

The University of Texas at El Paso

Latina/o/x Presence in the U.S.

CHIC 2302 CRN 19250

Fall 2022: August 23 – December 8, 2022

TR 1:30-2:50pm Education 313

Dr. Irma V. Montelongo

Office Hours TR: 11:30-1:00pm (and by appointment)

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Course Description:

This course is an interdisciplinary examination of the social, political, and economic forces that characterize Latina/o/x identities and communities in the United States. Through an examination of historical and contemporary Latina/o/x experiences, students will better understand how issues of race, gender, colonialism, nationalism, migration, politics, and globalization re-define, incorporate, or neglect Latina/o/x identities and communities in the U.S. The main goal of the course is to invite students to think critically and understand the conceptual, political, and historical issues that inform Latina/o/x experiences in the U.S.

Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will learn:

1. theories of race, class, ethnicity, and gender and how these categories intersect and characterize the life experiences of Latina/o/xs in the United States.
2. about the historical and contemporary experiences of Latina/o/xs with respect to conquest, colonization, immigration, politics, education, religion, family dynamics, labor, the media, and the arts.
3. to compare, contrast, and discuss the differences and similarities among the various Latina/o/xs groups in the U.S
4. to analyze relations between Latina/o/xs and other racial/ethnic groups.
5. to view themselves as global citizens as they interact and collaborate with people of diverse backgrounds in open and respectful ways

The guiding questions for this course are the following: *What is Latina/o/x identity? What are the historical and contemporary events that define Latina/o/x identity in the U.S.? How does space and time inform Latina/o/x identity formation?*

Required Texts:

- All required readings are in **Blackboard**. Students are responsible for accessing all required readings.
 - Supplemental but **NOT REQUIRED**:
 - Paul Ortiz, *An African American and Latinx History of the United States*
 - Timothy P. Bowman, *You Will Never Be One of Us*

COVID-19 PRECAUTION STATEMENT

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 Requirements:

- 1. Attendance and Discussion:** You are expected to attend class and ***be there on time***; Completion of the course depends on your attendance. If you miss a class period, it is your responsibility to obtain handouts (from the instructor) and notes (from a fellow student). There are a few ground rules for discussion. Whether you are discussing in a group or as a class, please remember that the appeal of higher learning is that we can think and talk, maturely and responsibly about topics like race, class, gender, and sexuality. ***Please treat each other, and each other's contributions to class discussions, with respect.***
- 2. Quizzes (25%):** There will be quizzes throughout the semester based on the readings, videos, and podcasts. The quizzes are intended to gauge your ability to keep up with the materials and to ensure that you are attending class as required. **There are no make-ups for quizzes.**
- 3. Midterm Exam (25%):** There is a midterm exam scheduled for **October 6, 2022**. The midterm will cover Learning Modules 1, 2, 3, and 4. **There are no make-ups for exams.**
- 4. Journal Entries (25%):** You will submit six (6) journal entries throughout the semester (see Course Calendar for due dates). The assignment will consist of a 250-word paper (1-page double-spaced) that analyzes what you learned from the specific Learning Module under discussion. I will provide a guiding question for each journal entry. **Deadline to submit the journal entries will be 11:59pm on the due date.**
- 5. Final Exam (25%):** You will have a final exam at the end of the course that will cover Learning Modules 5, 6, 7, and 8. I will provide a review sheet located in Learning Module 9. The Final Exam will be proctored in our classroom on **December 8, 2022**.

Grading Scale: Final grades will be given according to the student's demonstrated level of mastery of the subject matter as determined by assignments, class discussion, and attendance. The assignments for this course are based on a scale of 100 points. Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

(A): 90-100 (B): 80-89 (C): 70-79 (D): 60-69 (F): 0-59

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.

Class Policies:

1. **Attendance:** Attendance and participation in class are required. Should you miss a class, you are still responsible for everything that is covered in that class. Missing class or being late is no excuse for missing a due date or misunderstanding an assignment. Therefore, you will want to contact a classmate, not the instructor, to find out what you missed.
2. **Dropping the Class:** Students may drop the class and receive a “W” any time prior to **October 28, 2022**.
3. **Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. **Cheating** may involve copying from or providing information to another student, processing 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. **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 disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from the University for such actions.
4. **Student Support Services:** If you have a documented special needs and require specific accommodations you will need to contact the **Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS)** at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106 within the first two weeks for classes. For additional information please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to special needs, including all learning special needs. Please see me personally before or after class in the first two weeks or make an appointment, to discuss any special needs you might have.
5. **Student Conduct:** [From the Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs]: Each student is responsible for notice of and compliance with the provisions of the Regents Rules and Regulations, which are available for inspection electronically at <http://www.utsystem.edu/bor/rules/homepage.htm>.

We will have frequent discussions and students are expected to tolerate and respect the opinions of others. All students are expected to behave as responsible adults.

Please SILENCE cell phones before class and NO TEXT MESSAGING and/or Facebooking, Snapchatting, Tweeting, etc. during class!!!

Course Calendar:

Learning Module 1: Historical Notions of Race and Ethnicity in the U.S.

Week 1: Tuesday (T) Aug. 23 – Introductions

Thursday (Th) Aug. 25 – Understanding Latinidad and the Western Hemisphere

Read: “You Say Latino:” A Mini Comic;”

Week 2: (T) Aug. 30 – Race as a Social Construction

Read: Peggy McIntosh, “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack,” 1-8; and Mojica Rodriguez, “Colorism,” 29-46

Podcast: “Too Black, Too Latino” (53 mins.)

(Th) Sept. 1 – Ethnic Identity Formation

Read: Pablo Vila, “Identity and Empowerment on the Border,” 40-47; and Pew Research Center (PRC) “Latinos experience discrimination from other Latinos as much as from non-Latinos”

Podcast(s): “Anything for Selena: Spanglish” (44 mins.)

Journal Entry #1: due September 4, 2022, at 11:59pm

Learning Module 2: Understanding Gender

Week 3: (T) Sept. 6 – Gendering Bodies

Read: Ruiz and Korrol, “Introduction,” in *Latina Legacies*, 3-18

Podcast(s): “Anything for Selena: Big Butt Politics” (45 mins.)

(TH) Sept. 8 – Toxic Masculinity

Video: *The Mask You Live In*

Journal Entry #2: due September 11, 2022, at 11:59pm

Learning Module 3 – Conquest and Colonization of the Americas

Week 4: (T) Sept. 13 – European Arrival to the Western Hemisphere

Read: David Stannard, “Genocide in the Americas,” 430-434

(Th) Sept. 15 – The Northern Spanish Frontier

Video: *The Last Conquistador*

Week 5: (T) Sept. 20 – Daring to be Free: The Politics of Hispaniola

Podcast(s): “The Dominican Republic and Haiti: Two Nations, One Island” (12 mins.)

(Th) Sept. 22 – The U.S.-Mexico Border

Journal Entry #3: due September 25, 2022, at 11:59pm

Learning Module 4 – Creating Latina/o Imperial Subjects

Week 6: (T) Sept. 27 – The Spanish-American War

(Th) Sept. 29 – The “Other” Americans

Video: *Empire of Dreams*

Week 7: (T) Oct. 4 – Study for Midterm Exam

(Th) Oct. 6 – Midterm Exam

Learning Module 5: Latino Communities in the U.S.

Week 8: (T) Oct. 11 – From Islands to Mainland

Video: *The New Latinos*

(Th) Oct. 13 – Latino New York

Read: Gonzalez, “Puerto Ricans: Citizens Yet Foreigners” 81-95; and “Dominicans: From the Duarte to the George Washington Bridge,” 117-128

Week 9: (T) Oct. 18 – Latinos in the South

Read: Gonzalez, “Cubans: Special Refugees,” 108-116

Podcast: *The Myth of the Latino Vote* (54 mins.)

(Th) Oct. 20 – Central Americans and the Quest for Survival

Read: Gonzalez, “Central Americans: Intervention Comes Home to Roost,” 129-148

Week 10: (T) Oct. 25 – Dying for the “American Dream”

Video: *Who Is Dayani Cristal?*

(Th) Oct. 27 – Panama, Columbia, and Venezuela

Read: Gonzalez, “Columbians and Panamanians: Overcoming Division and Disdain,” 149-163; and PRC, “Venezuelan Immigrants in the United States”

Journal Entry #4: due October 30, 2022, at 11:59pm

Last Day to Withdraw with a “W” is October 28, 2022

Learning Module 6 – Latinos and the Post 9/11 United States

Week 11: (T) Nov. 1 – Latinos at the World Trade Center

Video: *Seen But Not Heard*

(Th) Nov. 3 – From Immigrants to Terrorists

Read: The Brown Threat: Post 9/11 Conflations of Latina/os and Middle Eastern Muslims in the U.S. American Imagination,” 44-63

Podcast: “9/11’s Immigration Legacy” (65 mins.)

Week 12: (T) Nov. 8 – Rest and Catch-Up Day

(Th) Nov. 10 – Fighting for the U.S.

Read: Gina M. Perez, “Hispanic Values, Military Values: Gender, Culture, and the Militarization of Latina/o Youth,” 168-182

Video: *Voces: American Exile*

Journal Entry #5: due November 13, 2022, at 11:59pm

Learning Module 7 – Latina/o/x Representations in Media and Film

Week 13: (T) Nov. 15 – Latinos on the Big Screen

Video: *Latinos Beyond Reel: Challenging a Media Stereotype*

(Th) Nov. 17 – Creating the “Illegal Alien” and the Drug Dealer

Video: *The Ballad of Esequiel Hernandez*

Journal Entry #6: due November 20, 2022, at 11:59pm

Week 14: (T) Nov. 22 – Thanksgiving Holiday No Class

(Th) Nov. 24 – Thanksgiving Holiday No Class

Learning Module 8 – Final Exam Prep

Week 15: (T) Nov. 29 – Study for Final Exam

(Th) Dec. 1 – Study for Final Exam

Final Exam: December 8, 2022, from 1:00pm – 3:45pm. Exam to be proctored in our classroom.