

**Fall 2014 (October 20 – December 13)  
Chicano Theatre Online Course  
(CHIC 4350 – 013 CRN 16513) Syllabus  
3 credits**

The University of Texas at El Paso  
Chicano Studies Program  
500 W. University Ave.  
Graham Hall #104  
El Paso, Texas 79968

**Course Instructor:** Elvira Carrizal-Dukes  
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CS Phone: 915-747-5462  
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If you prefer to speak with me by telephone, contact me through Blackboard Course Messages to set up a telephone appointment.

**Content Introduction**

Chicano Theatre is designed to provide students with an overview of Chicano theatre history and the skills necessary to analyze and critique theatre. Students will learn about Chicano theatre theory, aesthetics, genres, and basic theatre criticism. Students will analyze theatre through an examination of playwriting, style, and genre to allow students to view theatre critically, to develop a systematic and convincing interpretation of the plays they read and watch, and to acquire the ability to analyze theatre in well-constructed and persuasive essays.

**Course Objective**

Chicano Theatre is designed to assist you in learning the aesthetic and technical fundamentals of Chicano theatre arts through lectures, readings, screenings, discussions and assignments. This class provides opportunities for you to develop your personal vision and expression.

**Course description**

Chicano Theatre is the examination of the Chicano and Chicanismo through drama and theatrical presentations. Chicano Theatre is studied as literature, as a political statement, and as a social and ethnic phenomenon.

**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 theatre industry;
- the concepts of race, culture, class and gender via the analysis of contemporary societal issues within the Chicano theatre genre;
- playwriting techniques that account for various theatre genres and styles;
- techniques used by Chicano playwrights tied to human rights, environment, and social-change movements;
- how stories, characters, and themes in Chicano plays address the needs of culturally diverse populations;
- the goals and characteristics of Chicano theatre.

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

- use observational theatre arts techniques;
- create and develop usable short play ideas;
- write and review short plays;
- analyze and discuss theatre in a group setting;

**Important dates**

Term: Fall 2014

Term/Part-of-Term: 8W2 - 8 Week Session

The start date for the course is: OCT. 20

The Census Day for the course is: OCT. 27

Holidays (No Classes): NOV. 27 & 28

The last day for the course is: DEC. 13

The course drop deadline is: NOV. 20

Final Exam: DEC. 8

Final grades due to the Records Office: DEC. 17

Final grades officially available to students via Touchtone, Online and UTEP e-mail after December 17

**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 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 Course Messages**

**You may send course messages through Blackboard any time**

1. Go to the **Course Tools** area in the **Control Panel** then click **Course Messages**
2. Select my name (Instructor – Elvira Carrizal-Dukes)
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 Course Messages regularly Monday – Friday between 8:00 am – 5:00pm.

### **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 11PM).

## **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.

Quiz 2 is worth 10 points. It will be based on your readings and lectures 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 by 9:00am 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. You will need to do the readings 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\_102014

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 and lectures therefore you should read all material before completing your Group Discussion assignments (initial response due Thursday by 11PM).

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 Forum. Your Group Discussion Board is located under the Course Menu on the left hand side of the Home Page. Click on your group name then click on Group Discussion Board and locate the appropriate Discussion Board Forum. All Group Discussion Board forums will be located in this manner.

Your Group Discussion Board Forums are already created for you so please click on the appropriate forum and then create a "new thread" to post your response. Click Reply, to respond to a classmate.

Group Discussion Board forums are in effect from the moment you post your first response until the following Thursday 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 response of at least 90-100 words to the Assignment link and your group discussion board by **Thursday** by 11 PM. You must then

submit responses of at least 40-50 words to at least (2) classmates (who have 1 or zero responses) by the following **Thursday** 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 11:00pm (MST) the following Thursday. If you start the discussion board at 10:50pm on Thursday 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. I have read 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 Political Theatre Treatment, Script, and two Peer Reviews. Grading Rubrics with descriptions and specific instructions for each component will be provided on Blackboard.

In brief, you will be required to write a short 5-10 page script using Chicano Theatre elements and techniques.

You must submit your Final Project Treatment, Script, and Peer Reviews in the Assignment Link. Prior to submitting your Script and Peer Reviews, you must submit a 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\_102014

After submitting the assignments to the Assignment Link, you must then post it to your group Discussion Board Link. Click on your Group Discussion Board and locate the Final Project Discussion Board.

Your two Peer Reviews must be at least 100-150 word responses to at least (2) classmates (who have 1 or zero responses) by **December 8 by 11 PM.** A grading rubric will be provided for the peer reviews on Blackboard.

## 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
1	My Cultural Ritual Forum	9	Week 1	Week 2
2	Quiz 1	5	Week 1	Week 1
3	Group Discussion One	12	Week 3	Week 4
4	Group Discussion Two	12	Week 5	Week 6
5	Group Discussion Three	12	Week 7	Week 8
6	Essay 1	15	Week 3	Week 4
7	Political Theatre: Treatment	5	Week 4	Week 5
9	Quiz 2	10	Week 7	Week 7
10	Political Theatre: Script	10	Week 4	Week 8
11	Political Theatre: Two Peer Reviews	10	Week 8	Dec. 8

### Assignment Category Percentages Chicano Theatre

<b>Group Discussions / Forums</b>	45%
Group Discussion One (12)	
Group Discussion Two (12)	
Group Discussion Three (12)	
My Cultural Ritual Forum (9)	
<b>Essay</b>	15%
Essay 1 (15)	
<b>Quizzes</b>	15%
Quiz 1 (5)	
Quiz 2 (10)	
<b>Final Project</b>	25%
Final Project: Political Theatre Treatment (5)	



Final Project: Political Theatre Script (10)	
Final Project: Political Theatre Two Peer Reviews (10)	

## Modules

Chicano Theatre 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;

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.

Starting Week One you will read about ritual theatre. You will then post your introduction to the My Cultural Ritual Forum describing the mise-en-scène to give us "the most intimate understanding" of a common ritual/event from your culture. Please read Grading rubric in the Module for details and instructions. You have until the following Thursday by 11 PM to respond to at least 2 classmates (who have 1 or zero responses).

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

### Readings:

"Actos y El Teatro Campesino" by Luis Valdez

Rabinal Achi

"Aztecs on Stage" by Louise M. Burkhart

"Two Centuries of Hispanic Theatre in the Southwest" by Nicolas Kanellos

"Chicano Drama" by Jorge Huerta

"An Initiation into the Rituals of Social Protest Theater..." by Harry J. Elam Jr.

### Assignments:

Quiz 1 (due week one)

My Cultural Ritual Forum (initial post due week one; responses due the following Thursday by 11PM)

### **Week Three**

Realism;

#### **Readings:**

“Brecht and Chicano Theatre” by Barclay Goldsmith  
“The Many Deaths of Danny Rosales” by Carlos Morton  
“How Else Am I Supposed to Know I’m Alive” by Evelina Fernandez

#### **Assignments:**

Discussion One (initial post due week three; responses due the following Thursday by 11PM)  
Essay 1 (due week four)

### **Week Four**

Surrealism;

#### **Readings:**

“A New Surrealist Mythology: Octavio Paz...” by Gloria Feman Orenstein  
“Dawn” by Alurista  
“The Shrunken Head of Pancho Villa” by Luis Valdez

#### **Assignments:**

Final Project: Political Theatre Treatment (due week five)  
Final Project: Political Theatre Script (due week eight)

### **Week Five**

Musical Theatre;

#### **Readings:**

“Zoot Suit” by Luis Valdez  
“Los Pastores” by Rev. Carmelo Tranchese

#### **Assignments:**

Discussion Two (initial post due week five; responses due the following Thursday by 11PM)

**Week Six**

Magical Realism;

**Readings:**

“Rediscovering Magical Realism in the Americas” by Shannin Schroeder

“Chicanas/Latinas in American Theatre” by Elizabeth Ramirez

Excerpts of work by Marga Gomez

“Heroes and Saints” by Cherrie Moraga

“My Visits with MGM” by Edit Villareal

**Week Seven & Eight**

Post-Modernism;

**Readings:**

“Under the Radar: Latin@/Hispanic Theatre in North Texas” by Teresa Marrero

“Lydia” by Octavio Solis

“Zorro in Hell” by Culture Clash

**Assignments:**

Quiz 2 (due week seven)

Discussion Three (initial post due week seven; responses due the following Thursday by 11PM)

Final Project: Political Theatre Script (due week eight)

Final Project: Political Theatre Two Peer Reviews (due Dec. 8)

**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 materials used in this class. Student will refrain from any public or private distribution of all materials provided and/or created in this course.

Student understands that any superimposed copyright on materials may not be "letterboxed" or covered over in any way. Student will not upload the aforementioned materials to Internet sites, whether public or private, such as YouTube, FaceBook, or any other Web Publishing System. Student will not exhibit any of the materials provided and student work created in this course and shared on Blackboard in any public venue 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 course messages. 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.