



**INSTRUCTIONALLY
RELATED
ACTIVITIES**

**C H A N N E L
I S L A N D S**

Proposal # 630

Instructionally Related Activities Report Form

SPONSOR: DR. MICHAEL POWELSON

DEPARTMENT: HISTORY

ACTIVITY TITLE: ALL GROWN UP: 20 YEARS OF THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT

DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY: OCTOBER 24, 2014

Please submit via email to the IRA Coordinator along with any supporting documentation at david.daniels@csuci.edu within 30 days after the activity. Thank you for your commitment to engaging our students!

A. ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- (1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY;
 - (2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?
 - (3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?
 - (4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?
 - (5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?
 - (6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?
 - (7) WHAT ARE STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE ACTIVITY? ATTACH STUDENT EVALUATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS (IN ACCORDANCE WITH FERPA RESTRICTIONS YOU MUST REMOVE ALL PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE STUDENT INFORMATION)
 - 8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY.
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B. ATTENDEE LIST- SUPPORTING DOCUMENT:

In addition to the report form, *in a separate document*, attach to your email a list of attendees complete with each student major and grade level. This for IRA Committee reference only and will not be published on the IRA website. Include your name and the title of your IRA activity on the document.

C. IMAGES FROM ACTIVITY:

Finally, attach to your email up to 6 images demonstrating student participation (under 2 MB total) with captions/titles. Please attach these photos in .JPEG format directly to email. Thank you!

(1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:

THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WAS ENACTED TWENTY YEARS AGO, AND THE CONFERENCE WAS INTENDED TO ASSESS THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF NAFTA OVER THAT PERIOD.

(2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

THE CONFERENCE RELATED TO A NUMBER OF COURSES TAUGHT AT CSUCI, INCLUDING LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY, US HISTORY, CHICANO STUDIES, POLITICAL SCIENCE, SOCIOLOGY, BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS COURSES. SPECIFICALLY THE CONFERENCE COMPLIMENTED CLASSES LIKE THE "HISTORY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS IN NORTH AMERICA," AND "INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF LATIN AMERICA."

PLEASE ENTER RESPONSE

(3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?

BRINGING TOGETHER SCHOLARS, JOURNALISTS, AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE MERITS AND SHORTCOMINGS OF NAFTA IN FRONT OF A LARGELY STUDENT AUDIENCE

(4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?

MAJOR ASPECTS OF NAFTA WERE NOT ADDRESSED, SUCH AS NAFTA'S IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT, NAFTA'S ROLE IN UNDERMINING EMPLOYMENT IN MEXICO, NOR THE EFFECT OF COMPETITIVE BIDDING ON THE MEXICAN AND US ECONOMIES.

(5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?

I WOULD BE MORE AGGRESSIVE IN ATTRACTING A WIDER VARIETY OF PAPER PROPOSALS AND PRESENTATIONS.

(6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?

THAT THERE WAS MUCH INTEREST ON CAMPUS TO THE NAFTA AND THAT STUDENTS IN PARTICULAR WERE VERY INTERESTED IN THE CONFERENCE. GIVEN THE LARGE NUMBER OF MEXICAN AND MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS AT CSUCI IT WAS MADE CLEAR TO ME THAT THIS WAS A TOPIC THAT GENERATED AN IMPORTANT DISCUSSION ON CAMPUS

(7) WHAT ARE STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE ACTIVITY? ATTACH STUDENT EVALUATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS (IN ACCORDANCE WITH FERPA RESTRICTIONS YOU MUST REMOVE ALL PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE STUDENT INFORMATION)

THE RESPONSE OF STUDENTS WAS VERY FAVORABLE. MANY STUDENTS FROM MY CLASSES ATTENDED AND SOME OFFERED QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS DURING DISCUSSION. ONE STUDENT

THAT ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE CORRECTED A STATEMENT I HAD MADE AND SHOWED ME THE REFERENCE FOR THE CORRECTION!

8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY.

NAFTA Conference, 2014
Expenses

Beginning Balance	\$1,736.00
Office max badges	(25.44)
David Bacon Honorarium	(1,000.00)
FedEx Programs	(107.47)
Parking	(8.00)
Books for Mexican Consulate	(36.77)
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	\$558.32

B. ON SEPARATE DOCUMENT, PLEASE ATTACH ATTENDEE LIST (PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFO REMOVED)

C. PLEASE INCLUDE UP TO 6 IMAGES AS ATTACHMENTS TO YOUR EMAIL SUBMISSION

Student 1
Dr. Powelson
HIST 349

NAFTA: Twenty years later

I was able to attend the morning session of the NAFTA conference on October 24, 2014 in the Broom Library and heard the first three speakers, including Dr. Powelson. The first two lectures dealt with sociological issues related to the changes that developed as a result of NAFTA's implementation and the final lecture addressed the economics behind the change of trade restrictions for a particular agricultural crop. A common theme among the three lectures that I heard was that Mexico and their citizens did not benefit from the trade agreement in the way that was advertised when the deal was being sold to the public.

The first lecture was presented by Daisy Herrera and titled "Women's and Justice Movements in Ciudad Juarez: A Critique on the Methodology Used by National and International Women's Movements". Herrera's paper was a critique on the sociological changes that resulted due to the NAFTA generated increase in production and trade in the border town of Ciudad Juarez. Herrera's main focus was on the escalation in crime against women that was the byproduct of the increase in a migrant population being drawn to the area for economic reasons. This negative sociological and cultural condition was echoed by Dr. Powelson's paper "The Use and Abuse of Ethnicity in the Zapatista Uprising of 1994". Powelson's lecture dealt with the twenty year uprising in the southern state of Chiapas that was declared by the Zapatista's the day NAFTA was signed. The original protesters claimed that NAFTA was against the will of the people and would increase the gap between the rich and the poor, a claim that turned out to be prophetic. The government tried to marginalize the uprising by casting the protestors as indigenous Indians unwilling to accept modernization.

The final presentation of the morning session was given by Alejandro Prado titled “The Mexican Hass Avocado: A Token Commodity under NAFTA”. The Hass avocado benefitted from the reduced trade barriers to the lucrative market in the north. However, the reduced barriers benefitted the growers from the north who proceeded to move their operations into Mexico in order to benefit from lower labor, land, and water costs. Again the goals of NAFTA to Mexicans was masked as the GDP of Mexico increased by the amount of sales of avocados that went north, but the benefits of that increase in GDP was most associated with American growers who moved their operations south and just took the products and profits north.

Student 2
October 25, 2014
Soc 360

NAFTA Extra Credit

The panel session entitled “Rendered Invisible: The Impact of Gender & Class” encompassed the numerous concerns linked to the signing of NAFTA in 1994. Speaker Daisy Herrera presented the issue of gender discrimination and violence against women in Juarez, Mexico. Maquiladoras were created in Mexico after the implementation of NAFTA, these facilities serve as a major source of the job market in the region. Women that are employed in these factories often experience violence on their way to work. Frequently females are kidnapped, beaten, or raped with the police offering little to no support.

Professor Michael Powelson focused on the Zapatista Army of National Liberation uprising against NAFTA in 1994. This militant group sought to resist corporate incursion in Chiapas, Mexico and create an improved balanced economy for the citizens. News media outlets spun this revolution as being motivated by race, and as a fight against indigenous people. The reasoning behind this skewing of the truth was ultimately to not tarnish the image of NAFTA. By dispelling the social movement as being purely based on ethnic tensions, NAFTA and its proponents were able to separate themselves from this rebellion, and disregard their true intentions.

Race and ethnicity have played a crucial role in the foundation of NAFTA, and have been connected to the problems that are still faced by the people living in the region today. These issues have been embodied through the continued gender battle being fought in the city of Juarez, along with the revolutionary EZLN who seek reform in the Mexican marketplace.

Student 3
Soc 360
Professor Olmos
10/25/14

NAFTA and its downturn

NAFTA had its twenty anniversary and many evaluations of it have been provided since then. I attended the first panel of presentations on NAFTA at our school and the main topic situated the invisible impact of NAFTA on Gender and Class. NAFTA's purpose was to eliminate and reduce tariffs in countries of not just America and all countries would have equal gain. After twenty years of it being in place, it has been shown job displacement in Mexico, farmer's struggles, widespread violence, drug trade and has substantially diminished the quality of life.

Women and race played a factor in how Mexico's life has diminished due to NAFTA. Based on the lower class systems and status many women and children were treated poorly. This relates to race and ethnicity because I have learned that even if you are of similar class or status, you have a more likely chance to face discrimination and hardship. During earliest times in Mexico they would discriminate toward women because of the fact that they were the subordinate gender but also they generalized all the women into those roles. Those same individuals doing that, said women were just used for their body and referred to as "vessels". Being vessels women were just used for their bodies. During the presentation they said a lot of this had to do with the crime and drugs taking over Mexico at the time. Certain women also had to be subjected to discriminate more due to their skin being darker. Through history a lot of racism that happens due to the fact that certain groups have racism within their groups and have deemed one particular group lower due to their class or darker color. Movements in Mexico pushed their governments to demand equality and to shed the light on the separation that was happening. Listening to the presentation it sounded like the NAFTA added to the negative race

relations in their country and even made provided more validation of why the gender oppression rampantly should continued. NAFTA also added stereotyping and which is something common in racism is which is the fact that there is an assumption made by a particular group and therefore other fit into that category. They even stated NAFTA was trying to distract from conflict and discrimination happening around the people of Mexico.