CHICANA/O STUDIES 3311: Societal Issues and Analysis

Fall 2014

MWF 9:30-10:20

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Office Hours: MWF 8:30-9:15 and MW 10:30 -11:30, also by appointment on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

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Course Description:

Chicano Studies 3311 is a general course designed to provide the student with an understanding of Mexican American and Latino/Hispanic culture. This interdisciplinary course explores how people of Mexican and Latino origin in the United States have created a distinct culture and presence in American society. To better understand the Mexican American experience, this survey examines its historical precursors and contemporary socioeconomic, educational, artistic, political, and literary dimensions. Furthermore, issues such as race, class and gender are also probed to increase our awareness of Mexican American and Latino culture and society.

Format:

- This course will be taught by employing multiple modes of learning including lectures, student presentations, media and discussions.
- 3 dimensional approach to the university curriculum and course themes
- This subject matter is categorized as a social science and lends itself to learning through class discussions and student presentations (seminar format). These modes of teaching are strongly emphasized as they place a high importance and value on your narratives as individuals and actors in society. Your narratives, experiences and perspectives on the issues covered are consequential to the learning process because they create a culturally responsive and relevant learning environment.

Theoretical Framework for the Course:

- Historical concepts and issues will be explored. For example: What is your place in history and what is the importance of knowing your history? (Reflexivity and relevance)
- Critical Race Theory
• Gender Theory
• Identity Theory
• Sociopolitical Theory

Required Texts and Technology:


• Burciaga, Jose A. *Drink Cultura* (1993)

• Extra readings as assigned: These will be provided to you online on Edmodo.com

• Students are required to have an active UTEP email account, as I send frequent messages to students with important updates.
• Edmodo.com account - educational network and media (you must use your full name as your profile name and course code.

Learning Outcomes:

1. To examine the historical experiences of the Mexican origin and Latino population in the United States and link that experience to contemporary issues affecting this group.

2. To analyze the salient trends and personas in the development of the Chicana/o cultural dimension through film and artistic expressions, with a regional emphasis.

3. To foster the interdisciplinary integration of paradigms, concepts, and perspectives in the analysis of issues that inform on the Mexican origin population via multimedia instruction.

4. To examine salient political and socioeconomic trends of the Mexican origin population in American society, with an emphasis on the U.S-Mexico border.

5. To analyze the linguistic and cultural characteristics of the Mexican origin population and their manifestation in American society

An interdisciplinary text exclusively designed for the U.S-Mexico border region serves as the primary source of instruction for the course. Documentaries, exhibits, literary readings, additional reading assignments, and guest lectures also will be used as modes of instruction.
Course Policies:

1. Be Present: Students are expected to attend class lectures. Attendance will be taken daily.

2. Be on Time: I will close the door a few minutes after starting class. If the doors are closed, you must ask permission to enter and be counted late.

3. May be the Course be With You: The assigned readings should be read prior to coming to class in order to have a fruitful discussion and adequate participation. Please bring all reading and note-taking materials to class. At my discretion, if I see that you are not taking notes, unengaged or not participating in the learning environment I will count you absent, even if you have signed in. It is not enough to show up to class—you must be engaged.

4. Treat Others the Way You Want to be Treated—With RESPECT: When discussing issues in class, you should be respectful of others. Personal attacks are not permitted. This applies whether the person is a student, a visitor, or the instructor. I look forward to hearing your opinions and ideas. Your voice and ideas are important to me and should be to others as well. Respect for one another is mandatory. A violation of this policy will result in the student being removed from class.

5. Students are expected to take exams and submit assignments on the assigned dates.

6. Do not leave class early unless you have spoken to me. Otherwise, you will be noted absent.

7. NO EMAILED OR LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED UNLESS PERMISSION GRANTED BY PROFESSOR

8. Be Present, both Physically and Mentally: Do not carry a conversation, browse the internet, read the newspaper, or study materials for your other classes. Please silence your cell phones. I will not hesitate to point out that your behavior is unacceptable. If the disruptive behavior continues, you will be told to leave class and possibly dropped from the course. If you have a laptop or tablet open I will check that you are in fact using it for course purposes.

***If you are having any difficulty in the class, please talk to me. I am here to help you. Please do not miss class for several days; the overwhelming majority of students who do this never catch-up. Instead it is better to communicate any difficulty you are having with the instructor.

Evaluation: 400 points total

Exams 200 points: Two exams will be administered, each worth 100 points. You are responsible for material covered in class and the texts. No one will be allowed to leave the room during exams. Students missing an exam must contact the instructor within 24 hours. Make-up exams are given only in cases of documented emergencies. The instructor will decide whether the student has a legitimate excuse to take a make-up exam.

Writing/Reflection Assignment on book Drink Cultura by Burciaga 50 points: To be discussed with guidelines.

In-class assignments/quizzes/participation 50 points: Throughout the semester students are expected to complete assignments in class. There will be five short written assignments/quizzes to be completed during the class period, each worth 5 points for a total of 50 points. No make-ups will be given unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor. You should bring your book, reader, and notes to
class. I reserve the right to administer more quizzes if I feel the class is not reading the assigned material.

**Group Presentation 100 points:**

In this course you are expected to present on material assigned by the professor. You will be provided with guidelines and a grading rubric for a successful presentation. Take this presentation seriously as I will grade you individually and as a group. If you do not participate adequately you will lose points or not receive credit for the presentation.

**Attendance Policy:**

You are strongly urged to attend class. Part of being a successful student in any class is regular attendance. Students will be allowed 4 absences. Any absence over 4 will result in a five-point deduction from the final grade for each additional absence. For example, a student with seven absences will have his/her final grade lowered by 15 points. There will be no exceptions to this rule unless there is a documented reason for your absences. Under no circumstance should you sign-in for another student as you risk serious penalties.

The last day to drop with an automatic “W” is **October 2014**. You are responsible for dropping the course if you no longer plan to attend, as I will assign a letter grade of “F” if you do not drop the course. If you are considering dropping the course, please discuss the matter with the professor. Things may not be as bad as you think.

**Academic Dishonesty**

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 747-5648.

**Students with Disabilities**

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 Student Services located in the Student Union Building East, Room 203 by phone 747-4148 or e-mail 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 Disabled Student Services.
ATTENTION GRADUATE STUDENTS: In order to obtain graduate credit for this course, you must satisfactorily complete a term paper or conduct research on a topic, with parameters and editorial style approved beforehand by the course instructor.