

The University of Texas at El Paso

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

CHIC 2302, CRN 13945, Fall 2024 (802)

**100% Online Course:** Computer Access Required  
8-Week Course: October 21, 2024, to December 9, 2024

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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/x in the United States.
2. about the historical and contemporary experiences of Latina/o/x 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/x groups in the U.S
4. to analyze relations between Latina/o/x 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 Materials:**

- Access to computer and internet
- All readings, videos, and podcasts are located inside of the Learning Module for any week.

All course content will be delivered via the **Blackboard** LMS. To access Blackboard, go to <https://my.utep.edu> and click on the "Blackboard" tab on the left-hand side of the page. Follow the link in that box and login using your UTEP login and password.

The Blackboard course shell contains all materials related to this course. You will also use Blackboard to send e-mails to your fellow classmates or to me – always remember to include an appropriate subject line to prevent your email from going into the junk mail folder. **All correspondence for this class must be done through Blackboard email.**

**\*\*\* IMPORTANT:** You must get into the habit of checking Blackboard **EVERY DAY** to make sure you do not miss any important announcements.

### **Our Virtual Classroom:**

**All communication with me must be conducted through Blackboard Email.** Please do not send emails to my UTEP address. I will respond to you within 24 hours.

**NOTE:** I check Blackboard regularly Monday - Friday between 8:00am – 5:00pm. I do not check email or Blackboard on Saturdays or Sundays.

Online learning is not a spectator sport. It is everyone's responsibility to participate fully so everyone can get the most from the experience. Here are some simple rules to follow to ensure participation and engagement in the learning process:

**Ask Questions:** I have created a Discussion Forum entitled **HELP BOARD**, located under the **Discussions** tab at the very top of the *Home Page* and on the *Home Page*. The *Help Board* is for asking questions related to content OR any course issues. Clearly indicate the subject of your thread. **If you are having technical difficulties, you will be directed to UTEP tech support.**

**Reach Out to Others:** Offer a fact, an article, link, or other items that can help others learn something you can share. I have created a separate class discussion forum called **The Que Onda Café**, also located under the **Discussions** tab at the very top of the *Home Page* and on the *Home Page*. The Que Onda Café is for the entire class to share relevant information and to participate in leisure conversations as well. The only requirement is that you treat one another with respect.

Inappropriate behavior/comments online will not be tolerated. Inappropriate behavior WILL BE subject to disciplinary action. I reserve the right to drop you from this course if you use our class as a venue for insulting or insensitive comments or attacks toward other students or the instructor.

### **Required Software:**

Please make sure that all your computer hardware is working properly and please make sure that you have all the required software, and that the software is up to date. It is especially important that your Adobe software is up to date. Blackboard works best with Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome but does not always communicate well with Safari. **The videos embedded in the learning modules work best with Mozilla Firefox. If you use Chrome, you will most likely receive an “error” message.**

Please ensure that you have the necessary software. You must have *Adobe Acrobat Reader* to access the readings for the class and a media player plug-in to view the assigned videos (*Adobe Flash Player, Windows Media Player, QuickTime Player, VLC Player, etc.*). When creating documents, slide presentations, spreadsheets, etc., you must use *Microsoft Office* or a compatible program (see 10 Free MS Word Alternatives). Be sure you have the appropriate word processing software because if I cannot open your documents, they **WILL NOT** be graded.

### **Course Policies and Procedures and Grading Rubric:**

I provided a set of Course Policies and Procedures and Grading Rubrics *Learning Module 1: Introduction and Getting Started*. Please access and familiarize yourself with the dos and don'ts of the course and the grading scales for all assignments. The information provided is extremely important and crucial for your success in this course.

### **Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes 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 one's 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 referred to the **Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution** (OSCCR) for disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from the University for such actions.

### **Usage of Artificial Intelligence:**

Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all work submitted in this course must be your own and completed in accordance with the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures Chapter 1 Section 1.2.3. **AI** generated submissions that use ChatGPT, Grammarly, Chegg or other AI composition software **are prohibited**, will be treated as cheating, and reported to the **Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution** (OSCCR).

### **Students with Disabilities:**

I will make any reasonable accommodation for students with limitations due to special needs, including those with learning disabilities. Please inform me immediately of any special needs you might have. If you have a documented special need 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](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106 within the first week of class. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass)

### **Attendance Policy:**

This is an online class so there is no real attendance policy. Attendance is taken by measuring your work online. You are responsible for doing all the work and meeting all deadlines and due dates.

### **Deadline Policy:**

**Deadline for assignments and quizzes is 11:59 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 the Course Calendar and all instructions. It is your responsibility to meet all class requirements.

### **Learning Modules:**

The class consists of five (5) Learning Modules. An Introduction and Getting Started module, three (3) theme related modules, and a Final Exam module. **Learning Modules open at 8:00am (MST) on scheduled dates.** All readings, videos, podcast links, assignment guidelines, and submission links are located in the learning module. Theme-related learning modules, except modules 1 and 5, will last approximately 12-13 days.

**1. Quizzes (20%):** There will be four quizzes, one in each of the first four Learning Modules. There is no quiz during the week of the Final Exam. The quiz links are located in the learning modules. **The quiz links will open and close according to scheduled dates and deadlines. See Course Calendar for all due dates and deadlines.** Remember: You will not see the Quiz link until they are scheduled to open on the Course Calendar.

**2. Geography Assignment (10%):** You will submit a geography assignment that maps out Central and South America and parts of the Caribbean. You will be required to identify the countries and their capital cities. This exercise is intended to remind us of the complexity and diversity of Latina/o/x communities.

**3. Digital Journal Entries (45%):** You will submit three (3) Digital Journal Entries. One each for Learning Modules 2, 3, and 4. The learning module will consist of a summary of the readings for each learning module, one photo blog that relates to the theme of the learning module, and a newspaper or magazine article from a reputable source that also relates to the theme of the learning module. Each journal entry will be approximately 4-5 pages in length. I will provide detailed guidelines to help you think critically of the question(s) asked. *You will be severely penalized if you use **Artificial Intelligence** to complete any of these assignments.* **See Course Calendar for due dates and deadline.**

**4. Final Exam (25%):** You will have a comprehensive final exam at the end of the course that will cover Learning Modules 2, 3, and 4. The final exam will be in Learning Module 5. **See course calendar for scheduled exam date and deadline.**

See Grading Rubric for more information on Assignments and Final Exam.

#### **Grading Scale:**

A: 100-90 B: 89-80 C: 79-70 D: 69-60 F: 59 and less

**GRADUATE CREDIT FOR THIS COURSE:** 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.

### **Course Calendar:**

#### **Learning Module 1: Introduction and Getting Started**

**October 21 – October 25, 2024**

#### **The following information is important!**

The first five days of the course are your opportunity to study the syllabus and familiarize yourself with the Blackboard System. Use these five days to ask me any questions about course content and the class policies and procedures.

This week you are required to post an **Introduction** of yourself in **La Qué Onda Internet Café**. The Internet Café and Help Board are located under the *Discussions* tab located at the top of the Home Page and on the Home Page. Additionally, you are required to submit the **Geography Assignment** located in Learning Module 1. Both your Introduction and the geography assignment are due **Wednesday, October 23, 2024, at 11:59pm (MST).**

**You are also required to take the Syllabus/Plagiarism Quiz, which will be available Thursday, October 24, 2024, at 5:00pm (MST) until Friday, October 25, 2024, at 11:59pm (MST).** The quiz is based on your reading of the Course Syllabus, Course Policies and Procedures, Course Grading Rubric, and the Plagiarism video. The video and the quiz are in Learning Module 1: *“Introduction and Getting Started.”*

**NOTE:** The instructor cannot provide technical support. For questions concerning the site and any technical questions or support you must use the UTEP Help Desk. The following link provides the contact information for assistance: <http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=74092>

### **Learning Module 2 – What is a Latina/o/x?**

**October 26 – November 6, 2024**

**Read** – “You Say Latino:” A Mini Comic;” and “Mexicans: Pioneers of a Different Type,” 96-107; and “Puerto Ricans: Citizens Yet Foreigners” 81-95

**Video** – *Empire of Dreams* (54 mins.)

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

**All readings, videos, and podcasts listed in this course calendar are required.**

**Reading Quiz:** available from Nov. 1, 2024, at 8:00am (MST) to Nov. 2 at 11:59pm (MST).

**Digital Journal Entry #1:** due November 6, 2024, at 11:59pm (MST).

### **Learning Module 3 – Latina/o/x Communities in the U.S.**

**November 7 – November 19, 2024**

**Read** – “Cubans: Special Refugees,” 108-116; and “Dominicans: From the Duarte to the George Washington Bridge,” 117-128; and “Central Americans: Intervention Comes Home to Roost,” 129-148

**Video(s)** – *El Norte (Full length feature film: 2 hours 20 minutes)*

**Reading Quiz:** available from Nov. 14, 2024, at 8:00am (MST) to Nov. 15 at 11:59pm (MST).

**Digital Journal Entry #2:** due November 19, 2024, at 11:59pm (MST).

### **Learning Module 4 – Representation Matters: Latina/o/x in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**November 20 – December 2, 2024 (Course Drop with a “W” Deadline: November 22, 2024)**

**Read** – Prisca Mojica Rodriguez, “Colorism,” 29-46; and Pablo Vila, “Identity and Empowerment on the Border,” 40-47; and “Latinos experience discrimination from other Latinos as much as from non-Latinos;” and “Latinx Is a Term Many Still Can’t Embrace”

**Video** – *The Latino List, Vol. 1* (57 mins.)

**Podcast** – “Latinos are moving to the far right; Paola Ramos thinks she knows why” (33 mins.)

**Reading Quiz:** available from Nov. 27, 2024, at 8:00am (MST) to Nov. 29 at 11:59pm (MST).

**Digital Journal Entry #3:** due December 3, 2024, at 11:59pm (MST).

### **Learning Module 5 – Final Exam**

**December 4 – December 9, 2024**

The submission link for the Final Exam will be available on **December 7, 2024, at 8:00am (MST) and will be accessible through December 9, 2024, at 11:59pm (MST).** Good Luck!