

## **The University of Texas at El Paso**

**Chicana/o Studies: Societal Issues**  
**CHIC 3311, CRN 24912, (3 Semester Hrs.), Spring 2017**  
**March 20, 2017 – May 13, 2017**

**Instructor: Adrián Aragonés**

**Virtual Office Hours: M-F 10am – 11am or 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 readings, movie clips, and music videos will be available via Blackboard.

### **Course Requirements:**

**Attendance and Discussion:** You are expected to participate via discussions and assignments. Completion of the course depends on your attendance. If you miss a class update, it is your responsibility to obtain them from the instructor. It is equally important that you **complete all assignments on time!**

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.***

### **Learning Modules:**

The class consists of:

- Five (5) Learning Modules:
- An Introduction and Getting Started module
- Three (3) theme related modules,
- Final Exam module.
- In each Learning Module you will find:
  - a short Introduction; a Lecture, which deals with the topic at hand; all Readings and Videos; Quiz links; Assignment links; and Discussion Board links. Each Learning Module will last approximately twelve (12) days.
- The embedded Quiz, Assignment, and Discussion links will open according to the scheduled due dates and deadlines.
  - See Course Calendar for all due dates and deadlines. Remember: You will not see a Quiz, Assignment, and/or Discussion link until the day that they are scheduled on the Course Calendar.
- Quizzes:
  - There will be four reading quizzes, one in each of the first four Learning Modules.
  - There is no quiz during the week of the Final Exam.
  - The quizzes will be located inside of the individual Learning Modules. Check course calendar for scheduled dates and deadlines for all quizzes.
  - Quizzes contain “ESSAY” components. In these sections, where applicable, your answers should be at least 200 word response.
- Individual Assignments = 3
- You will submit three (3) assignments.
- You will submit two (2) Critical Response Papers for Learning Modules 2 and 3
- One (1) Photo Essay Assignment for Learning Module 4.
  - I will provide a set of guidelines on “How to Write a Critical Response Paper” as well as a set of questions to guide your analysis, and I will provide a detailed assignment sheet for the Photo Essay that explains what is required. Check course calendar for assignment due dates and deadlines.

- Group Discussion Boards:
  - You will work in groups of five to six.
  - Random groups will be generated the second week of class.
  - These are permanent groups and no changes will be permitted.
  - There will be two (2) Group Discussion Boards associated with Learning Modules 2 and 3, and participation in the group boards is required.
  - You will find your Group Discussion Board Links embedded in the opening page of Learning Modules 2 and 3. Check course calendar for Group Discussion Board deadlines and due dates.
  - Your posts must be a 200-word response.

**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

**Class Policies:**

1. **Attendance:** You are required to check your Blackboard regularly for updates, messages, and such.
2. **Format of Written Work:** All written assignments done must be typed using **black ink, Times New Roman 12 pt. font, 1-inch margins, single-spaced, using Microsoft Word, unless instructed otherwise. Also, it is imperative that you use proper essay protocol: heading: name, class, date; title; and paragraphs accordingly.**
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. However, you are welcomed to submit any assignment early for a draft-review by the instructor.
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. ***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.

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)
6. **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.

### **Our Virtual Classroom**

- I have provided a set of Course Policies and Procedures and Grading Rubric.
  - From the Home Page go to the Course Resources folder. Here, along with a copy of the syllabus, you will find the Course Policies and Procedures as well as the Course Grading Rubric.
  - Please access this as soon as possible and familiarize yourself with the do's and don'ts of the course and the grading scales for all assignments.
  - The information provided is extremely important and crucial for your success in this course.
- All communication with me must be conducted through Blackboard email.
- Please do not send emails to my UTEP address.
- When you email me, be sure to include as much information as possible to include your first and last name, title of class, and CRN number.
- I will respond to you within 24 hours.
  - NOTE: I will be checking my Blackboard email regularly Monday - Friday between 8:00am – 5:00pm (MST). I do not respond to email on Saturdays or Sundays.
- Online learning is not a spectator sport. It is everyone's responsibility to participate fully so that everyone can get the most from the experience. Here are some simple rules to ensure participation and engagement in the learning process:
- Ask Questions: I have created is a Discussion Forum entitled HELP BOARD, located under the General Discussion Forums tab on the Home Page.
- The Help Board is for asking questions related to content OR any other problems you are having. Make sure that you have clearly indicated the subject of your message.
- If you are having technical difficulties you will probably be directed to tech support.

- Reach Out to Others: Offer a fact, article, link or other items that can help others learn something you can share.
- Inappropriate behavior/comments online will not be tolerated.
- Inappropriate behavior will BE subject to disciplinary action.
- I reserve the right to drop you from this course if you use our class as a venue for insulting or insensitive comments, and/or attacks toward other students or the instructor.

## Course Calendar

The following is subject to change with reasonable notice to students. If you miss a class update, it is your responsibility to ask about any changes.

### **Learning Module 1 (March 20 – March 26)**

- This week is your opportunity to study the long and detailed syllabus and to familiarize yourself with the Blackboard System.
- Post an introduction of yourself in La Llorona Internet Café by Friday, March 24, 2017 11:59 (MST).
- Internet Café and Help Board are located under the General Discussion Links on the Home Page.
- Your Group Discussion Board Links are located under My Groups below the Course Content on the left hand side of the Home Page.
- Click on your group then on Discussion Boards and locate the appropriate Discussion Board.
- All Group Discussion Boards will be located in this manner.
- You will be required to take the Syllabus/Plagiarism Quiz, which will be available Friday, March 24, 2017 at 9am until Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 11:59pm (MST).
- The quiz is based on your reading of the syllabus and the Plagiarism video located in the Table of Contents of the Introduction Learning Module
- NOTE: The instructor cannot provide technical support. For questions concerning the site and any technical questions or support you must contact Blackboard Tech Support at 1-877-382-0491 and they are available 24/7.

### **Learning Module 2 (March 27 – April 2)**

#### *Historical Perspectives*

- **Read:** 3-11; 13-20 // 23-32; 33-42; 47-69
- **Video:** *The Golden Land*
  - **Note:** All videos listed in this course are required viewing.
- Reading quiz due: available from Thursday at 8am to Friday at 5pm (MST). All quizzes are located under the Table of Contents of each Learning Module.

### **Learning Module 2 (April 3 – April 9)**

- **Individual Response Paper and Group Discussion Post** due Monday by 11:59pm (MST): Type a 500-word response to Week 2 readings and videos then create 1 question related to the readings and video to the Group Discussion Board.
- **Group Discussion Boards** are in effect from the moment you post your first response until Friday evening at 11:59pm (MST).

### **Learning Module 3 (April 10 – April 16)**

#### *Education*

- **Read:** 295-307, 311-327; 333-342; 345-349; 351-352
- **Video:** *A Class Apart* and *Chicano! Quest For a Homeland*
- **Quiz:** Reading Quiz due: available from Thursday at 5pm to Friday at 11:59pm (MST).
  - All quizzes are located under the Table of Contents of each Learning Module.

### **Learning Module 3 (April 17 – April 23)**

- Individual Response Paper and Group Discussion Post: due Monday by 11:59pm (MST). Type a 500-word response to Week 4 readings and videos then create 1 question related to the readings and video to the Group Discussion Board.

### **Learning Module 4 (April 24 – May 1)**

#### *Institutionalized Fear*

- **Read:** pgs.:177-205 // 241-249 // 353-390
- **Video:** Chicano! *Taking Back the Schools.* and *Hispanic Education at the Crossroads.*
- **Reading Quiz due:** available from Thursday at 5pm to Friday at 1159pm (MST).
- All quizzes are located under the table of Contents of each Learning Module.

### **Learning Module 4 (May 2 – May 7)**

- Individual photo essay due: May 7, 2017 by 11:59 (MS). The Photo Essay will consist of photos taken by you and accompanied by the texts that reflect and symbolize your own communities. I will provide a detailed assignment sheet inside of the Learning Module.

### **Learning Module 5 (May 10- May 13)**

- The final exam is comprehensive and will cover Modules 2, 3, and 4.
- The final exam is available on Wednesday, May 10, 2017 and due Saturday, May 13, 2017 at 11:59pm (MST).
- Good Luck!

**Deadline Policy:**

- Deadline for assignments and quizzes is 11:59 PM (MST) on the due date
- CHECK COURSE CALENDAR for all due dates and deadlines as late submissions will not be graded.
- Please ensure that you carefully read the Course Calendar and all instructions. It is your responsibility to meet all class requirements.

**Required Software:**

- Having your computer hardware and all software up to date is essential to access course content.
- Please take some time to access the following link and read the information provided to ensure you are prepared for success!  
[http://utepconnect.utep.edu/documents/BestPractices\\_New/Check Your Technology.pdf](http://utepconnect.utep.edu/documents/BestPractices_New/Check Your Technology.pdf)
- You definitely need Adobe Acrobat Reader to access the lectures and readings for the class, as they are all (.pdf) files. If you do not have Adobe Reader on your computer you can download the program for free by going to <https://get.adobe.com/reader/otherversions/> and follow the instructions to install the reader.
- You are also required to have a media player plug-in to view the assigned videos for this class. The most common plug-ins are Adobe Flash Player, Windows Media Player, and QuickTime Player VLC Player. You can get a free media player plug-in by going to <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/> and following the download instructions. If you use Google Chrome as your browser then the Adobe Flash Player is already built in.
- When creating documents, slide presentations, spreadsheets, etc., you must use Microsoft Office or a compatible program. Microsoft Office is available at the UTEP bookstore to students at a discounted price. If you cannot purchase it you can access it at any of the computer labs on campus. Be sure you have the appropriate word processing software because if I cannot open your documents, they WILL NOT be graded.

**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.

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- CHECK COURSE CALENDAR for all due dates and deadlines as late submissions will not be graded.
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[http://utepconnect.utep.edu/documents/BestPractices\\_New/Check Your Technology.pdf](http://utepconnect.utep.edu/documents/BestPractices_New/Check Your Technology.pdf)
- You definitely need Adobe Acrobat Reader to access the lectures and readings for the class, as they are all (.pdf) files. If you do not have Adobe Reader on your computer you can download the program for free by going to <https://get.adobe.com/reader/otherversions/> and follow the instructions to install the reader.
- You are also required to have a media player plug-in to view the assigned videos for this class. The most common plug-ins are Adobe Flash Player, Windows Media Player, and QuickTime Player VLC Player. You can get a free media player plug-in by going to <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/> and following the download instructions. If you use Google Chrome as your browser then the Adobe Flash Player is already built in.
- When creating documents, slide presentations, spreadsheets, etc., you must use Microsoft Office or a compatible program. Microsoft Office is available at the UTEP bookstore to students at a discounted price. If you cannot purchase it you can access it at any of the computer labs on campus. Be sure you have the appropriate word processing software because if I cannot open your documents, they WILL NOT be graded.

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