COURSE SYLLABUS

CHIC 3304
Cultural Diversity and Youth (online)
CRN: 11246
Fall, 2020
Carlos F. Ortega
cortega@utepe.edu
Office hours: MR: 2:30 – 4 pm

NOTE: Please screen the following film (6 minutes): covidtraining.questionpro.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION

CHIC 3304 is a Liberal Arts elective, although majors and minors in Chicano Studies can also take the class as part of their degree plan. The purpose of this course is to guide the student towards and understanding of the history and heritage of Chicano/Latino music as a form of cultural expression and its impact on U.S. popular music. We will examine a wide range of music from traditional folk music, such as the corrido, to more contemporary forms, such as rock. This will be accomplished through the study of readings, music, and film. While everyone brings some level of musical experience, this course seeks to develop within the student a greater appreciation of past musical styles, while at the same time building a greater understanding of more contemporary styles at the popular and cultural as well as cultural levels. Prior musical training is not required to do well in this course although at times basic musical technique or knowledge will be developed in learning modules. What is essential is learning how to listen as well as understanding the role of culture in developing an improved appreciation and comprehension of a broad repertoire of Chicano/Latino music.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Develop a reflective understanding of seminal writings and recordings documenting past and present Chicano/Latino musical experiences and expressions.

2. Gain a holistic appreciation of the diversity of U.S. Latino music and the factors affecting its multiple manifestations over space and time.

3. Develop a multidisciplinary understanding of methodological practices and theoretical perspectives available for the comparative study of Chicano/Latino music.

4. Improve individual and collective critical reading, listening, writing and communication skills for studying and discussing music in its community contexts.

These objectives will be accomplished in a variety of ways: Objectives 1 and 2 will be realized through key readings on specific musical styles and extensive listening of original recordings. Objective 3 will be accomplished through mini lecture and readings on the nature of popular culture and ethnomusicology. Objective 4 will be accomplished though critical writing assignments.
REQUIRED MATERIALS

All class readings will be found on Blackboard. Each reading is listed on the course calendar. Additional readings may be added later, and any podcasts or TED talks will count as required listening.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Course grading for the course will be based on Grading Rubrics. How well you interpret the rubric will affect your assignment and ultimately, your course grade. You can find these rubrics by clicking on the specific assignment link on Blackboard and choosing to “View Rubric” from the button beneath the “Points Possible” for the assignment.


--- 15 points: Personal Narrative Paper
--- 20 points: Midterm (based on music and concepts from weeks 2 through 6)
--- 20 points: Music critiques (4)
--- 30 points: Final Project
--- 15 points: Discussion board Participation (3)

The Personal Narrative Paper will introduce the student to critical writing. Here the student will analyze their understanding and use of the word, “Chicano.”

The midterm paper will take the student into specific concepts used to analyze music styles and will demonstrate their understanding, support or opposition to these ideas presented in the assignment.

The music critique papers will be short works based on a specific musical style and related to the course.

The final project will be designed to allow students to personally reflect on their learning experience in the class. They will write on issues and concepts of their own choice and demonstrate the extent of their learning, the “so what” aspect of their experience within the confines of this subject.

Participation will be based on discussion board activities where students will have the opportunity to interact with one another. Other forms of participation, such as virtual interactions may also be utilized.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

As an online course, attendance will be based on class participation online. Participation is based on the following:

* Reading/Viewing of all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements.
* Participating in discussions with class peers on discussion boards.
* Completing all Module activities (including tests and papers).

* Completing all key assignments.

In order to maintain student GPA’s, it is important that completion of all required assignments is a must. Not turning in assignments or failure to participate, could result in the student being dropped from the class or losing a grade.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Course content is delivered through the internet via the Blackboard Learning Management System (LMS). To ensure the best possible outcome, please ensure that: Your UTEP and Blackboard email system is in working order and that Web access and browser is accessible. For browsers, Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome and Windows 10 should do the trick. Be advised, if one of these goes down and is causing trouble, switching to another browser will be the next step. Other browsers may cause problems.

You will need access to a computer/laptop, webcam and microphone, and perhaps a scanner. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Flash player, windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up to date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you ever encounter technical difficulties (and we all do) beyond your abilities to troubleshoot, please contact the Help Desk (747-4357) as they are available to assist with all manner of problems.

ONLINE ETIQUETTE

* Please consider your audience. Members of the class and your instructor will be reading posts.

* Respect and courtesy must always be provided to students and instructor. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.

* When reacting to someone’s posting, address the idea, not the person.

* Blackboard is not a public venue; therefore, all postings should be considered private and confidential. All postings are for students and instructor enrolled in this class. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, etc. If students wish to do so, they have an ethical obligation to first request the permission of the writer(s).

* Finally, as with any course, we are about the sharing of ideas to understand a set of experiences faced by the Mexican-origin community. Not everyone will agree with the instructor’s point of view. Let us agree to disagree.

LATE WORK POLICY/WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

All writing assignments will be due on Sundays at 11:59 pm. Any late work will be see a deduction of 3 to 5 points depending on the assignment.
DROP POLICY

To drop this class, please contact the Registrar’s office to initiate the drop process. If you cannot complete the course contact me first. If you do not, then you are risk of receiving a “D” or “F” for the term. Drop deadline (with a “W”) is October 30, 2020.

ACCOMODATIONS POLICY

The University is committed to providing reasonable and auxiliary services to students enrolled in courses. Anyone with documented disabilities is eligible to receive equal opportunities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the American with disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments (ADAA) of 2008. You may contact the Center for Accommodations and Student Services at 915-747-5148 or cass@utep.edu.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of UTEP’s Handbook of Operating Procedures. This includes, but not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. This is to say that students are expected to maintain integrity in all classes in their work within the university. This means they will not be involved in cheating, where one copies or provides information on a test, falsifying research data, or possessing unauthorized data on a test. Students will avoid plagiarism where the knowingly present a paper or research as their own by not giving credit to the original author. With collusion, the student engages with another student to commit a dishonest act, such as cheating. Suspected acts of academic dishonesty will be reported by the instructor to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. This office will carry out any disciplinary actions as deemed necessary.

STUDENT RESOURCES

* UTEP Library: Access to a wide range of resources including journals, e-books, films plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students. Many of these resources are online.

* Help Desk: Students confronting technological problems can call, email, or walk-in to this office and will be assisted by staff. Call: 747-4357 or, email at: helpdesk@utep.edu

* University Writing Center: Located on the second floor of the library, students may make appointment to have their papers reviewed, especially with grammar.

* Military Student Success Center: Welcomes all military affiliated students to its degree programs. Most staff are veterans as well as students thus helping to make the transition to university life a bit easier.