

The University of Texas at El Paso

Chicana/o Studies: Societal Issues

**CHIC 3311-007, CRN 34838, Summer 2018
MTWTF – 9:30 am – 11:30 am; Geology Building 123**

July 10, 2018 – August 03, 2018

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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, podcasts, and videos/movies 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!**

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.*

Assigned work: All work will be due according to the class syllabus and course calendar. If work is not submitted on the due date, you may submit a hardcopy within 24 hours of the due date. However, please know that any late work will automatically lose 1-letter grade. Beyond the 24-hour period, no paper will be accepted – no exceptions.

Midterm Exam: There is no mid-term exam.

Final Exam: The semester will end with a final exam scheduled for **TBA**. It will be a comprehensive exam covering the whole semester. 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.
 - a. **Random quizzes will be assigned in class.** They will count towards your grade as well as for attendance. As before, they will be assigned randomly and without prior notice. If missed, you cannot make up the work, no exceptions.
2. **Dropping the Class:** It is the student's responsibility to drop/withdraw from the class.
3. **Format of Written Work:**
 - **Black ink**
 - **Times New Roman 12 pt. font**
 - **1-inch margins, double-spaced, on white paper.**
 - In-class assignments require a black or blue pen.
 - No work in pencil is unacceptable.
4. **Technical issues with Blackboard**
 - 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 instructor.
5. **Deadlines:**
 - Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date or as explained otherwise.
 - All late work subject to the loss of one letter grade for each day it is late.
- **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

- **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.
- NO USING PHONES IN CLASS UNLESS WE HAVE A PRIOR AGREEMENT.
- YOU RISK LOSING A LETTER GRADE FROM YOUR FINAL GRADE FOR EVERY INFRACTION – NO EXCEPTIONS.
- IT IS ABOUT RESPECT AND PROFESSIONAL COURTESY.

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.

For the duration of the course, the following will apply:

(T) = assigned reading found in the textbook

(A) = assigned reading found in Blackboard in PDF format

Week 1: (Tue) July 10 – **Thinking & writing critically**

- Readings
 - (A) “How to get an “A”
 - (A) Flores, “History, Memory-Place, and Silence: The public construction of the past”.
- Conversation:
 - Edward Soja, Edward Said, Michel Foucault, John Dewey
- Video:
 - (In-class) “*Without Sanctuary*”
- Music:
 - Billie Holiday, “Strange Fruit”
 - Cheech & Chong, “Mexican American”
 - Kendrick Lamar, “King Kunta”
 - Johnny Cash, “Folsom Prison”
 - Snow, the Product, “Ay, Ay, Ay”

Week 2: (M) July 16 – **Historical Perspectives**

- (T) Romero, “El Paso Salt War: Mob Action or Political Struggle?” pp. 13-22
- (T) Ruiz, “Confronting “America”, pp. 33-46

- Movie(s):
 - *The Fence*
 - *Brown is the New Green*
- Essay: Borders, Walls, and Identity
 - Due Monday, July 23, 2018 at the start of class.

Week 3: (M) July 23 – Education

- Readings
 - (A) *Ideology and United States History Textbooks* (p. 361-384)
 - (A) *The Depiction of Native Americans* (p.311-317)
 - (T) Gonzalez, Gilbert, “The Segregation and Education of Mexican Children”, pp. 295-310.
 - (T) Bernal, Dolores, “Chicana/o Education from the Civil Rights Wra to the Present”, pp. 311-319.
 - (T) Vaca, Nicolas C, “Who’s the Leader of the Civil Rights Band: Latinos’ role in Brown v. Board of Education”, pp. 333-344
 - (T) Cabrera, Nolan, “The Fight for Mexican-American Studies in Tucson (p.345)
- Movie(s):
 - “Precious Knowledge”
 - “A Class Apart”

Week 4: (M) July 30 - Socio-political spaces

- Readings
- (T) Garcia, I. “Reinterpreting the Chicano Experience”, pp.177-192.
- (T) Rorres, Rosaliz, “BorderChallenges and Ethnic Sruggles for Social Justice in Arizona: Hispanic Communities Under Siege”, pp. 193-204.
- **Final Exam (TBA)**