

**Fall 2014 (August 25 – October 18)  
CHICANO CINEMA Online Course  
(CHIC 3302 - 008 CRN 16515) Syllabus  
3 credits**

The University of Texas At El Paso  
Chicano Studies Program  
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Graham Hall #104  
El Paso, Texas 79968

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If you prefer to speak with me by telephone, contact me through Blackboard  
Email to set up a telephone appointment.

**Content Introduction**

Chicano Cinema is designed to provide students with an overview of Chicano cinema history and the skills necessary to analyze and critique cinema. Students will learn about Chicano cinema theory, aesthetics, genres, and basic cinema criticism. Students will analyze cinema through an examination of story, directing, acting, scenes, and producing to allow students to view cinema critically, to develop a systematic and convincing interpretation of the films they watch, and to acquire the ability to analyze cinema in well-constructed and persuasive essays.

**Course Objective**

Chicano Cinema is designed to assist you in learning the aesthetic and technical fundamentals of Chicano cinema arts through lectures, readings, screenings, discussions and assignments. This class provides opportunities for you to develop your skills in writing about and discussing films through semiotics.

**Course Description**

Chicano Cinema is an examination of the American film industry with respect to the Chicano's role, historically and culturally, in the genre. A series of films, including Hollywood commercial and Chicano made films, will be screened, as part of an analysis of Chicano images and their impact on American popular culture. This is an interdisciplinary course that employs analytical constructs and techniques used in cultural anthropology, sociology, film criticism, and history.

## **Course Rationale**

This course is part of the interdisciplinary major in Chicano Studies (30 semester hours of core courses) and of the minor (18 hours): Social Science Option, Humanities Option, Fine Arts Option, and Interdisciplinary Option.

## **Prerequisites**

- None

## **Learning Outcomes**

At the successful completion of this course, you will understand

- the past and present role of Chicanos and their impact on the American film industry;
- the concepts of race, culture, class and gender via the analysis of contemporary societal issues within the Chicano cinema genre;
- filmmaking techniques that account for various cinema genres and styles;
- techniques used by Chicano filmmakers tied to human rights, environment, and social-change movements;
- how stories, characters, and themes in Chicano films address the needs of culturally diverse populations;
- the goals and characteristics of Chicano cinema.

## **At the successful completion of this course, you will be able to**

- discuss the various styles of filmmaking;
- read cinema as a text and decipher its messages;
- write and develop usable film reviews;
- employ story formula characteristics for making a short film; create short video projects that demonstrate an understanding of mise-en-scène and story;

## **Important dates**

Classes begin	25-AUG
Last day to select P/F Option	9-SEPT
Course drop with "W" deadline	29-SEPT
Last day of classes	18-OCT
Final Exams	13-OCT
*Final grades due to the Records Office	29-OCT
*Final grades officially available to students via Touchtone, Online and UTEP e-mail.	

## **Course Policies and Procedures**

### **Blackboard**

This course is 100% online. We will never meet face to face. Some class members may be out of town and it would be unfair for some students and not others to have access to the professor. Therefore, you must familiarize yourself with Blackboard.

Blackboard is a tool that allows faculty to add resources for students to access online. Powerpoint, Captivate, video, audio, animation, and other applications are created outside of Blackboard and added into Blackboard courses for students to enhance teaching and learning efforts. Assignment and schedule details as well as assignment grading can be found on Blackboard. If you need a hard copy of this syllabus, print it.

Your final grade is posted on **BLACKBOARD**.

Uploading and downloading assignments, syllabus and readings will be on **Blackboard**.

### **How to Login to Blackboard**

Blackboard is tied to my.utep.edu. If you are properly registered for the class, you are enrolled in Blackboard as well.

Go to: <https://my.utep.edu>

Log in with your UTEP Username and password. If you have trouble, email me as soon as possible. Blackboard Student Services provides 24/7 help desk and technical support to faculty and students in online courses.

Contacting Blackboard Student Services 24/7 Support  
Toll free 1-877-382-0491

\*\*\* IMPORTANT: You must get into the habit of checking Blackboard EVERY DAY to make sure you do not miss any important announcements, which will be posted in the Announcement area.

### **Required Materials**

- Access to computer and internet;
- All readings and videos are posted on the Blackboard site located in the Learning Module for any particular week;
- A Youtube.com or Vimeo.com account (for Final Project); both are free;
- A UTEP e-mail account; If you don't have one, GET ONE IMMEDIATELY.
  - Go to <http://getmail.utep.edu>
  - You may also call the HELP desk at (915) 747-4357 (on campus) or (915) 747-5257 (off-campus)

### **Required Software**

You will need the following software on your computer to efficiently work in this course. If you are using a lab on campus, they already have the necessary software. All the needed programs are free downloads and can be downloaded from the URLs I have provided here and on Blackboard, which are located in the Getting Started tab.

- **Adobe Acrobat Reader:** You can get the program by going to <http://www.adobe.com> and then clicking on the icon on the left side of the

screen which says “Get Adobe Reader. Follow instructions to install the reader.

- **Macromedia Flash Player:** You can get the player by going to <http://www.macromedia.com> and then clicking on “Download Flash Player.” Follow instructions to install the player.
- **Apple QuickTime Player:** You can get this player by going to <http://www.apple.com> Once there, click on the “QuickTime” tab on the top of the page and then click on “QuickTime Player FREE premier multimedia player,” and follow instructions.
- **Microsoft Office:** I recommend buying this if you do not have any word processing software or presentation software. It 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. All assignment documents must be submitted as Word .doc files. You can save the files as .doc files from most word processing programs. If I cannot open your documents, they WILL NOT be graded.

### **Blackboard Email**

**You may send email through Blackboard any time**

1. Go to the **Course Tools** area in the **Control Panel** then click **Send Email**
2. Select my name
3. Type in a **Subject** and **Message** (you must include your first and last name, title of class, and CRN number. I will respond to you within 24 hours.)
4. Click **Submit**

**Note:** I will be checking Blackboard and my email regularly Monday – Friday between 8:00 am – 5:00pm. I do not check email or Blackboard on Saturdays or Sundays.

### **Grading policy and evaluation procedures**

Credit hours: 3

- Grading scale: SEE BELOW
- Requirements and assignments: SEE BELOW
- Standards and proportions used: SEE BELOW

**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.

### **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

This course requires online participation. Individual projects will present a number of creative problems. The originality with which you solve these problems and participate in this collective online learning experience will

also be a factor in your grade. It is your responsibility to learn and improve each day. Additionally, it is your responsibility to help others in the group to learn and improve.

**Please note: absolutely no grades of “I” (incomplete) will be given. Your final grade will be based on work completed during the semester.**

### **Class Attendance**

<http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=54418>

The student is expected to maintain a consistent online presence for this online course. The student is expected to participate in all class and group discussions and activities. It is the responsibility of the student to inform each instructor of extended absences. When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor may drop the student from the class with a grade of “W” before the course drop deadline and with a grade of “F” after the course drop deadline.

### **Class Requirements**

In order to pass this course, you must:

1. complete all assignments;
2. maintain satisfactory attendance as described above;
3. participate actively in forums and critiques,
4. upload all assignments to Blackboard on time (Thursdays by midnight).

### **Assignment Procedures**

Grading rubrics will be provided on Blackboard for all assignments. **All assignments must be submitted through Blackboard Thursdays by 11 PM.**

### **Deadline Policy**

Deadline for most assignments is 11:00 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 all instructions. Reading the instructions is your responsibility and you should not assume due dates or times. Work can be submitted before the deadline time/date.

### **Exams**

There will be no formal exams, but there will be an individual Essay assignment, quizzes, discussion boards, a final project, and peer reviews the quality of which will determine your final grade.

### **Quizzes**

Your very first quiz is based on the Syllabus and Class Policies and Procedures. Be sure that you read the material thoroughly and carefully. This quiz is worth 5 points with a total of twenty questions. You will have 30 minutes to complete it.

Quiz 2 is worth 10 points. It will be based on your readings and videos and they will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and/or short essay. They may be a combination of all three and are intended to assess your ability to keep up with the course materials. Quizzes will be available Mondays at 5:00pm until Thursday at 11:00pm. See course calendar for scheduled quizzes.

### **Essay**

You will submit one individual critical analysis, (not a summary and not an opinion piece) at least 500 words in response to the readings and films. You will need to do the readings, view the videos, and go over the lecture pieces to be effective in your responses. I will give you an essay question for the analysis.

### **Upload Instructions**

Upload essay as either a **DOC** or **PDF** file. **Do not upload Text files**. Name them as follows: your last name\_essay1(no spaces)\_date(mmddyy)

example: smith\_essay1\_060914

I give you the name of the assignment. **NOT** following this protocol will lose points for the assignment.

### **Group Discussions & Forums**

Random groups of four to five will be generated after the first week of class. These are permanent groups and no changes will be permitted.

Group Discussion assignments will be based on readings, films, and lectures therefore you should read and watch all material before completing your Group Discussion assignments (initial response due Thursday by 11 PM).

Type up your individual response in a Word document (SAVE the file) and upload your response under the Assignment Link located in each Learning Module.

Read and follow instructions in Assignment Link very carefully!!! They may change from week to week. If you do not upload your assignment correctly you will not receive credit for the assignment.

After you submit your individual response as an assignment, copy/paste your response to your group Discussion Board Link. Your Group Discussion Board Links are located under Groups below the Course Content on the left hand side of the Home Page. Click on your group name then click on Group Discussion Boards and locate the appropriate Discussion Board. All Group Discussion Boards will be located in this manner.

Your Group Discussion Boards are already created for you so please click on the appropriate board and DO NOT create a “new thread.”

Group Discussion Boards are in effect from the moment you post your first response until Sunday evening at 11:00 (MST). Your grade is dependent on your initial post and responses to at least 2 classmates (who have 1 or zero responses) as well as on the quality of your post.

You must submit your initial 100-150 word response to the Assignment link and your group discussion board by **Thursday** by 11 PM. You must then submit 50-100 word responses to at least (2) classmates (who have 1 or zero responses) by **Sunday** by 11 PM.

All modules and links are time released. This means that you will see modules and links on the dates that they are scheduled to open according to the course calendar. For example, if you have a discussion board that opens on Monday at 5pm (MST) you will not see the discussion board link until that Monday at 5pm and the link will disappear promptly at 11:00 PM (MST) the following Sunday. If you start the discussion board at 10:50pm on Sunday the link will close at 11:00pm and you will not receive credit for any incomplete work. Again, I have the ability to track your participation in Blackboard and I am able to see what date and time you accessed all links. Do not wait until the last minute to do your work! Technology has a way of tripping you up when you are racing against the clock.

You will receive full credit for your posts that are quality and consist of critical analysis and contribute to the discussion. I do not want a summary (recap of the material) of the readings/films. I have read and seen the material; I know what it is about.

**BEWARE:** Simply responding to a blog with “I agree” or “wow that’s interesting” is not considered quality. The word “quality” carries a lot of weight!

### **Final Project**

The Final Project consists of a Short Film Treatment, Short Film Project, and Short Film Peer Reviews. Grading Rubrics with descriptions and specific instructions for each component will be provided on Blackboard.

In brief, you will be required to use any electronic device and/or camera and software to write, direct, and shoot a short 2-3 minute film using essential neorealist filmmaking elements and techniques. If you do not have editing capabilities, you can shoot the entire film in one shot or use in-camera editing (shoot your scenes back to back so that your story is continuous). You will need to upload your final video to your own YouTube or Vimeo account. Then create a hyperlink to your video in the Final Project Assignment Link.

It’s always a good idea to have two browser windows open when posting hyperlinks to Blackboard. One window can be the website you are copying and pasting (YouTube or Vimeo). The other browser window should be your Blackboard course. In the Assignment Link text box, type the title of your project.

- Highlight the text (the title of your project), then click the Hyperlink button in the second row of buttons. It looks like a chain link. 
- Leave the type set to HTTP.
- Paste the entire URL (or web address) into the URL box. Be sure to remove the extra http://
- Check the box next to Open link in new window.
- Click Submit
- The Insert Link page will disappear. Click to publish your post.
- When users view your post, they will be able to click on the link and go directly to the website you specified (make sure your video is set to public or provide a password, which Vimeo allows you to share a password).

After you submit your Final Project in the Assignment Link, follow the same instructions for creating a hyperlink and post it to your group Discussion Board Link. Click on your Group Discussion Board and locate the Final Project Discussion Board.

You must then submit Short Film Peer Reviews in 100-150 word responses to at least (2) classmates (who have 1 or zero responses) by **Oct. 13 by 11 PM**. A grading rubric will be provided for the peer reviews on Blackboard.

Once the semester is over (Oct. 18), you may remove your Short Film Project from YouTube or Vimeo. This is entirely up to you.

Prior to submitting your Short Film Project and Peer Reviews, you must submit a Short Film Treatment to the Assignment Link. Upload assignment as either a **DOC** or **PDF** file. **Do not upload Text files**. You can also enter that content directly or copy and paste from your word processor. For uploaded files name them as follows: your last name\_treatment (no spaces)\_date(mmddyy)

example: smith\_treatment\_020514

### **Grades**

Your final grade will reflect the instructor's evaluation of

1. the consistency of your effort and dedication to the learning process;
2. your contributions to online discussion and critiques;
3. your ongoing presence in online discussion and critiques;
4. your active participation in the learning process;
5. the quality of and approach to your work on all assignments;
6. how well assignments identify and incorporate the formal elements of filmmaking.

While Blackboard will give you a ballpark score, the final grade is given by the instructor and reflects some of the non-tangible items listed above.

### **Letter grade scale**

100%-90% = A  
 89%-80% = B  
 79%-70% = C  
 69%-60% = D  
 59%-0% = F

**Assignment Table by Due Dates**

Assignment	Points	Assign Date	Due Date
Quiz 1	5	Week 1	Week 1
Yo Soy...Forum	5	Week 1	Week 1
Group Discussion One	8	Week 2	Week 2
Group Discussion Two	8	Week 3	Week 3
Essay 1	15	Week 3	Week 4
Group Discussion Three	8	Week 5	Week 5
Short Film Treatment	5	Week 5	Week 6
Group Discussion Four	8	Week 6	Week 6
Quiz 2	10	Week 6	Week 6
Group Discussion Five	8	Week 7	Week 7
Final Project – Short Film Project	15	Week 5	Week 8
Short Film Peer Reviews	5	Week 8	Oct. 13

**Assignment Category Percentages Chicano Cinema**

<b>Group Discussions / Forum / Participation</b>	45%
Group Discussion 1 (8)	
Group Discussion 2 (8)	
Group Discussion 3 (8)	
Group Discussion 4 (8)	
Group Discussion 5 (8)	
Yo Soy...Forum (5)	
<b>Essay</b>	15%
Essay 1 (15)	
<b>Quizzes</b>	15%
Quiz 1 (5)	
Quiz 2 (10)	
<b>Final Project</b>	25%
Short Film Treatment (5)	
Short Film Project (15)	
Short Film Peer Reviews (5)	

**Modules**

Chicano Cinema is set up in modules with new content, discussions, and major assignments. The modular structure is meant to "package" the week(s) so that students know exactly what is expected for that time period. Weekly and Bi-

weekly Modules will be posted Sundays by 11 PM.

## Course Calendar

**\*All assignments are due Thursdays by 11 PM unless otherwise noted.**

### **Week One & Two: Introduction**

**Aug. 25 – Sept. 6**

Chicano Cinema;

Week One is your opportunity to study the long and detailed syllabus and to familiarize yourself with the Blackboard System. This is the week to ask me any questions you have regarding the class content. Quiz 1 is due Thursday by 11 PM and is based on the Syllabus and Class Policies and Procedures.

Also during Week One you will watch “I Am Joaquin” by El Teatro Campesino. You will then post your introduction to the Yo Soy...Forum using 3 still images. Please read Grading rubric in the Module for details and instructions.

You should begin reading and watching the material I have provided right away. Your first Group Discussion assignment is due Week Two Thursday by 11 PM.

#### **Readings:**

1. *El Plan de Aztlán*
2. *I Am Joaquín* by Rodolfo Corky Gonzalez
3. *I Am Joaquín: Relationships between the Text and the Film* by Rolando Hinojosa
4. *A Cinema of Failure, a Cinema of Hunger: The Films of Efraín Gutiérrez* by Gregg Barrios
5. *History of Chicano Cinema's Rise Told for First Time* by UCLA Scholar Chon Noriega in *New Book* by Stuart Wolpert
6. *Notes on Chicano cinema* by Jason C. Johansen
7. *The Aztlán Film Institute's Top 100 List* by Chon Noriega

#### **Assignments:**

Quiz 1 (due week 1)  
Yo Soy...Forum (due week 1)  
Watch “I Am Joaquín” by El Teatro Campesino  
Watch “La Bamba” by Luis Valdez  
Watch “Selena” by Gregory Nava  
Group Discussion 1 (due week 2)

### **Week Three & Four: Classical Hollywood**

**Sept. 7 – Sept. 20**

Story formula success;

#### **Readings:**

*From Selena to Walkout An Interview with Moctesuma Esparza* by Kathryn F. Galán  
*Interview: Gronk and Gamboa* and *Gronk: No Movie Maker (1980)* from Urban Exile Collected Writings of Harry Gamboa Jr.  
*Between a Weapon and a Formula: Chicano Cinema and Its Contexts* by Chon A. Noriega

**Assignments:**

Watch “Stand and Deliver” by Ramón Menéndez  
Watch “Crash” by Paul Haggis  
Group Discussion 2 (due week 3)  
Essay 1 (due week 4)

**Week Five: Neorealism**

**Sept. 21 – Sept. 27**

Depicting the Struggle;

**Readings:**

*Salt of the Earth* by Chale Nafus  
*Raíces de Sangre: Roots of Lineage, Sources of Life* by Guadalupe Ochoa Thompson

**Assignments:**

Watch “A Better Life” by Chris Weitz  
Watch “Los Olvidados” by Luis Buñuel  
Group Discussion Three (due week 5)  
Final Project: Short Film Treatment (due week 6)  
Final Project: Short Film Project (due week 8)

**Week Six: Third World Cinema**

**Sept. 28 – Oct. 4**

Decolonizing Cinema;

**Readings:**

*Towards the Development of a Raza Cinema* by Francisco X. Camplis  
*Inside the Mexican Film Industry: A Woman’s Perspective (Marcela Fernandez Violante)* by Julianne Burton

**Assignments:**

Watch “Bless Me Ultima” by Carl Franklin  
Watch “The Milagro Beanfield War” by Robert Redford  
Group Discussion Four (due week 6)  
Quiz 2 (due week 6)

**Week Seven & Eight: Documentary**

**Oct. 5 – Oct. 18**

Reality and Realism;

### Readings:

*Filming a Chicana Documentary* by Sylvia Morales

*Chicana Film Practices: Confronting the “Many-Headed Demon of Oppression”*  
by Rosa Linda Fregoso

*Ni de aquí, ni de allá: Indigenous Female Representation in the Films of Maria Elena Velasco* by Carmen Huaco-Nuzum

### Assignments:

Watch “Zoot Suit” by Luis Valdez

Watch “Cesar Chavez” by Diego Luna

Watch “Frida” by Julie Taymor

Group Discussion Five (due week 7)

Final Project: Short Film Project (due week 8)

Short Film Peer Reviews (due Oct. 13)

## Additional Comments/Notices

### Disclaimer Statement

This syllabus may be amended as the course proceeds. You will be notified of all changes.

### The Center for Accommodations and Support Services

If you have or believe you have a disability, you may wish to self-identify. You can do so by providing documentation to The Center for Accommodations and Support Services located at Union Building East Room 106 by phone (915) 747-5148 or email [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu). If you have a condition that may affect your ability to exit safely from the premises in an emergency or that may cause an emergency during class, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of The Center for Accommodations and Support Services.

### Academic Integrity Statement

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP). It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing 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. And, 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 possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. Please consult the Handbook of Operating

Procedures at <http://hoop.utep.edu> for the complete University policy on academic dishonesty. You may also consult with the Assistant Dean of Students at the Student Union Building West, Room 102, or by calling (915) 747-5648.

### **Student Agreements**

Student agrees to treat fellow students, UTEP faculty and staff, with respect and collaborate with all group members in a professional manner.

Student understands that copyright laws protect the film media used in this class. Unless Student is credited as a member of the crew for an original creative work; and unless Student has written permission from the copyright holder, Student will refrain from any public or private distribution of the films, footage, images or audio recordings.

Student understands that any superimposed copyright on media may not be “letterboxed” or covered over in any way. Student will not upload the aforementioned media to Internet sites, whether public or private, such as YouTube, FaceBook, or any other Web Publishing System, and Student will not exhibit any of the films, footage, audio or edited exercises in any public venue, at any film festival or include the footage in any compilation or “demo reel” of Student’s work without express and written permission of the copyright holder.

### **Student responsibility**

You are responsible for seeing that all of your equipment and software are up to date or that you get yourself to a lab, library, etc. where you can meet the requirements of the class.

Blackboard works best with Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, and Safari. Stay away from Internet Explorer! For some reason Blackboard does not communicate well with Internet Explorer so avoid it. Additionally, it is very important that your Adobe Reader and Java software be up to date. All of your readings, lectures, and assignment sheets are (.pdf) files and require the latest version of Adobe Reader.

It is very important that you follow directions carefully. You must submit all of your work correctly. If you fail to properly submit your work you will not receive credit for the assignment. Here is an example of improperly submitting work: Student opens assignment link, copies/pastes their critical response then fails to click the submit button. They then move into another part of Blackboard and the assignment is never submitted. Simple human error, but it will cost you a grade.

You must check Blackboard daily for announcements and emails. If you fail to check Blackboard and you miss an important announcement or email you are responsible for the consequences.

You are provided with a course calendar that clearly defines all due dates and

deadlines. Online learning is independent learning and you must be responsible enough to submit all work on time. I will not accept late work.

The only time that I will accept a late quiz or assignment is if the Blackboard System goes down. I have the ability to enter the system as both an administrator and as a student and I will know if there was a system failure. If there was a failure I am provided with a report stating so and then I can extend the deadline.

Your work schedule, military deployment, athletic events, travel, vacations, sick children, broken computer, lack of access to internet, employment at UTEP, etc. are not valid excuses for missing any work in this class. If you are sick and unable to submit an assignment you will be required to provide a doctor's note in order to submit a late assignment.

You will be penalized for poor writing skills. If you submit work that is riddled with spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors you will lose a significant number of points for that assignment. This could be the difference between a passing and failing grade so I strongly suggest that you utilize the spell check that is provided in all of your Blackboard links.