

# The University of Texas at El Paso

## Chicana/o Studies: Society & Cultural Issues CHIC 3311, CRN# 11857, (3 Semester Hrs.), Fall 2021 August 23, 2021 - December 10, 2021

**Instructor: Adrián Aragonés**

**Virtual Office Hours: by appointment**

**Office: (915) 747-6611**

**Mobile: (915) 867-3311**

**Primary email: Blackboard email (responses within 24 hrs.)**

**Secondary email: [aaragones@utep.edu](mailto:aaragones@utep.edu) (no timeline available)**

### **Course Description:**

This course is designed to provide the student with a general overview of past and present Mexican American culture and society. Using an interdisciplinary framework, this course examines ethnic Mexican identity formation from contact and conquest to the present. The course uses race, ethnicity, class, and gender as categories of analysis to interpret how and why ethnic Mexicans create distinct cultures and identities in the United States. The readings and videos explore a number of topics to include immigration, education, labor, politics, and pop culture for a better understanding of how ethnic Mexicans negotiate, resist, and redefine their place in the U.S.

### **By the end of the class, students will**

1. Develop the critical thinking and analytical skills necessary for effective communication both orally and written.
2. Identify, analyze, and articulate the central themes in Mexican American community and identity formation.
3. Understand theories of race, class, ethnicity, and gender in the shaping of both geo-political and metaphorical borders.
4. Connect the past to the present in an effort to better understand the world around them.
5. View themselves as global citizens.
6. Develop their technology skills and learn to use software available for teaching and learning.

## **Required Materials:**

Bixler-Marquez, D.J.; Ortega, C. Chicana/o Studies: Survey and Analysis Kendall Hunt Publishing, 2014).

- **Keep in mind, you won't need your book until Week #3. So please make a point to have it by then.**
- **Additional readings, movies, and videos will be made available in Blackboard as needed.**

**Grading:** A grading rubric will be explained and provided in class.

A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D = 60-69%; F = 0-59%

## **General Format of Assignments:**

Specific instructions and due dates will be reviewed in class.

## **Journal Entries:**

An opportunity for the students to share and submit a well-written critical response to questions referencing assigned readings, podcast, extra-curricular activity, or movie. These will be submitted in hard-copy format due at the beginning of class on specific days.

## **Quizzes:**

An opportunity for students to demonstrate they have engaged in specific assignments. These will be done online. Please note, they will be assigned on either a predetermined or random date.

## **Meeting with the Instructor:**

It is up to you to meet with me. I am readily available during office hours or an appointment of your choosing. To set up a date and time, please send a Blackboard email. Please allow, at the least, a 24-hour turn-around time for a response. If I do not respond to your mail accordingly, then please text me.

- There are a few ground rules for discussions. Whether you are discussing in a group or as a class, please remember that the appeal of higher learning is that we can think and talk, maturely and responsibly, about topics like race, class, gender, and sexuality. ***Please make an effort to treat each other, and each other's contributions to class discussions, with respect.***

**Please note:** I will make any necessary additions/subtractions to the course work, assignments, reading materials, films, videos, and so forth in the best interest of stated goals and understanding of class materials and ideas.

**Grading Scale:**

A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = 0-59

**Course Policies:**

1. **Attendance:** You are required to check your Blackboard regularly for updates, messages, and such. Blackboard allows me to know how long and how often you visit Blackboard assignments, videos, and such.
  
2. **Expected Journal Entry protocol:**
  - All written assignments done must be in black font .
  - Double-spacing is always expected unless instructed otherwise.
  - Times New Roman or Comic Sans 12 pt. font.
  - 1-inch margins unless instructed otherwise.
  - If you choose to do a cover sheet - please use MLA or APA format for the entire paper - no exceptions.
  - It is imperative that you use proper essay protocol; you are expected to employ on every assignment in this course:
    - Heading: name, class, date (-5/-11).
    - Title (do not use: Essay, Journal Entry #1). Be creative! (-6/-11).
    - Clear thesis, conclusion; organized, articulate, and well-supported thoughts.
      - Thesis = what is your focus and why is that focus important? (-6/-11).
      - Accordingly, a minimum of 3 paragraphs must always be employed unless instructed otherwise. (-6/-11).
      - Paragraphs must be 3-5 or 4-7 sentences in length. This way, your ideas will be organized and to the point. (-6/-11).

3. **Deadlines:** All assignments are posted with a designated due date. Once those assignments close - **there are no make-ups for any assignments, quizzes, tests, and so forth.** No late work accepted.
4. **Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and collusion.
  - a. **Cheating** may involve copying from or providing information to another student, processing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports.
  - b. **Plagiarism** occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as ones' own.
  - c. **Collusion**, involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from the University for such actions.
5. **Students with Disabilities:** If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations you will need to contact the **Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS)** at 747-5148, or by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106 within the first two weeks for classes. For additional information please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass)

**Student Conduct:** [From the Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs]: Each student is responsible for notice of and compliance with the provisions of the Regents [Rules and Regulations](#), which are available for inspection electronically at <http://www.utsystem.edu/bor/rules/homepage.htm>. We will have frequent discussions and students are expected to tolerate.

## **VPN Connection**

- In this class you will access a number of videos that are housed at the UTEP library. The easiest strategy for you to access these videos is to create a VPN (Virtual Private Network) Connection. I have provided a VPN Connection link on the home page, which will assist you in creating your VPN account. The purpose of the VPN is to provide you with easy access to library sources when you are off campus. Click on the VPN Connection link, choose your operating system and follow the detailed instructions for creating your account.
- You can access instructions for how to set up the UTEP VPN on your personal computer here: <http://libguides.utep.edu/howdoi/vpn>
- If you cannot access VPN for whatever reason: technical issues, not familiar with Blackboard, anxiety, or whatever the case - please let me know as soon as an issue arrives or is seen on your horizon. I can only help if an issue is made known.

## **COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS**

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to [covidaction@utep.edu](mailto:covidaction@utep.edu), so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID 19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit [epstrong.org](http://epstrong.org)

## Course Calendar\*

Please know, I can/will make changes to the calendar as needed for the benefit of the class.

### **Module #1: Aug 23 - Sept 5**

#### Week #1

- Intro:
  - Chicano Studies, WTH?
  - Mexican, Mexican Americans, and Americans??
  - Critical Race Theory, WT#?!?
  - Plagiarism: Lesson 1 & Lesson 2 (Blackboard)
  - Quiz: Syllabus & Plagiarism

#### Week #2

Reading / Video:

- Genocide in America, David Stannard (Blackboard)
- "Engineering an Empire" (Blackboard)
- "The Last Conquistador" (Blackboard)
- Assignment: Discussion Board

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### **Module #2: Sept 6 - Sept 19**

#### Week #3

In-class movies (Mon):

- "Danger of a Single Story"
- "Divergent Thinking"

Assignment:

- Journal Entry

#### Week #4

- Tuesday, mandatory in-class peer-review
- Thursday - Journal Entry due: Blackboard submission 9am.

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### **Module #3: Sept 20 - Oct 3**

#### Week #5

##### Readings:

- Ortega, Carlos F., "Introduction: Chicano Studies as a Discipline"
- Class discussion

#### Week #6

- Ruiz, Vicki T., "Confronting America".
- Class discussion / Discussion Board

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### **Module #4: Oct 4 - Oct 17**

#### Week #7

- Gacia, Ignacio M., "Reinterpreting the Chicano Experience"
- Romero, Mary, "El Paso Salt War: Mob Action or Political Struggle?"

##### Assignment:

- Journal Entry

#### Week #8

##### Reading:

- Tuesday, mandatory in-class peer-review
- Thursday - Journal Entry due: Blackboard submission 9am.

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### **Module #5: Oct 18 - Oct 31**

#### Week #9

##### Readings:

- Torres, Rosalia S., "Border Challenges and Ethnic Struggles for Social Justice in Arizona [...]."
- Class Discussion

#### Week #10

- Weaponization of Language: Spanish, Spanglish, & Caló
- Class Discussion / Discussion Board

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**Module #6: Nov 1 - Nov 14**

Week #11

- "Who is Dayani Cristal" in-class movie

Week #12

- Hipsman and Meissner, "Immigration in the United States [...],"
- Lecture / Discussion Board

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**Module #7: Nov 15 - Nov 28**

Week #13

Assignment:

- Journal Entry

Week #14

- Tuesday - Mandatory in-class peer-review
- Thursday - Journal Entry due: Blackboard submission 9am.

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**Module #8: Nov 29 - Dec. 5**

Week #15

- Final Project Prep (TBA)

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**Module #9: Dec 6 - Dec 10**

Week #16

Final: TBA