

## PHOTOGRAPHIC REPORT: MIGRANT WORKERS IN NORTH AMERICA

### i. Description and Purpose

The [first] assignment of this course is a photographic report comparing photo essays by Leonard Nadel (1916–1990) and Vincenzo Pietropaolo (1951–). Nadel was an American photojournalist who followed Mexican workers (known as *braceros*) with his camera in the United States in the 1950s and 1960s. Pietropaolo is a Canadian documentary photographer who photographed migrant Mexican workers in both southern Ontario and Mexico from the mid-1980s to the early 2000s. To address labour shortages in the agricultural sector, both the United States and Canada established bilateral agreements with the Mexican government such as the Bracero Program (1942–1964) and the Canadian Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (1966–). Although these programs have offered impoverished Mexicans with alternative options of employment, they have often been marginalized and exploited by their host societies. You will carefully and critically analyze Nadel’s photographs of *braceros* and Pietropaolo’s photographs of guest workers, comparing and contrasting Mexican agricultural experiences in the United States and Canada. What do we learn about temporary work programs from their photographs? What do these pictures teach us about migrant Mexican experiences in North America? The purpose of this assignment is to move beyond national borders to think about history in a transnational perspective. This document analysis is also designed to provide you with an opportunity to exercise your historical imagination and to engage with visual primary sources in a critical fashion. Before writing your photographic report you need to contextualize Nadel’s and Pietropaolo’s photographs by reading through the works listed below by John Mraz, Peter Burke, Ronald L. Mize, and Tanya Basok.

### ii. Important Details

**Due Date:** To be determined (email before midnight)

**Length:** [XX] pages (double-spaced, 12-font, Times New Roman)

**Sources:**

- [SS] John Mraz. “Mexican History: A Photo Essay.” In *The Mexico Reader: History, Culture, Politics*, eds. Gilbert M. Joseph and Timothy J. Henderson (Durham: Duke University Press, 2002): 297–331.
- [SS] Peter Burke. “Photographs and Portraits.” In *Eyewitnessing: The Uses of Images as Historical Evidence* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2001): 21–25.
- [SS] Ronald L. Mize and Alicia C. S. Swords. “The Bracero Program, 1942–1964.” In *Consuming Mexican Labor: From the Bracero Program to NAFTA* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2011): 3–24.
- [SS] Tanya Basok. *Tortillas and Tomatoes: Transmigrant Mexican Harvesters in Canada* (Queen’s University Press, 2002).
- [PS] Leonard Nadel, *Bracero History Archives* (Centre for History and New Media, 2014): Selections.
- [PS] Vincenzo Pietropaolo. *Harvest Pilgrims: Mexican and Caribbean Migrant Farm Workers in Canada* (Toronto: Between the Lines, 2009): Selections.