

## CHICANO/LATINO MUSIC IN THE U.S.

CHIC 3304 CRN: 17091

Meeting time&amp;days: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30-11:50am

Liberal Arts Building 102



Instructor Information: Guillermo (Antonio) Villaseñor-Baca

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Office Hours: Wednesday, Noon to 2pm and by appointments

**Course Description:** An examination of the history of Tex-Mex and Latino music—particularly in Mexico, Cuba, Brasil, and Argentina—and its influence in U.S. popular music. This semester, we will particularly focus on punk and punk rock, and the subversive quality that connected it with Chicano ideologies and culture. The course will look at specific pockets of Chicano roots in various genres while focusing on punk, rock, riot grrrl, and grunge.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Be able to identify Chicano roots throughout various mediums and genres of music through both a cultural and historical lens.
2. Come to a more complex understanding of social issues as they are identified and discussed through music.
3. Develop a more tangible relationship with the medium of music reviews as both academic and personal texts.
4. Improve critical reading and listening of music texts.

**Reading Materials:**

1. *Chico Punk*, Tara Lopez, 2024, University of Texas Press
2. *Violence Girl: East L.A. Rage to Hollywood Stage: a Chicana Punk Story*, Alice Bag, 2011, Feral House
3. Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard.

**Course Assignments & Grading Rubric:**

Attendance and participation	150 points
Music Reviews	200 points
Live Music Review	100 points
Book Response	100 points
Midterm paper draft	150 points
Final Paper / Zine	300 points

900-1000 = A      800-899 = B      700-799 = C      600-699 = D      599≤ = F

*Music reviews:*

Throughout the semester, there will be four music reviews due, each worth 100 points. These music reviews must be on albums of 30 minutes or more released within the last 15 years. They must be between 2-4 pages, 1.5 spaced in Palatino or Times New Roman. The review must contain coherent and clear analysis of the music, the narrative of the lyrics, and an in-depth discussion of what message the artist is trying to discuss. Is it subversive? How or why not? What is unique about the album? Is it successful in its discourse? Anything can be punk!

*Live music review:*

During the semester, the student will have to attend one live music event. You will write a review similar to the music album about the event between 3-4 pages in Palatino or Times New Roman in 1.5 spacing. This can include any concert or show. It can include a karaoke night with family, a concert at a venue, a recording or live recording of a show. It just has to take place during the semester. Describe the atmosphere, the music, what songs are played, how people are dressed, the lighting. What do all these elements build up to? Who is the intended audience of the show? How does this relate to the course? What is the message of the event?

*Book response:*

We will be reading Tara Lopez's *Chuco Punk* this semester. Following the week of the discussion, you will have to submit a 3-5 page response discussing what is analyzed in the book. It must be submitted in 12pt. Palatino or Times New Roman font in 1.5 spacing.

*Midterm paper draft & final paper/zine.*

This semester you will have to write a 4-7 page paper that is modeled like a zine. You will pick one artist of your choosing and analyze them through the lens used the class. Discuss their politics, who is their audience, what is their music's goal? Answer the question, is their music punk and/or Chicano, according to a set definition you need to

explain in your paper's introduction. You will have to include 3-6 different genres (images, photos, drawings, posters, etc.) as your paper should be like a mini academic zine. The paper should be between 5-7 pages 12 point Palatino or Times New Roman 1.5 spacing and include 4-sources in APA format.

The **midterm paper assignment** is expected to be a rough draft of the final paper due at the end of the semester. It should be at least 2-4 pages in 12 pt Palatino or Times New Roman font. This should be printed out and brought to class as your midterm in order to do peer reviews and so I can return it to you with feedback so you can finish your final paper.

#### *Quizzes:*

As you can see, there are no quizzes in the grading rubric. If participation is low or I see that readings aren't being done, I will give quizzes based on the readings during class.

#### **Attendance & Late Work:**

Attendance makes up 15% of your grade. You are allowed two excused absences. Starting with a third absence, your grade will drop. Please be on time to class. I do not drop students. I will accept assignments up to two days later from their deadline. I drop a letter grade for each day. On the third day, it is an automatic 0.

However, this class is about communication. Life happens, situations arise. If you need some help or extra time, please reach out to me to see if something can be done. I was a student once too and know how difficult juggling coursework and several classes can be.

#### **Classroom Etiquette:**

1. Electronic devices can be very helpful in the classroom whether a smartphone, tablet, or computer. However, if their use does not contribute to the conversation or tasks in the classroom then I have the right to ask you to put it away or turn it off, even if it is a personal device.
2. Debate, critical inquiry, and intellectual diversity are essential elements to higher education and a process of learning. There is the potential during this course for controversial and sensitive topics to be discussed during small group or whole class interaction, and to surface through our social media activity. You are expected to demonstrate the utmost respect and courtesy for your peers with differing arguments, viewpoints, and/or experiences. Sexist, racist, homophobic, or other hateful speech will not be tolerated.

**Academic Integrity:**

The University of Texas at El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence. In the classroom and in all other academic activities, students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Visit the Office of Dean of Students. Instructors are required to report the suspected academic dishonesty to the Office of Student Affairs.

**Accommodations:**

Your success in this class is important to me. We will all need accommodations because we all learn differently. If there are aspects of this course that prevent you from learning or exclude you, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we'll develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. I also encourage you to visit the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) in room 106, Union East Building or contact them at 747-5148 or [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu). If you need official accommodations, you have a right to have these met. There are also a range of resources on campus, including the Writing Center, Counseling Center, Military Student Success Center and Academic Advising Center.

**University Writing Center:**

UTEP's University Writing Center (UWC) offers free writing tutoring assistance for all UTEP students. The tutors are undergraduate and graduate students who can help with all parts of a writing assignment, including prewriting, organizing, revising, and editing. They can also help to understand any writing assignment and help work on comprehending difficult textbook material. Note: To facilitate revision, I encourage you to visit the writing center at least 12 hours before the assignment is due.

## *Course Calendar & Important Dates:*



### AUGUST

Week 1      Aug. 26  
Introductions / groups / syllabus

Aug. 28  
Crossword puzzle activity

### SEPTEMBER

Week 2      Sep. 2 Labor Day! No class

Sep. 4  
What is punk? What is punk?  
"Con Safos" Burciaga,  
Readings from *Mexican American Literature Portable Anthology*, Gilb,  
From *Last Interview* series, Cobain

Week 3      Sep. 9  
Resistance in music writing: Hand Abdurraqib, Jeff Tweedy

Sep. 11  
Writing Reviews:  
Jessica Hopper, Lester Bangs

Week 4      Sep. 16 Raíces:

Los Saicos, Spinetta (Pescado Rabioso), Soda Stereo, Violeta Parra,  
Los Prisioneros, Victor Jara, Rita Guerrero

Sep. 18 Bad Brains, Selena, Tigres del Norte, Tin Tán

Week 5 Sep. 23  
*Chuco Punk* by Tara Lopez

Sep. 25  
Continue *Chuco Punk*

## OCTOBER

Week 6 Sep. 30 Riot Grrrl:  
Alice Bag, Teri Gender Bender

Oct. 2 Riot Grrrl Today  
Pussy Riot, Black Belt Eagle Scout

Week 7 Oct. 7  
Más Mujeres Roqueras: The Warning, Paz Lenchantin, Reyna Tropical,  
Mon Laferte, Rita Guerrero, Linda Rondstadt

Oct. 9 Mon Laferte Documentary, *Mon Laferte, te amo*

Week 8 Oct. 14  
Alice Bag excerpts from *Violence Girl*

Oct. 16 Women Producing  
Continue with Alice Bag,

Week 9 Oct. 21 *Chuco Punk Expanded*  
El Paso is Punk: ATDI, The Mars Volta, Miijas

Oct. 23 Khalid, LNDH  
“Mastering of a Music City” report

Week 10 Oct. 28  
Other genres but really goth and synth: Twin Tribes, Glass Spells

Oct. 30 Reflection:  
What other genres?

## NOVEMBER

Nov. 1 Fall drop / withdrawal deadline.

Week 11      Nov. 4  
Grunge, Pat Smear

Nov. 6

Week 12      Nov. 11  
Punk Travels: Juanita y los Feos, Tefy Clouds, Grito Exclamación

Nov. 13

Week 13      Nov. 18  
Contemporary punk: Generation Suicida, Le Butcherettes, Destroy Boys,  
and more!

Nov. 20 Other mediums

Week 14      Nov. 25  
Thanksgiving week. This week we will have in-class activities, including  
making a playlist.

Nov. 27  
Continue working on playlist. Submit by today.

## DECEMBER

Week 15      Dec. 2  
Work day. In-class time to work on papers.

Dec. 4  
Peer review day. Workshop final papers during class.

Dec. 5 Final day of classes.

Dec. 6 Dead day.

Week 16

Dec. 13.

Final paper / zine due at 11:59pm

Dec. 18 Final grades are due.

Dec. 19 Final grades are posted.