

Fall 2022 (Aug 22, 2022 - Dec 01, 2022)
CHICANO CINEMA
CHIC 3302 001 CRN: 11855 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, Ph.D., MFA
Office Hours: Mondays 3 p.m. – 4 p.m., GRAH 208; in-person and by appointment. Virtual appointments also available.
Mailbox: Chicana/o Studies Office, GRAH 104
E-mail: ecarrizaldukes@utep.edu; you may also contact me through Blackboard course messages.

Class meets 4:30 pm - 7:20 pm M Quinn Hall 206

Content Introduction

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of Chicana/o/x¹ cinema history and the skills necessary to analyze and critique cinema. Students will learn about Chicana/o/x 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

Chicana/o/x Cinema is designed to assist you in learning the aesthetic and technical fundamentals of Chicana/o/x 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

Chicana/o/x Cinema is an examination of the American film industry with respect to the Chicana/o/x's role, historically and culturally, in the genre. A series of films, including Hollywood commercial and Chicana/o/x made films, will be screened, as part of an analysis of Chicana/o/x images and

¹ Chicanx spelled with the "x" at the end is gender neutral and represents Chicana, Chicano, and Chicanx people. Also used for Latinx to be gender neutral and to represent Latina, Latino, and Latinx. I will use Chicanx throughout the course to signify Chicano, Chicana, and Chicanx people. You are not required to use Chicanx.

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 Chicana/o/x 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 film industry.
- the concepts of race, culture, class, and gender via the analysis of contemporary societal issues within the Chicana/o/x cinema genre.
- filmmaking techniques that account for various cinema genres and styles.
- techniques used by Chicana/o/x filmmakers tied to human rights, environment, and social change movements.
- how stories, characters, and themes in Chicana/o/x films address the needs of culturally diverse populations.
- the goals and characteristics of Chicana/o/x 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

Fall 2022 16Wk POT

Event	Date	Notes
Start date	08/22/2022	Classes begin
End date	12/01/2022	Last day of classes
Labor Day Holiday	09/05/2022	No classes
Auto W	10/28/2022	Last day to withdraw with a "W"
Final exam	12/06/2022	Final exam
Grades due	12/14/2022	Grades will be available on Goldmine after this date.

Course Policies and Procedures

Blackboard

This course is a face-to-face course that is web enhanced. We use Blackboard to access course readings, assignments, and class discussions.

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.

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 your UTEP student e-mail to make sure you do not miss any important announcements, which will be sent to your UTEP student e-mail address.

Required Materials

- Access to computer and internet.
- All readings and videos are posted on the Blackboard site located in the Learning Module for any 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.

- **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:** Available to students for free or discounted rate. 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) or PDF files. You can save the files as Word or PDF 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. Click on **Course Messages** 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 my UTEP email and Blackboard regularly Monday – Friday between 8:00 am – 5:00pm. I may 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 some online participation. Individual projects will present several creative problems. The originality with which you solve these problems and participate in this collective learning experience will also be a factor in your grade. It is your responsibility to learn and improve each class session. Additionally, it is your responsibility to help others in

some assignments that require participation 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, unless plagiarism is an issue with work submitted and evaluation is pending from the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

Class Attendance

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

The student is expected to maintain a consistent presence for this face-to-face course. The student is expected to participate in all course discussions and activities. It is the responsibility of the student to inform each instructor of extended absences. When the student misses more than 3 class sessions and/or fails to submit more than 3 assignments, 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

To pass this course, you must:

1. complete all assignments.
2. maintain satisfactory attendance as described above.
3. participate actively in discussions and critiques.
4. upload all assignments to Blackboard on time.

Assignment Procedures

Grading rubrics will be provided on Blackboard for 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 Blackboard (see course calendar for specific deadline dates).**

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 Journal assignment, quizzes, essay, some online 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. You will have 40 minutes to complete it. Quiz 2 will be based on readings and films and will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and/or short answer. 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 Saturdays until the due date on Blackboard.

Essay and Journal

You will submit one individual critical analysis essay, (not a summary and not an opinion piece) and one journal 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. A rubric with specific instructions and grading criteria will be provided on Blackboard. Assignments must be submitted through Blackboard.

Upload Instructions

Upload essay as a **PDF** or **Word** file only. Name them as follows: last name (no spaces)_essay_date(mmddyy)

example: lopez_essay_091622

Discussion Forums and Responses

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

Initial post is due Saturday before 11 PM. Responses to at least (2) classmates are due before the following Wednesday before 11 PM.

Click on the Discussion Forum title.

To post your initial response, click on create a new thread. To respond to your classmate, click on their post and then click on reply. Click on “submit” to post your response.

Discussion Forums will open on Mondays.

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 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.

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. Answer the response guide questions.

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 Video Proposal and (3) Annotated Reference(s) from the required course readings, a Short Video and signed talent release forms and (2) Peer Reviews. Grading Rubrics with specific instructions for each component will be provided on Blackboard.


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 Chicana/o and neorealist filmmaking elements and techniques.

In brief, for your final video project, you will be required to use any electronic device (such as your cell phone or iPad) and/or video camera and software to write, direct, and video record a short 2–3-minute film using essential Chicana/o/x and neorealist filmmaking elements and techniques. If you do not have editing capabilities, you can make the entire film in one shot or use in-camera editing (shoot your scenes back-to-back so that your story is continuous). This project may not be a montage of still photography. You must record characters in action and their voices. Videos may be fiction or nonfiction; however, they must be based on the (3) references provided in the proposal. You will need to upload your final video to your own YouTube or Vimeo account. Then create a hyperlink to your video in the Short Video Project Discussion Forum on Blackboard.

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 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 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).

You must post your Final Video Project hyperlink to the Short Video Project Discussion Forum on Blackboard along with annotated references.

You must then submit Short Film Peer Reviews in at least 150-word responses to at least (2) classmates (who have 1 or zero responses) by the deadline on Blackboard. Once grades are posted, you may remove your Short Video Project from YouTube or Vimeo if you choose. This is entirely up to you.

Prior to submitting your Short Video Project and Peer Reviews, you must submit a Short Video Proposal of at least 500 words and provide at least 3 **annotated** references from the required course readings. Upload assignment as either a **PDF or Word** file only. You can also enter that content directly or copy and paste from your word processor. For uploaded files name them as follows:

last name (no spaces)_proposal_date(mmddyy)
example: lopez_proposal_091622

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 discussion and critiques.
3. your ongoing presence in 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 course topics.

Blackboard 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	Module 1	Module 1
Discussion 1	8	Module 1	Module 1
Discussion 2	8	Module 2	Module 2
Journal	8	Module 3	Module 3
Essay	10	Module 4	Module 4
Video Proposal and 3 Annotated References	8	Module 5	Module 5

Video Script	10	Module 6	Module 6
Quiz 2	10	Module 7	Module 7
Pre-production packet	8	Module 7	Module 7
Final – Short Video Project	15	Module 8	Module 8
Peer Reviews	10	Module 8	Module 8

Assignment Category Percentages Chicana/o/x Cinema

Discussions AND Journal	24%
Discussion 1 including 2 peer responses (8 points)	
Discussion 2 including 2 peer responses (8 points)	
Journal (8 points)	
Essay	10%
Essay (10 points)	
Quizzes	15%
Quiz 1 (5 points)	
Quiz 2 (10 points)	
Final Project	51%
Video Proposal and 3 Annotated References (8 points)	
Video Script (10 points)	
Pre-production packet (8 points)	
Final Video Project (15 points)	
(2) Peer Reviews (10 points)	

Modules

Chicana/o/x 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.

COURSE CALENDAR

Module One: Introduction	August 22 and 29
Chicana/o/x Cinema.	
READINGS:	
1. <i>I Am Joaquín</i> by Rodolfo Corky Gonzalez	
2. <i>Notes on Chicano cinema</i> by Jason C. Johansen	
3. <i>The Aztlán Film Institute's Top 100 List</i> by Chon Noriega	
4. <i>A Cinema of Failure, a Cinema of Hunger: The Films of Efraín Gutiérrez</i> by Gregg Barrios	
5. Articles about <i>Efraín Gutiérrez</i>	
FILMS/CLIPS:	
"I Am Joaquín" by El Teatro Campesino	
"Please Don't Bury Me Alive!" by Efraín Gutiérrez (clip)	
Interview with Efraín Gutierrez	
Assignments:	

Quiz 1
Discussion 1

Module Two: Classical Hollywood Cinema **September 12**

Story formula success.

READINGS:

From Selena to Walkout An Interview with Moctesuma Esparza by Kathryn F. Galán

FILMS/CLIPS:

“Selena” by Gregory Nava
“Stand and Deliver” by Ramón Menéndez

Assignments:

Discussion 2

Module Three: Documentary

September 19 and 26

Reality and Realism.

READINGS:

Filming a Chicana Documentary (1979) by Sylvia Morales

FILMS/CLIPS:

“Dolores” by Peter Bratt
Con Safos produced by Moni Vargas
Our Stories InVivid Color produced by Moni Vargas and Suzanne Herrera Li Puma

Assignment:

Journal
Guest speakers: Latinx documentary filmmakers Moni Vargas and Suzanne Herrera Li Puma

Module Four: Neorealism

October 3 and 10

Depicting the Struggle.

READINGS:

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

FILMS/CLIPS:

“The Milagro Beanfield War” by Robert Redford

Assignments:

Essay

Module Five: Third World Cinema

October 17 and 24

Decolonizing Cinema.

READINGS:

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

FILMS/CLIPS:

“Bless Me Ultima” by Carl Franklin

Assignments:

Video Proposal and 3 Annotated References

Module Six: Independent Filmmaking

October 31 and November 7

Avant-garde and Expressionism.

READINGS:

Interview: Gronk and Gamboa and *Gronk: No Movie Maker (1980)* from Urban Exile Collected Writings of Harry Gamboa Jr.

Gamboa links and additional articles

FILMS/CLIPS:

Harry Gamboa short film clips

“A Better Life” by Chris Weitz

Assignments:

Video Script

Module Seven: Musical

November 14 and November 21

READINGS:

Raices de Sangre: Roots of Lineage, Sources of Life by Guadalupe Ochoa Thompson

FILMS/CLIPS:

“Zoot Suit” by Luis Valdez

Assignments:

Quiz 2

Module Eight

November 28

Magical Realism; Final Exam

READINGS:

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

FILMS/CLIPS:

Student Films made by you.

Assignments:

Final Video Project
Peer Reviews

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 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 class members in a professional manner.

Student understands that copyright laws protect the course material and film media used in this class. Unless student is credited as the owner of the original creative work; and unless student has written permission from the copyright holder, student will refrain from any public or private distribution of the course material, 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 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 course material, 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.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID 19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org

Course Resources: Where you can go for assistance

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for

assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

Individual Resources

- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

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 face-to-face, web-enhanced 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 provided for you as (.pdf) files on Blackboard 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 UTEP student e-mail. If you fail to check UTEP e-mail you may miss an important announcement or email and you are responsible for the consequences.

You are provided with a course calendar that clearly defines all due dates and deadlines. This face-to-face course requires some independent learning, such as assigned readings 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, please contact the instructor right away. Failure to do so may result in zero points for the 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 spell check and the UTEP Writing Center.