

**Summer 2021 (June 7, 2021 - July 30, 2021)**  
**CHICANO CINEMA 100% Online Course**  
**CHIC 3302 005 CRN: 33692 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:** E. Carrizal-Dukes, Ph.D., M.F.A.

**Virtual Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays from Noon – 1p.m. (MST) on Blackboard (BB) Collaborate (link in BB course menu, left-hand corner)

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**

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of Chicana<sup>1</sup> cinema history and the skills necessary to analyze and critique cinema. Students will learn about Chicana 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 gain the ability to analyze cinema in well-constructed and persuasive essays.

### **Course Objective**

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

### **Course Description**

Chicana Cinema is an examination of the American film industry with respect to the Chicana' role, historically and culturally, in the genre. A series

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

of films, including Hollywood commercial and Chicana made films, will be screened, as part of an analysis of Chicana 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 Chicana 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 Chicana 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 cinema genre.
- filmmaking techniques that account for various cinema genres and styles.
- techniques used by Chicana filmmakers tied to human rights, environment, and social change movements.
- how stories, characters, and themes in Chicana films address the needs of culturally diverse populations.
- the goals and characteristics of Chicana cinema.

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

- discuss the range of 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 understanding of mise-en-scène and story.

### **Important dates**

#### **Summer 2021 Term**

- Start date 6/7/2021
- End date 7/30/2021
- Census date 6/9/2021

Students may drop a class before Census date without any penalty reflected in their transcript

- Auto W 6/25/2021 Last day to withdraw with a "W"
- Final exam 7/30/2021 Final must be completed/closed by this date
- Final grades 8/6/2021 Grades are posted to student records; students are notified of grades and academic standing

## Course Policies and Procedures

### Blackboard

This course is 100% online. We will never meet face to face. Therefore, you must familiarize yourself with 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 (University of Texas at El Paso) username and password. Blackboard Student Services 24/7 Support Toll free 1-877-382-0491

\*\*\* IMPORTANT: You must get into the habit of checking Blackboard often to make sure you do not miss any important announcements, which will also be sent to your UTEP email address.

### Required Materials

- Access to computer and internet.
- All readings and videos are posted on the Blackboard site found in the Learning Module for any week (purchase of textbook not required).
- A Youtube.com or Vimeo.com account (for Final Project); both are free.
- A UTEP e-mail account.
  - 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, unless plagiarism is an issue with work given 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 keep a consistent presence for this online course by logging into the course every week to access lecture and reading material and to complete and submit assignments. The student is expected to take part in all course discussions and activities. It is the responsibility of the student to inform each instructor of extended absences. When the student does not turn in 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 forums 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 in their entirety. They will supply details on how assignments should be turned in and how they will be graded. **All assignments must be turned in 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 turned in before the deadline time/date.

### **Discussion Forum and Response**

Discussion forum will be based on readings, films, and lectures therefore you should read and watch all 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 first 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 by Monday.

Your grade is dependent on your first 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 first 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. Answer the response guide questions.

## Journal

You will write 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.

## Upload Instructions

Upload assignment as a **PDF** or **Word** file only. Name them as follows: last name (no spaces)\_essay\_date(mmddyy)

example:     lopez\_essay\_061921

## 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 40 minutes to complete it. Quiz 2 is worth 15 points. It 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 until the due date.

## Final Video Project

The Final Video Project consists of 1) Video Project Proposal, (3) Annotated Primary References, 2) Screenplay/Script for video, 3) hyperlink and electronic file of your final video, 4) Talent Release Form, and 5) Two Peer Reviews. Grading Rubrics with specific instructions for each part 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 asked to **try to the best of your ability** to create one (even if it is the only time you will ever do this in your life). You will be graded based on your original idea, time, effort, and understanding of Chicana and neorealist filmmaking elements and techniques.

If you run into technical issues, please contact me. My background is in filmmaking and I may help you problem-solve.


In brief, for your final video project, you will need to use any electronic device (such as your cell phone or iPad) and/or video camera and software or free apps available to you to write, direct, and video record a short 2-3 minute film using essential Chicana and neorealist filmmaking elements and techniques.

Free video editing apps such as [FilmoraGo](#) are easy to use on your computer or cellphone. **The most important guideline is to film the project in landscape composition so that there are no bars on the sides of your video.** This project may not be a montage of still photography. You must record at least (1) character in action and their voice. Videos may be fiction or nonfiction; however,

they must be based on the (3) primary references provided in your proposal. You will need to upload your final video to your own YouTube or Vimeo account. Then create and post a hyperlink to your video in the Final Video Project Discussion Forum during final exam week. Be sure to include a 2-3 sentence logline/short summary of your film.

These are instructions for creating a hyperlink:

Open two windows on your web browser. One window can be the website you are copying and pasting (YouTube or Vimeo). The other browser window should be the Blackboard Final Video Project Discussion Forum. 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 supply a password, which Vimeo allows you to share a password).

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

Prior to turning in your Final Video Project, you must turn in a Video Proposal of at least 500 words and at least 3 **annotated** references that inform your subject/story. The following week, you will submit a draft of your screenplay/script for your video using a simple format as an example and guide. Peer Review #1 asks you to reply to at least (1) classmate and provide feedback on their screenplay/script. Answer the feedback guiding questions.

Upload assignments as either a **PDF or Word** file. 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\_071021

### **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 show 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	Week 1	Week 1
Discussion 1	10	Week 1	Responses by Wk2
Journal	15	Week 2	Week 2
Video Proposal and 3 Annotated Primary References	10	Week 3	Week 3
Screenplay/Script for Video	10	Week 4	Week 4
Peer Review 1	10	Week 5	Week 5
Quiz 2	15	Week 6	Week 6
Final Video Project	10	Week 7	<b>Saturday, July 24</b>
Talent Release Form	5	Week 7	<b>Saturday, July 24</b>
Peer Review 2	10	Week 8	<b>Friday, July 30</b>

### Assignment Category Percentages Chicax Cinema

<b>Discussions AND Journal</b>	25%
Discussion 1 including 2 peer responses (10 points)	
Journal (15 points)	
<b>Quizzes</b>	20%
Quiz 1 (5 points)	
Quiz 2 (15 points)	
<b>Final Video Project</b>	55%
Video Proposal and 3 Annotated References (10 points)	
Screenplay/Script for Video (10 points)	
Final Video Project (10 points)	
Talent Release Form (5 points)	
(2) Peer Reviews (20 points)	



## Modules

Chicanx Cinema is set up in modules with latest content, discussions, and major assignments. The modular structure is meant to "package" the week so that students know exactly what is expected for that time. Weekly Modules will open by Sunday.

## COURSE CALENDAR

**\*All assignments are due by 11 PM (Mountain Standard Time).** Submit early to avoid technical difficulties. Late assignments may receive zero credit.

**Week One: Introduction**  
**June 7 – June 12**  
**Chicanx Cinema**

### READ:

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

### WATCH:

*I Am Joaquín* by El Teatro Campesino  
*Please Don't Bury Me Alive!* by Efraín Gutiérrez (clip)  
Interview with Efrain Gutierrez

### Assignment:

Quiz 1 due Saturday  
Discussion 1 (first post due Saturday; responses to at least (2) classmates due by the following Wednesday)

**Week Two: Classical Hollywood Cinema**  
**June 13 – June 19**  
**Story formula success**

### READ:

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

### WATCH:

*Selena* by Gregory Nava  
*Stand and Deliver* by Ramón Menéndez

### Assignment:

Responses to Discussion 1 due by Wednesday  
Journal due by Saturday

### **Week Three: Independent Filmmaking**

**June 20 – June 26**

#### **Avant-garde and Expressionism**

##### **READ:**

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

##### **WATCH:**

Harry Gamboa short film clips  
*A Better Life* by Chris Weitz

##### **Assignment:**

Video Proposal and 3 Annotated Primary References due by Saturday

### **Week Four: Neorealism**

**June 27 – July 3**

#### **Depicting the struggle naturally**

##### **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:**

*The Milagro Beanfield War* by Robert Redford

##### **Assignment:**

Screenplay/Script for Video due by Saturday

### **Week Five: Third World Cinema**

**July 4 – July 10**

#### **Decolonizing Cinema**

##### **READ:**

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

##### **WATCH:**

*Bless Me Ultima* by Carl Franklin

**Assignment:**

Peer Review 1

**Week Six: Documentary**

July 11 – July 17

Reality and Realism

**READ:**

Filming a Chicana Documentary (1979) by Sylvia Morales

**WATCH:**

*Dolores* by Peter Bratt

**Assignment:**

Quiz 2 due by Saturday

**Week Seven and Week Eight: Final Exam**

July 18 – July 30

Musical

**READINGS:**

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

**WATCH:**

*Zoot Suit* by Luis Valdez

Interview with Luis Valdez hosted by Robert Rodriguez

Student Films made by you.

**Assignment:**

Final Video Project **due by Saturday, July 24**

Talent Release Form **due by Saturday, July 24**

Peer Review 2 **due by Friday, July 30**

**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 supplying documentation to The Center for Accommodations and Support Services found 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 supplying information to another student, having 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 tried 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 said 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.

### **Student responsibility**

Student is 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. Please always follow COVID19 campus safety rules.

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 especially 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 especially important that you follow directions carefully. You must turn in your work correctly. If you do not properly turn in your work, you will not receive credit for the assignment. Here is an example of improperly turning in work: Student opens assignment link, copies/pastes their critical response then does not click the submit button. They then move into another part of Blackboard and the assignment is never sent. Simple human error, but please be sure to double-check that your work is turned in correctly.

You must check Blackboard for announcements and course messages. Announcements also get sent to your UTEP email address. If you do not check Blackboard and you miss an important announcement or email your grade may be deducted points for being absent from this 100% online course.

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 turn in all work on time. I will not accept late work. Please communicate with me about any absences.

The only time that I will accept a late quiz or assignment is if the Blackboard System goes down or other extreme circumstances. Please communicate with me to let me know if this is the case.

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 unable to submit an assignment you will need to communicate with me as soon as possible.

You will be penalized for poor writing skills. If your work is riddled with spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors you will lose a considerable number of points for that assignment. This could be the difference between a passing and failing grade, so I strongly suggest that you use the spell check available to you.