

The University of Texas at El Paso

Chicana/o Studies: Societal Issues

**CHIC 3311, CRN 21331, Spring 2016
T/Th 9am – 10:20am Quinn 206**

Adrián Aragonés

Office Hours: TR 3:00-4:30pm and by appointment

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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 analyses 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 Texts:

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

Additional required readings will be located on Blackboard.

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Discussion: You are expected to attend class. Completion of the course depends on your attendance. If you miss a class period, it is your responsibility to obtain handouts (from the instructor) and notes (from a fellow student).

It is equally important that you **arrive to class on time!** If you are more than 10 minutes late to class **DO NOT bother entering the classroom!** Tardiness is disruptive; therefore, classroom door(s) will be closed 10 minutes after class starts.

There are a few ground rules for discussion. You will regularly work in small groups discussing the assigned readings related to the class. 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.*

In-class response papers: There will be short reading quizzes throughout the semester to ensure that you are engaging all class materials. Therefore, you must attend class, arrive on time, and keep up with your readings. **There are absolutely no make-ups for in-class response papers.**

Midterm Exam: There will be a midterm exam tentatively scheduled for **March 03, 2016**. The midterm will cover Parts I and II of the course calendar. **There are no make-ups for exams.**

Group presentation: I will provide a detailed assignment sheet and a detailed in-class explanation of what is required for this assignment.

Final Exam: The semester will end with a final exam scheduled for **May 5, 2016** and cover select material since the Midterm Exam. I will provide a detailed review sheet and detailed in-class explanation of what is required for the final exam.

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: Final grades will be given according to the student's demonstrated level of mastery of the subject matter as determined by his/her assignments, class discussion, and attendance. The assignments for this course are based on a scale of 100 points. Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Score</u>
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

GRADUATE CREDIT FOR THIS COURSE: In order to obtain graduate credit for this course, you must satisfactorily complete a graduate level project with a topic and parameters approved beforehand by the course instructor

Class Policies:

- 1. Attendance:** Attendance and participation in class are required. Should you miss a class, you are still responsible for everything that is covered in that class. Missing class or being late is no excuse for missing a due date or misunderstanding an assignment. Therefore, you will

want to make contact with a classmate, not the instructor, to find out what you missed. **There are no make-ups for any assignments, quizzes, tests, presentations and so forth.**

2. **Dropping the Class:** Students may drop the class and receive a “W” any time before **April 01, 2016**. It is the student’s responsibility to drop/withdraw from the class.
3. **Format of Written Work:** All written assignments done outside of class must be typed using **black ink, Times New Roman 12 pt. font, 1-inch margins, double-spaced, on white paper**. Notes and in-class work must be legible. In-class assignments require a black or blue pen. No work in pencil is unacceptable.
4. **Deadlines:** Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date or as explained otherwise. No late work accepted. However, any assignment may be handed in early for a draft-review by instructor.
5. **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 ones’ 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.
6. **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
7. **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 and respect the opinions of others. All students are expected to behave as responsible adults.

Please SILENCE cell phones before class and NO TEXT MESSAGING and/or FACEBOOKING during class!!!

Course Calendar: The following is subject to change with reasonable notice to students. Any changes will be announced in class. If you miss a class meeting it is your responsibility to ask about any changes.

Part 1: Historical Perspectives

Week 1: Tuesday (T) Jan. 19 – Introductions, Methodologies, and Perspectives

Thursday (Th) Jan. 21 – Manifest Destiny and other /pendejismos/.

In-class assignment: What is that?

Week 2: (T) Jan. 26 – *Historical Perspectives* (main topic)

Read: pgs.: 3-11; 13-20

(Th) Jan. 28 – La Chamba y El Jale

Read: pgs.: 23-32; 33-42; 47-69

Week 3: (T) Feb. 2 – *Demographics, society, labor, and culture* (main topic)

Read: pgs.: 79-86; 87-104

(Th) Feb. 4 – “May they who have eyes see.”

Read: pgs.: 107-112

In-class assignment: TBA

Week 4: (T) Feb. 9 – Salud!

Read: pgs.: 113-126; 129-142

(Th) Feb. 11 – Brown = Green

Read: pgs.: 147-154; 155-168

In-class assignment: TBA

Week 5: (T) Feb. 16 – **Political and Socioeconomic Perspectives**

Read: pgs.: 177-189

Film: *Brown is the New Green*

(Th) Feb. 18 – Fighting Like Americans

Film: *Band of Brothers / Saving Pvt. Ryan*

Week 6: (T) Feb. 23 – Political bodies

Read: pgs.: 193-202; 205-218

(Th) Feb. 25 – “Democrats, Republicans, and Tea-partiers, oh my!”

Read: pgs.: 223-224; 225-230; 233-237; 239-240

In-class assignment: TBA

Week 7: (T) Mar. 1 – Chicana Feminism: what the hell is that?

Read: 241-249; 253-260

(Th) Mar. 3 – **Midterm Exam**

Week 8: Spring Break – March 07, 2016 through March 11, 2016

Week 9: (T) Mar. 15 – Educational Perspectives

Read: Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo // 14th & 15th Amendments

(Th) Mar. 17 – Lynching: Institutionalized hate

Film: *Without Sanctuary*

In-class assignment: TBA

Week 10: (T) Mar. 22 – Re-drawing “the line in the sand”...ha!

Read: 295-307, 311-327; 333-342

(Th) Mar. 24 – “Education of the masses begins with education of the self.”

Read: 345-349

In-class assignment: TBA

Week 11: (T) Mar. 29 – Banned book = Institutionalized fear

Read: 351-352

(Th) Mar. 31 – Banned books (cont’d)

In-class assignment: TBA

Last Day to Withdraw From Class With a “W” is Friday, April 1, 2016

Week 12: (T) Apr. 5 – “Never let school get in the way of your education.” - Twain

Read: 367-373

(Th) Apr. 7 – I.Qs & Eugenics

Read: pgs.: 375-390

Week 13: (T) Apr. 12 – Grapes of Wrath

(Th) Apr. 14 – Grapes of Wrath (cont’d)

In-class reading assignment: TBA

Week 14: (T) April. 19 – Literature, Art, Folklore, Music, and Cinema

Read: pgs.: 421-424

(Th) Apr. 21 – Power of paint & print

Read: pgs.: 425-433

Week 15: (T) Apr. 26 – Pen over the sword

Read: pgs.: 435-442

(Th) Apr. 28 – Unos cuentos....

Read: pgs.:445-456

Week 16: (T) May 3 – Study for final exam

(Th) May 5 – **Final Exam**

I have read the syllabus in its entirety and understand the expectations made of me. By signing this contract, I agree to abide by the syllabus and comply with any changes that may arise throughout the semester. Further, I understand that this document will be filed and made available to The Office of the Dean, if necessary.

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____