Chicana/o Studies 3339: Culture, Youth and Diversity in the U.S.

Online Course: The University of Texas at El Paso

Spring 2015

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Course Description: This course is a survey of socioeconomic and cultural characteristics of ethnic groups in the U.S. and how they affect the participation of these groups in the American education system. Chicana/o Studies 3339 includes an examination of specific policies and practices in those institutions which promote or inhibit participation. Although we will spend time examining the experiences of various minority groups in the U.S. that contributed to the national character, the primary focus of this course is on the schooling of Mexican Americans/Chicanos/Latinos and how their experiences intersect. We will learn about and discuss key concepts that are relevant to education, ethnic studies and multicultural education.

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 cultural relevance)

• Critical Race Theory

• Sociopolitical Theory

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will discuss and learn about the intersections of race, ethnicity, culture, language and class to better understand the historical and contemporary educational experiences of subaltern groups in the U.S.

2. Through the use of literature, films and documentaries, students will learn to think critically about the experiences of minorities in the U.S.

3. This course will allow students to better understand their role as an educator and/or professional

4. Issues such as race, class and gender are also probed to increase our awareness of Mexican American and Latino culture and society.
5. Together we will examine salient political and socioeconomic trends of the Mexican/Latino origin population in American society.

Textbook and Technology Requirements:

- Smeltertown: Making and Remembering a Southwest Border Community (2010). M. Perales
- Other readings as assigned will be provided to you online in each module as an attachment or link
- Students are required to have an active UTEP email account, as I send frequent messages to students with important updates.
- Blackboard access required

Format:

- This course will be taught by employing multiple modes of learning including lectures, media, group projects and discussions.
- 3 dimensional approaches to the university curriculum and course themes: You will read about my interpretation of readings, other students’ interpretations and multimedia/documentary interpretations.
- This subject matter is categorized as a social science and lends itself to learning through class discussions and student group work (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.

Course Policies:

1. Students are expected to complete all reading assignments and module material the week it is assigned and on time. It will be difficult for you to learn anything in this course if you do not read and watch all media assigned.

2. May the Course be with you: The assigned readings should be read in order to have a fruitful discussion and adequate participation. Please take notes on reading and media as needed.

3. Treat others the way you would like to be treated/Respect Clause: When discussing issues in this online 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 the course.
4. Be on time: Students are expected to take exams and submit assignments on the assigned dates. No exceptions will be made, except under extenuating circumstances. In the event that it occurs, I will ask for supporting documentation.

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

6. Check Blackboard daily, including your ANNOUNCEMENTS link on Blackboard.

6. Most importantly, have fun learning! It is important to me that you enjoy the learning experience of this course. Take advantage of this online experience and learn from it.

***If you are having any difficulty in the class, please talk to me. I am here to help you. Please do not miss class/or not check Blackboard 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. 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. Your midterm exam will be a written exam (100 points) to be submitted individually. The final exam will be completed with your group, as a group project and will also be worth 100 points.

Quizzes 100 points: Throughout the semester students are expected to complete assignments in class. There will be 3 short written assignments/quizzes to be completed during the course. 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.

Critical Race Theory Assignment 50 points: as described in module 3.

Online Discussion 50 points: You are expected to complete all online discussions in a satisfactory manner. That means I am looking out for a well thought-out response that displays to myself and others that you read the material and are thinking critically about what is being discussed. In addition, you must respond at least 1 time to each member in your group.

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 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 747-5648. In an online course, I take this very, very seriously. It is always best to ask for my help instead of taking the risks discussed above.

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 Support Services located in the Student Union Building East, Room 103 by phone 747-5148 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.