Instructor: Adrian Aragones  
Office: Graham Hall # 200

Hours:  
- Contact via Blackboard email  
- My phone: 915-867-3311

➔ If you do not get a response within 24 hours of sending a message, then send a text that must include the following:  
  ○ full name, class, and a 1 sentence or less message  
  ○ Without the above info - I will not respond  
  ○ Questions must be sent via Blackboard

- Emails:  
  ○ Blackboard email (priority)  
  ○ aaragones@utep.edu (secondary)

Course Description  
This course is designed to provide the student with a general understanding of past and present Mexican American culture and society; our interdisciplinary course examines education, labor, politics, immigration, and film to better understand how ethnic Mexicans create distinct cultures and identities in the United States. Issues such as citizenship, class, gender, and sexuality are also interrogated to increase awareness of the way that Mexican American culture and society constantly redefines itself. Students will develop a number of skills to include critical thinking, reasoning, analysis, and maintaining a point of view, verbally and in writing.
Additionally, this course will help students develop computer & electronic communication skills, critical thinking, and overall writing skill too.

In-class exercises size are a means to provide a comfortable, manageable, and positive environment where you will not only create networks but also friendships that will last beyond UTEP! Chicanismo = family, friendship, and fictive kin.

The concepts and skills will prepare you for not only the points mentioned earlier concerning critical thinking and writing but also familiarize you with university resources and programs, both on and off campus as well as in the world at large.

**Required Texts:**
- No particular text is required for this course.
- Readings, movies, videos, and such will be made available via Blackboard

**Grading:**
- A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D = 60-69%; F = 0-59%
- A writing guide for this course is found on our Blackboard “HOME PAGE” alongside the course syllabus.

**General Format of Assignments:**
- In-class assignments; Discussion-board assignments; Reflection essays; Quizzes; No mid-term; Final Exam (TBA).

**Attendance:**
- There are no make-ups for any assignments, quizzes, tests, presentations and so forth.
- In case you missed it - there are no make-ups for any assignments, quizzes, tests, presentations and so forth.
- And, just to be sure - there are no make-ups for any assignments, quizzes, tests, presentations and so forth.
  - If you miss instructions or a due-date - you still cannot submit late work without medical documentation or having spoken to me prior to any deadline.
• Scholarship & military duty that requires travel - you are still responsible for due dates - no exceptions.

Dropping the Class:
• It is the student’s responsibility to drop/withdraw from the class.
• I do not drop students from the course - that is an individual’s responsibility to do so.
• I do not drop anyone after the drop-date without medical documentation - no exceptions.

Format of Written Work:
• Black font
• Times New Roman 12 pt. font
• 1-inch margins, double-spaced
• Paragraph = 3-5 or 4-7 sentences
• Paragraph = main idea and supporting sentences
• In-text citations = (author’s last name, p. #).
• No cover pages.
• No cover sheets or graphics of any kind - unless it’s a chart or graphic specific to your topic.

Technical issues with Blackboard
• If you cannot submit your work because of a technical issue: you must contact UTEP Blackboard Support before you contact me.
• Please know you submit work after the due-date - Blackboard will not let you submit any work because links for submissions will not be available. Consequently, this is not a technical issue.

• Any problems or issues with submitting/downloading/viewing anything on or related to Blackboard, students need to contact Tech Support before contacting the instructor.

• After contacting tech support, students should then notify the instructors.
**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. **Cheating** may involve copying from or providing information to another student, processing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. **Plagiarism** occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as one's own. **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.

**Students with Disabilities:**
- I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities.
- Please see me personally before or after class in the first two weeks or make an appointment to discuss any special needs you might have.
- 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, 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](http://www.utsystem.edu/bor/rules/homepage.htm). We will have frequent discussions and students are expected to tolerate and respect the opinions of others. All students are expected to behave as responsible adults.

**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](http://libguides.utep.edu/howdoi/vpn)

**COVID-19 Precautions**

- (all classes) You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19
- (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or
- (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at screening.utep.edu. If you know anyone who should report any of these three criteria, encourage them to report.

- If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to COVIDaction@utep.edu. (all classes) For each day that you attend campus—for any reason—you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website (screening.utep.edu) prior to arriving on campus. The website will verify if you are permitted to come to campus. Under no circumstances should anyone come to class when feeling ill or exhibiting any of the known COVID-19 symptoms.

- If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. Students are advised to minimize the number of encounters with others to avoid infection. 10 (all classes).

- Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present. You must wear a face covering over your nose and mouth at all times in this class. If you choose not to wear a face covering, you may not enter the classroom. If you remove your face covering, you will be asked to put it on or leave the classroom. Students who refuse to wear a face covering and follow preventive COVID-19 guidelines will be dismissed from the class and will be subject to disciplinary action according to Section 1.2.3 Health and Safety and Section 1.2.2.5 Disruptions in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. (classes with on-campus meetings) Please note that if COVID-19 conditions deteriorate in the City of El Paso, all course and lab activities may be transitioned to remote delivery.
Course Calendar

- The following is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class.
- If you are absent, you are responsible for finding out about any changes. As a college-level course, you are expected to ably work independently.
- If you miss work, score poorly on a quiz or assignment - DO NOT ask for extra-credit opportunities to make up for low scores or missed assignments.

MODULE 1: Jan 18 - Jan 23: Brown Pride

Week 1:
- Podcast (found in MODULE 1)
  - What Chicano/a Studies is.
- Stannard Article
- “The Last Conquistador Video”
- Due Sunday, Jan 23 @ 11pm
  - Syllabus Quiz.
  - Discussion-board Assignment

MODULE 2: Jan 24 - Feb 6: Historical Perspective & Perception

Week 2: Jan 24 - Jan 30:
- Podcast:
  - Indigeneity
- PDF:
- Video:
  - Danger of a Single Story
  - Divergent Thinking
- PDF:
  - Romero, Mary. El Paso Salt War, pp. 13-20
  - Ruiz, Vicki. Confronting America, pp. 33-42

Week 3: Jan 31 - Feb 6: Assignment
- Discussion-board assignment
- Reflection essay
  - Both assignments Open = Monday, Jan 31 9am; Due = Sunday, Feb 6 @ 11pm (MST)
MODULE 3: Feb 7 - Feb 20: Perception & Perspective

Week 4: Weaponizing ethnicity
- Podcast:
  - Mexican American: Origin story
- PDF:
- Video:
  - Who is Dayani Crystal (approx. 60 min)
  - Revisionaries (approx. 60 min)
- PDF:
  - Romero, Mary. El Paso Salt War, pp. 13-20
  - Ruiz, Vicki. Confronting America, pp. 33-42

Week 5: Assignment
- Discussion-board assignment
- Reflection essay
  - Both assignments Open = Monday, Feb 14 @ 9am (MST); Due = Sunday, Feb 20 @ 11pm (MST)

MODULE 4: Feb 21 - Mar 6: Education

Week 6: Education = Power
- Podcast:
  - Mexican American: Equality v. Equity
- PDF:
  - Johnson, de la Pierda et. al. “Mexican-heritage Children’s Learning of Ballet Folklórico: Herencia, Familia, y Orgullo
- Video:
  - Lemon Grove Incident (approx. 70 min)
  - Stolen Education (approx. 70 min)

Week 7: Assignment
- Discussion-board assignment
- Reflection essay
  - Both assignments Open = Monday, Jan 31 9am; Due = Sunday, Feb 6 @ 11pm (MST)
Final Exam: Mar 7 -12

Week 8:
- Final Project (TBA)
- Due Friday, Mar 11 @ 5pm