

**Fall 2021 (Oct 18, 2021 - Dec 03, 2021)  
Chicana/o/x Theatre Online Course  
(CHIC 3344 – 001 CRN 16227) Syllabus  
3 credits**

The University of Texas At El Paso  
Chicana/o Studies Program  
500 W. University Ave.  
Graham Hall 104  
El Paso, Texas 79968

**Course Instructor:** Elvira Carrizal-Dukes, PhD, MFA

**Virtual Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10 a.m. – Noon (MST) on Blackboard (BB) Collaborate (link in BB course menu, left-hand corner) and by appointment.

Mailbox: Chicana/o Studies Office, GRAH 104

**E-mail: Please contact me through BB Course Messages. I will respond within 24 hours Monday through Friday.** If you prefer to speak with me by telephone, contact me through BB Course Messages to set up a telephone appointment.

### **Content Introduction**

Chicana/o/x Theatre is designed to provide students with an overview of Chicana/o/x theatre history and the skills necessary to analyze and critique theatre. Students will learn about Chicana/o/x 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**

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

### **Course description**

Chicana/o/x Theatre is the examination of the Chicana/o/x and Chicanisma/o/x through drama and theatrical presentations. Chicana/o/x 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 Chicanas/os/x 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 Chicana/o/x theatre genre.
- playwriting techniques that account for various theatre genres and styles.
- techniques used by Chicana/o/x playwrights tied to human rights, environment, and social change movements.
- how stories, characters, and themes in Chicana/o/x plays address the needs of culturally diverse populations.
- the goals and characteristics of Chicana/o/x theatre.

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

- use observational theatre arts techniques.
- create and develop usable short plays.
- read and examine plays.
- analyze and discuss theatre in a group setting.
- explore issues in plays through the analysis of mise-en-scène and the fine arts.
- write and review short plays.
- analyze and discuss theatre in a group setting.
- research topics and apply critical thinking skills.
- use UTEP library materials, resources and services.

**Important dates**

Classes begin	Oct. 18
Drop Deadline	Nov. 24
Last Day of Classes	Dec. 3

**Course Policies and Procedures**

**Blackboard**

This course is a 100% online course. Blackboard is used to provide course material such as articles and video links. You must familiarize yourself with Blackboard.

Blackboard is a tool that allows faculty to add resources for students to access online. PowerPoint, Collaborate Ultra, 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.

Uploading and downloading assignments, syllabus and readings will be on **Blackboard**. If you need a hard copy of this syllabus, print it.

### **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 supplied here and on Blackboard, which are found in the Getting Started tab.

- **Adobe Acrobat Reader:** You can get the program by going to <http://www.adobe.com> Follow instructions to install the Adobe Reader.
- **Macromedia Flash Player:** You can get the player by going to <http://www.macromedia.com> Follow instructions to install Flash 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.

- **Office 365** is available to UTEP students, which includes applications such as Word and PowerPoint at my.utep.edu under Technology click on OneDrive for Business.

### **Blackboard Course Messages**

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

1. Click on **Messages to/from Instructor** area in the **Control Panel** then click **Create Message**.
2. Click on **To:** then Select my name: Elvira Carrizal-Dukes (Instructor)
3. Type in a **Subject** and **Message** (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.

### **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 online course requires online participation. Individual projects will present a few creative problems. The originality with which you solve these problems and take part 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 Blackboard on time (by the due dates).

### **Assignment Procedures**

Grading rubrics will be provided on Blackboard for all assignments. **All assignments must be submitted through Blackboard before midnight on due dates.**

### **Deadline Policy**

Deadline for most assignments is midnight 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.

### **Assignments**

There will be no formal exams, but there will be quizzes, discussions, presentations, 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. You will have 40 minutes to complete it.

Quiz 2 is worth 10 points. It will be based on readings and lecture material and will consist of multiple choice and true/false. It is intended to assess your ability to keep up with the course materials. Quizzes will be available the Monday of the week they are due.

### **Discussions**

You must cite the reading material in your class discussions and responses to classmates. Discussions will be based on readings and lectures therefore you should read all material before posting responses.

You will receive full credit for submitting discussion responses that are quality and consist of critical analysis and contribute to the discussion. You will need to use the course readings to support your arguments. In addition, you will need to review and comment on your peers' contributions.

### **Final Project**

The FINAL project requires you to write a 5-10 page theatre play script. You are

required to use primary sources to find inspiration for a play that you will write and base your story on.

You will also need to submit 2 Peer Reviews. Grading Rubrics with descriptions and specific instructions for each component will be provided on Blackboard.

Upload assignment as a **PDF** file. **Do not upload Text files.** For uploaded files name them as follows: your last name\_(name of assignment, no spaces)\_date(mmddyy)

example: lopez\_finalproject\_101321

After submitting your assignment to the Final Play Discussion Board, you must then read and review the work of two peers (with 1 or zero responses) by the deadline. A grading rubric will be provided for the final project.

### 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 theatre arts.

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 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
Discussion Board One (including responses)	10	Week 1	Week 2
Discussion Board Two (including responses)	10	Week 2	Week 3
Journal One	20	Week 3	Week 3
Essay	15	Week 4	Week 5
Quiz 2	10	Week 6	Week 6
Political Theatre: Summary and References	10	Week 5	Week 5
Political Theatre: Script	10	Week 7	<b>Dec. 1st</b>
Political Theatre: Two Peer Reviews	10	Week 7	<b>Dec. 3rd</b>

### Assignment Category Percentages Chicana/o/x Theatre

<b>Discussion Boards</b>	20%
Discussion Board One (10)	
Discussion Board Two (10)	
<b>Journals</b>	20%
Journal One (20)	
<b>Essay</b>	15%
Essay (15)	
<b>Quizzes</b>	15%
Quiz 1 (5)	
Quiz 2 (10)	
<b>Final Project</b>	30%
Final Project: Political Theatre Summary and References (10)	
Final Project: Political Theatre Script (10)	
Final Project: Political Theatre Two Peer Reviews (10)	

### Modules

Chicana/o/x 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. Weekly modules will be posted by Monday morning.

### Course Calendar

<b>Week One</b>	<b>October 18 – October 23</b>
Introduction	
<p>Week One is your opportunity to read and study the 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.</p>	
<p><b>Readings (in addition to the Lecture material):</b>            “Two Centuries of Hispanic Theatre in the Southwest” by Nicolas Kanellos            “Chicano Drama” by Jorge Huerta</p>	
<p><b>Plays:</b>            “Actos y El Teatro Campesino” by Luis Valdez</p>	
<p><b>Assignments:</b>            Quiz 1            Discussion Board 1 - initial post by Saturday; responses by Wednesday (10/27)</p>	

**Week Two****October 24 – October 30**

Ritual Theatre

**Readings (in addition to the Lecture material):**

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

**Plays:**

Rabinal Achi

“Aztecs on Stage” by Louise M. Burkhart

**Assignments:**

Discussion Board Two - initial post by Saturday; responses by Wednesday (11/3)

**Week Three****October 31 – November 6**

Realism

**Readings (in addition to the Lecture material):**

“Brecht and Chicano Theatre” by Barclay Goldsmith

**Plays:**

“The Many Deaths of Danny Rosales” by Carlos Morton

“How Else Am I Supposed to Know I’m Alive” by Evelina Fernandez

**Assignments:**

Journal One due by Saturday

**Week Four****November 7 – November 13**

Surrealism

**Readings (in addition to the Lecture material):**

“A New Surrealist Mythology: Octavio Paz...” by Gloria Feman Orenstein

**Plays:**

“Dawn” by Alurista

“The Shrunken Head of Pancho Villa” by Luis Valdez

**Assignments:**

Essay assigned; Due by Nov. 20

**Week Five****November 14 – November 20**

Musical Theatre

**Readings (in addition to the Lecture material):**

“Zoot Suit” by Luis Valdez

**Plays:**

“Los Pastores” by Rev. Carmelo Tranchese

**Watch:**

“Zoot Suit” film by Luis Valdez

**Assignments:**

Political Theatre: Summary and References due by Saturday

**Week Six****November 21 – November 27**

Magical Realism

**Readings (in addition to the Lecture material):**

“Rediscovering Magical Realism in the Americas” by Shannin Schroeder

**Plays:**

“My Visits with MGM” by Edit Villareal

**Assignments:**

Quiz 2 due by Saturday

**Week Seven****November 28 – December 3**

Latinas in Theatre

**Readings (in addition to the Lecture material):**“Chicanas/Latinas in American Theatre” by Elizabeth Ramirez  
Excerpts of work by Marga Gomez**Plays:**

“Heroes and Saints” by Cherrie Moraga

**Assignments:****Final Project: Political Theatre Script due by Wednesday, Dec. 1st****Final Project: Political Theatre Two Peer Reviews by Friday, Dec. 3rd****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.

### **The University Writing Center**

The University Writing Center offers free synchronous online one-on-one writing assistance for UTEP Connect students. Graduate and undergraduate consultants work with writers on projects for a wide variety of classes and provide assistance during all parts of the writing process, including prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing. Online assistance is available by appointment through the UWC's website ([uwc.utep.edu](http://uwc.utep.edu)). Most UWC consultants are bilingual Spanish and English speakers. Consultants will not edit your paper for you, and you are the one ultimately responsible for the work you submit and the grade you earn. Instead, Writing Center consultants will guide you through the writing process and teach you valuable writing skills. Visit the UWC's website to learn more about the services they provide or make an appointment for an online consultation. Online consultations take place during regular business hours (see website) and must be made at least one day in advance.

### **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 course 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 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 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 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 can 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 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.