO TO CHICANO/MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURE

You can search for books by author, title, subject, or keyword. Listed below are some Library of Congress Subject Headings used in the online catalog for books relating to Chicano Studies or Mexican American Culture. Use these terms to Search by Subject. Remember, this list is by no means conclusive.

Selected Subject Headings:

HISPANIC AMERICANS CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY 20TH CENTURY

MEXICAN AMERICANS CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES SOCIAL CONDITIONS

MEXICAN AMERICANS BIBLIOGRAPHY

MEXICAN AMERICANS

MEXICAN AMERICANS CALIFORNIA BIOGRAPHY

MEXICAN AMERICANS CALIFORNIA HISTORY

MEXICAN AMERICANS BIOGRAPHY

MEXICAN AMERICANS CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES

MEXICAN AMERICANS CALIFORNIA SOCIAL CONDITIONS

MEXICAN AMERICANS CIVIL RIGHTS

MEXICAN AMERICANS ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

MEXICAN AMERICANS EDUCATION

You can also do a Word search to find books on your topic. If you find one book that is useful to your research, click on the Subject links to see others on the same subject.

The general call number for books relating to Chicano Studies is E184.

Online Reference Resources

Facts on File

Gale Databases

Latino American Experience

See the ***Database Page*** or handout for a complete description of the Cerritos College Library online resources.

To find information on ***Chicano Studies or Mexican American Culture*** try the following ***KEY WORDS:***

Chicano Culture

Hispanic Americans

Mexican Americans

Chicano Literature

Hispanic Americans AND Minority & ethnic groups

Mexican American Culture

Chicano Movement

Hispanic Americans AND Culture

Mexican American Literature

Chicano Student Movement

Hispanic Americans AND Hispanics

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Magazine and Newspaper Articles

Journals and magazines usually provide the most current information on a topic. Journal articles are more scholarly or professional while magazine articles tend to be shorter and more general. Newspaper articles, while not usually scholarly or professional, can give you the most current news and some additional facts on your topic.

To find articles on your topic, use one of the online databases listed below. These databases usually provide full-text articles on almost every topic. They are available via the **Library Home Page**. Conduct your search in these databases by using subject headings and keywords similar to those you used to locate books.

For historical research, the Library also has print indexes that must be used to find older articles, generally anything published before 1985.

Print Indexes

Shelved In Reference Section

Readers' Guide Social Sciences Index New York Times Index Los Angeles Times Index

Internet Sites

The Internet can be a valuable source for supplementing the information you have gathered from books and periodicals. It is important that you evaluate the information you get from the Internet to determine if it is reliable and useful to your research. A few Internet sites that may be useful are listed here.

Chicano Resource Center East Los Angeles Public Library

<http://www.colapublib.org/services/ethnic/chicano.php4>

UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center

<http://www.chicano.ucla.edu/>

UCSB California Ethnic & Multicultural Archives University of California, Santa Barbara

http://cemaweb.library.ucsb.edu/cema_index.html

Special Chicano & Latino Studies Collections at CSULB

http://www.csulb.edu/~sluevano/CHLS/CHLS_special_coll.htm

Chicano-Art-Life

<http://www.chicano-art-life.com>

Chicano Art: A Resource Guide

<http://cemaweb.library.ucsb.edu/chicanoArt.html>

Calisphere - California Cultures

http://www.calisphere.universityofcalifornia.edu/calcultures/ethnic_groups/ethnic3.html