

Fall 2015 (Aug. 31 – Oct. 18, 2015) – 7 week course
CHICANO CINEMA 100% Online Course
(Chicano Cinema - CHIC 3302 - 008) Syllabus
CRN 15470
3 credits

The University of Texas At El Paso
Chicano Studies Program
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E-mail: **Contact me only through Moodle Course Messages**

If you prefer to speak with me by telephone, contact me through Moodle Course Messages 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

Term: Fall 2015 (Seven Week course)

The start date for the course is: Aug. 31

The Census Day for the course is: Sept. 4

Institutional Holiday (no classes): Sept. 7

The course drop deadline with a 'W' is: Oct. 7

Final Exam: Oct. 16

The last day for the course is: Oct. 18

Final grading begins: Oct. 21 (check your grades in Moodle Gradebook; contact Instructor with any final grade questions **before** Oct. 28)

Final grades due to the Records Office: Oct. 28

Course Policies and Procedures

Moodle

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 Moodle.

Moodle 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 Moodle and added into Moodle courses for students to enhance teaching and learning efforts. Assignment and schedule details as well as assignment grading can be found on Moodle. If you need a hard copy of this syllabus, print it.

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

How to Login to Moodle

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

Go to: <https://moodle.utepconnect.utep.edu>

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

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

*** IMPORTANT: You must get into the habit of checking Moodle 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 Moodle site located in the Learning Module for any particular week;
- A Youtube.com or Vimeo.com account (for Final Project); both are free; You may use an account you already own;
- 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 Moodle, 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.

Moodle Course Messages

You may send course messages through Moodle any time

1. Under **My Tools** on right column of Moodle page, Click on **Message Center**. On the left column under **Message Navigation**, click on our course (CRN 15470).
2. Click on the plus sign (+) next to the name of the person you want to message (if you don't see the name, click on the next).
3. Type your message in the **Message box** (you must include your first and last name, title of class, and CRN number if you're sending a message to the instructor. I will respond to you within 24 hours.)
4. Click **Send Message**

Note: I will be checking Moodle and my email regularly Monday – Friday between 8:00 am – 5:00pm. I do not check email or Moodle 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 online discussion forums 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 Moodle on time.

Assignment Procedures

Grading rubrics will be provided on Moodle for all assignments. It is the student’s responsibility to read them. They will provide details on how assignments should be submitted and how they will be graded. **All assignments must be submitted through Moodle by 10 PM (see course calendar for specific deadline dates).**

Deadline Policy

Deadline for most assignments is before 10:00 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 20 points. It will be based on readings and films and will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and/or short essay. It may be a combination of all three and is intended to assess your ability to keep up with the course materials. Quizzes will be available Sundays at noon until the due date.

Essay

You will submit one individual critical analysis, (not a summary and not an opinion piece) at least 1500 words in response to the readings and films. You will need to do the readings, view the videos, and go over the lecture notes 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: lopez_essay1_090515

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

Discussion Forums & Responses

There will be 3 Discussion Forums in addition to the Yo Soy Forum (week 1).

Discussion forum assignments will be based on readings, films, and lectures therefore you should read and watch all material before completing the Discussion assignments.

Initial responses are due Saturdays before 10 PM. Responses to at least (2) classmates are due by the following Thursday by 10 PM.

Read and follow instructions in the Assignment Links very carefully!!! If you do not upload your assignment correctly you will not receive credit for the assignment.

Discussion Forums are already created for you.

To post your initial response, click on **Add a new discussion topic**. To respond to your classmate(s), click on the **title of their discussion** and then click on **reply**. Type your response in the message box. Click on **Post to Forum** to post your response.

Discussion Forums will open on Monday mornings and will remain open. **I will be checking the dates and times of your submissions according to deadlines given. Late posts and responses will receive zero points.**

Your grade is dependent on your initial post (due Saturday) and responses to at least 2 classmates (who have 1 or zero responses—due by the following Thursday) as well as on the quality of your post and word count.

Your initial post needs to be at least 150 words. Each response to a classmate needs to be at least 75 words.

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 8 AM (MST) you will not see the discussion board link until that Monday at 8 AM.

IMPORTANT: If you start an assignment or quiz at 9:30 PM the link may close at 09:45pm (even if the deadline is at 10 PM). Do not wait until the last minute to submit work. **It is strongly advised** that you submit assignments hours (or days) in advance of the deadline. Technology has a way of tripping you up when you are racing against the clock. I may work with you on resubmitting an assignment posted incorrectly only if you are submitting at least (2) days in advance. This gives me time to respond to your technical issue and reopen your submission options.

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 Synopsis / Summary, Short Film Project (video), and Short Film Peer Reviews. Grading Rubrics with descriptions and specific instructions for each component will be provided on Moodle.

Note: It is understood that students registered for this course, may not have any


prior experience making a video. In this course, you will be required to **try to the best of your ability** to create one (even if it's the only time you'll ever do this in your life). You will be graded based on your original idea, time, effort, and understanding of neorealist filmmaking elements and techniques. We will be learning about neorealism during the semester.

In brief, you will be required to produce a video based on your final project idea / pitch / summary. You will be required to use any electronic device (such as your cell phone, ipad, laptop, etc.) and/or video 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). In addition, you may use free video editing apps available for several types of cell phones. 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 Video Project discussion forum.

For videos, you must create a hyperlink.

These are instructions for creating a hyperlink:

It's always a good idea to have two browser windows open when posting hyperlinks to Moodle. One window can be the website you are copying and pasting (YouTube or Vimeo). The other browser window should be your Moodle course. In the Discussion Forum text box, type the title of your video 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. 
- Paste the entire URL (or web address) into the **Link URL**. Be sure to remove the extra http://
- Check the box next to Target and click **Open in New Window (_blank)**.
- Click **Insert**.
- Click **Post to Forum** 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).

You must submit your Final Video Project in the **Final Video Project discussion forum**.

You must then submit Short Film Peer Reviews in 100-150 word responses answering specific questions provided by the instructor to at least (2) classmates (who have 1 or zero responses) no later than **October 16 before 10 PM**. A grading rubric will be provided for the peer reviews on Moodle.

Once final grades are posted (**Oct. 28**), 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 Synopsis to the Assignment Link. Upload assignment as a **PDF file only. 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: lopez_synopsis_090515

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.

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

Letter grade scale

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

Assignment Table by Due Dates

Assignment	POINTS	Assign Date	Due Date
Quiz 1	5	Week 1	Week 1
Yo Soy...Forum (including 2 responses)	5	Week 1	Week 2
Discussion Forum One (including 2 responses)	10	Week 2	Week 3
Essay 1	20	Week 3	Week 4
Discussion Forum Two (including 2 responses)	10	Week 4	Week 5
Short Film Synopsis (written pitch / summary)	5	Week 4	Week 4
Quiz 2	20	Week 5	Week 5
Discussion Forum Three (including 2 responses)	10	Week 6	Week 7
Final Project – Short Film Project (video)	10	Week 5	Oct. 12
Short Film Peer Reviews	5	Week 7	Oct. 16

Assignment Category Percentages Chicano Cinema

Group Discussions AND Responses	35%
Yo Soy... Forum initial post and 2 responses (5 points)	
Class Discussion 1 initial post and 2 responses (10 points)	
Class Discussion 2 initial post and 2 responses (10 points)	
Class Discussion 3 initial post and 2 responses (10 points)	
Essay	20%
Essay 1 (20 points)	
Quizzes	25%
Quiz 1 (5 points)	
Quiz 2 (20 points)	
Final Project	20%
Short Film Synopsis (typewritten pitch / summary) - (5 points)	
Short Film Project—video (10 points)	
Short Film Peer Reviews—2 reviews total (5 points)	

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 Mondays by 8 AM.

COURSE CALENDAR

***All major assignments are due Saturdays before 10 PM (Mountain Standard Time), unless otherwise noted. Responses to classmates are due the following Thursday after initial post. Submit before 9 PM to avoid technical difficulties. Late assignments may receive zero credit.**

Week One: Introduction

Chicano Cinema;

Week One is your opportunity to study the long and detailed syllabus and to familiarize yourself with Moodle. This is the week to ask me any questions you have regarding the class content.

READ:

1. *I Am Joaquín* by Rodolfo Corky Gonzalez
2. *A Cinema of Failure, a Cinema of Hunger: The Films of Efraín Gutiérrez* by Gregg Barrios
3. *Notes on Chicano cinema* by Jason C. Johansen
4. *The Aztlán Film Institute's Top 100 List* by Chon Noriega

WATCH:

"I Am Joaquín" by El Teatro Campesino
"La Bamba" by Luis Valdez
"Selena" by Gregory Nava

Assignments:

Quiz 1 (due week 1)
Yo Soy...Forum (initial post due week 1)
Responses to Yo Soy...Forum (due week 2)

Week Two and Three: Classical Hollywood

Story formula success;

READ:

1. *From Selena to Walkout An Interview with Moctesuma Esparza* by Kathryn F. Galán
2. *Interview: Gronk and Gamboa* and *Gronk: No Movie Maker (1980)* from *Urban Exile Collected Writings of Harry Gamboa Jr.*

WATCH:

“Stand and Deliver” by Ramón Menéndez
Harry Gamboa films
“A Better Life” by Chris Weitz

Assignments:

Class Discussion 1 (initial post due week 2; responses due week 3)
Essay 1 (due week 4)

Week Four: Neorealism

Depicting the Struggle;

READ:

1. *Between a Weapon and a Formula: Chicano Cinema and Its Contexts* by Chon A. Noriega
2. *Salt of the Earth* by Chale Nafus

WATCH:

“Los Olvidados” by Luis Buñuel

Assignments:

Class Discussion 2 (initial post due week 4; responses due week 5)
Final Project: Short Film Treatment (written pitch /idea /summary) - (due week 4)

Week Five: Third World Cinema

Decolonizing Cinema;

READ:

1. *Towards the Development of a Raza Cinema* by Francisco X. Camplis

WATCH:

"Bless Me Ultima" by Carl Franklin

Assignments:

Quiz 2 (due week 5)

Week Six and Seven: Documentary and FINAL

Reality and Realism;

READ:

1. *Chicana Film Practices: Confronting the "Many-Headed Demon of Oppression"* by Rosa Linda Fregoso

WATCH:

"Cesar Chavez" by Diego Luna

Assignments:

Class Discussion 3 (initial post due week 6; responses due week 7)

Final Project: Short Film Project (due by Oct. 12)

Short Film Peer Reviews (due by Oct. 16)

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. 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 one's 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 class 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.

Moodle works best with Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, and Safari. Stay away from Internet Explorer! For some reason Moodle 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 Moodle and the assignment is never submitted. Simple human error, but it will cost you a grade.

You must check Moodle daily for announcements and emails. If you fail to check

Moodle 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 Moodle 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 Moodle links.