This is a survey of the culture of the Mexican people from the pre-Hispanic period to the present. Pre-Hispanic concepts, myths, symbols, and legends present in Chicano culture are traced to their Mexican origins. The concept of Fifth Sun, Luis Valdez’s “Pensamiento Serpentino”, the myths of Quetzalcoatl and Aztlan, and the Aztec homeland are examined, as well as the Mesoamerican concept of self and time. The period of conquest of Mexico by Spain is examined, both as presented by historians and interpreted by Octavio Paz in his book, *El laberinto de la soledad*. The turmoil of the first half of the 19th century in Mexico and implications of the annexation of the southwest to the U.S. by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848 are studied. Also examined are the origins of the stereotypes of the Mexican/Chicano found in American society, such as the pocho, the pachuco, and the cholo. The literary and artistic expressions of the Chicano Movement of the past twenty-five years are also analyzed as part of this course.

Prerequisite: Spanish 024 or 033.