NEW Class ● NEW Topic
Not included in our OLLI at ASU Fall Class Schedule!

The Creation of the American Southwest, 1750 to 1950
Instructor: Dr. Brian Gratton, Professor Emeritus
2 sessions: Thursdays, Nov. 5, 12
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Location: Friendship Village Tempe
Room: Village Center in the Private Dining Room

In this two-session class, Professor Gratton links his unique census data on the migration, settlement, and communities of indigenous persons, Hispanic groups, native-born Americans, and immigrants to the region that became the American Southwest after the Mexican American War. In Part 1, he looks briefly at the region in the pre-European period, and, beginning in 1750, uses maps, PowerPoint images, historical documents and literature to reveal a thinly populated area dominated by Indian nations and ravaged by war and slavery. He then surveys the rapid growth of population between 1848 and 1900 in places like Arizona, particularly through migration from other parts of the United States and immigration from Europe and Asia. Part II focuses on the 20th century and the rather late establishment of a Mexican presence throughout the region. Between 1900 and 1930, mass immigration from Mexico leads to the first widely dispersed Mexican American communities in the Southwest, and, by 1950, the Southwest had taken on its current character of a highly diverse, ethnically mixed region.

Instructor Bio:
Brian Gratton, Ph.D., is a scholar of immigration and ethnicity in the United States, Latin America and Europe. He retired as professor of history from ASU in 2014. His publications include two books and numerous articles. He worked on immigration and ethnicity while a Fulbright Fellow in Spain and in Ecuador, and as a Fellow at the Russell Sage Foundation in New York. Dr. Gratton taught immigration history at ASU for 20 years, developing a highly popular course that attracted students from diverse backgrounds. In his teaching, he uses evidence he has developed from the U.S. Census, maps, archival evidence and images to reconstruct the immigration experience, both from the point of view of immigrants and of native-born Americans.

Class fee is only $20.

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Thank you, and please tell a friend about OLLI at ASU!