**Immigration Across the Disciplines**

**Week 9 Notes**

**Questions**

Did the US ever consider trying to work with Mexico to create a Mexican economy that would have reduced the need for Mexican workers to seek employment in the US to earn any kind of living?

The Urrea text mentions immigrants (the implication is illegal ones) from other South American countries that cross at the Mexican border. Being ignorant of this topic, I am curious: what was the reaction of the Mexican government to these individuals crossing through to the border? Were they accepted? Shunned? Were there laws against them?

Is the different language referenced in Tijuana a conglomeration of Spanish and English (it was referenced as Spanglish), or a derivative of multiple languages/dialects?

**Ngai: Epilogue**

The increase in cross-cultural communication (especially near borders) and the prominence of immigrants or those of foreign (especially Hispanic) descent in politics and entertainment has blurred the borders. (p. 267)

Solutions to the problem of illegal immigration continue to be diverse and largely ineffective, and in many cases a sort of empathy prevents harsher, stricter legislation. (p. 269-270)

Some focus is now shifting to cooperation between countries to prevent unwanted immigration to and emigration from countries. (p. 270)

**Cisneros**

**My Lucy**

This is an example of “writing like you talk.” 🡪 grammar and phonetics not necessarily correct.

Is this done for emphasis of something? Or was it unintentional?

**Eleven**

Is this story a reference to assumptions made about Hispanic immigrants?

**Salvador Late or Early**

The difficulty and strife experienced in (especially impoverished) youth?

**Woman Hollering Creek**

A tale of the difficulties experienced by couples, relating to some of what we have read in other texts.

This story seems to be deeply psychological in nature.

**Little Miracles, Kept Promises**

Are these REAL letters, or just written by the author to portray different experiences and ideologies?

**Mexican Immigration to the US (Kelly Lytle Hernandez)**

The presidency of Poriferio Diaz in Mexico resulted in modernization of transportation systems and privatization of land, forcing peasants to use the new transportation to migrate in search of work. (p. 25)

The railroads linked the populated center of Mexico to Texas, a gateway to the now industrialized/industrializing agriculture regions in the US southwest. (p. 25)

Increasing numbers of migratory, seasonal workers were needed to support this shift. (p. 25)

The exclusions of Asians made Mexicans the only quick solution. (p. 25)

The onset of the Great Depression slowed Mexican immigration and began programs to send those that had crossed the border back to Mexico. (p. 25-26)

WWII resulted in another surge of Mexican labor immigration. 🡪 bracero program (p. 26)

From the standpoint of Mexican officials, the laborers were going to absorb the ideas and advances of the US and bring them back with them to modernize and transform Mexico. (p. 26)

The limits on participation in the bracero program lead to an increase in illegal immigration. (p. 27)

In response, Operation Wetback was launched as a massive immigration law enforcement campaign along the southern border. (p. 27)

In the 1970s, Mexico’s economy crashed again and immigrants, legal and illegal, once again began to pour into the US. (p. 27)

The North American Free Trade Agreement encouraged the shuffling of businesses, capital, & labor between the US, Canada, & Mexico, driving more Mexicans out of their homes and north. (p. 27-28)

The refusal of the US to grant refugee status to many SA immigrants lead to a massive social movement, led by churches & religious organizations. (p. 28)

**Urrea: Preface, Prologue, Chapters 1-5, 9, & Epilogue**

The experiences of these immigrants are largely out of sight to the majority of the public. (p. 2)

Despite their conditions, many of the inhabitants of the dump had their own dignity and respect, and expected such in return. (p. 45-46)

***El Norte* Film**

Laborers were exploited to turn against those organizing, it seems through subtle threatening of their families.

There was a constant sense of fear and apprehension🡪a factor leading to migration

They focus on pretending to be Mexican, which shows that there are differences that, to us, are subtle or nonexistent, but must be obvious to natives.

It is really hard to comprehend what the human mind can be driven to do when pressed by desperation.