

The University of Texas at El Paso

Chicana/o Studies: Societal Issues

CHIC 3311, CRN 27133, Spring 2022 (8W2)

100% Online Course: Computer Access Required

8-Week Course: March 21, 2022, to May 14, 2022

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This course syllabus and reading list may be subject to changes as circumstances warrant. Any such changes will be announced in advance and the syllabus will be updated.

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide the student with a general overview of the social, political, and economic contributions of Mexican American communities to the larger United States culture. Using an interdisciplinary framework, this course examines ethnic Mexican identity formation through the discipline of Chicano Studies. The course uses race, ethnicity, class, and gender as categories of analyses to interpret how and why ethnic Mexicans create distinct identities, communities, and cultures in the United States. The readings, videos, and podcasts explore several topics to include immigration, citizenship, education, labor, politics, music, and literature for a better understanding of how ethnic Mexicans negotiate, resist, and redefine their place in the United States. Students will develop important skills to include critical thinking, reasoning, analysis, and maintaining a point of view, verbally and in writing. Additionally, this course will help students develop computer skills and electronic communication skills.

Student Learning Outcomes:

In this course students will:

1. utilize critical thinking and analytical skills to better understand the historical and contemporary experiences of ethnic Mexicans in the United States with respect to economics, politics, education, music, and the arts.
2. learn to identify, analyze, and articulate the central themes in ethnic Mexican community in the U.S. and the multiple ways that "Chicanos" have been defined and named by others as well as by those in their own communities.
3. learn and understand the socio-economic and cultural contributions made by ethnic Mexicans to the larger U.S culture.
4. discuss the ways in which historical events as well as social, political, and economic changes shape identity formation and family experiences.
5. utilize an interdisciplinary approach to connect the past to the present to better understand the world around them and themselves as global citizens.

The guiding questions for this course are: What is Chicana/o Studies? What does it mean to be a Chicana/o? How have Chicana/os contributed to the story of the United States?

Required Materials:

- Access to computer and internet
- All readings and videos for the class are posted on the **Blackboard** Learning Management System (LMS) site and are located inside of the Learning Modules.

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 AND to me. **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, due dates, and/or deadlines.

Our Virtual Classroom:

All communication must be conducted through Blackboard Email. Please do not send emails to my UTEP address. If you email me be sure to include as much information as possible to include your first and last name, title of class, and CRN number. I will respond to you within 24 hours.

NOTE: I will be checking Blackboard and my email 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 is a Discussion Forum entitled **HELP BOARD**, located under the *General Discussion Forum* tab on the *Home Page*. The *Help Board* is for asking questions related to content OR any problems you are having. Make sure that you have clearly indicated the subject of your message. **If you are having technical difficulties, you will be directed to 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 Discussion Forum entitled the **Aztlán Internet Café**, located under the *General Discussion Forums* tab on the *Home Page*. The Aztlán Internet 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 the utmost 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, attacks toward other students or the instructor.

Required Software:

Please make sure that all 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 very important that your Java software and your Adobe software is up to date. Blackboard works best with Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome but does not communicate well with Safari and especially Internet Explorer. **Stay away from Internet Explorer.**

On the **Home Page** under **Course Materials**, you will see the link entitled **Succeeding Online**. Please click on the link and read this page carefully so that you are aware of the resources available at UTEP to ensure your success with distance learning. 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. 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 have provided a set of *Course Policies and Procedures*, and a *Grading Rubric*. Links to both files are located on the Home Page under *Course Materials*. Please access them as soon as possible 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. I also embedded the Course Policies and Procedures in *Learning Module 1: Introduction and Getting Started*.

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.

Students with Disabilities:

I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please contact me immediately to discuss any special needs you might have. You must have a documented disability and in order to receive specific accommodations you will need to contact the **Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS)** at (915) 747-5148, or by email to 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

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.** When you open a learning module you will see a table of contents on the left-hand side of the module. The table of contents contains all sections of the lecture as well as the quiz link (when visible) and the assignment links. All readings, videos, and podcast links, as well as quizzes, assignment guidelines, and assignment submission links are embedded in the lectures. Theme-related learning modules, except for modules 1 and 5, will last approximately 12 days.

1. Quizzes (20% of final grade): 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 quizzes will be embedded in the table of contents of the individual 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 a Quiz link until the day that they are scheduled on the Course Calendar.

2. Critical Response Assignment (20%): You will submit one (1) Critical Response Paper for Learning Module 2. The paper will be 2-3 pages in length, double-spaced, 12pt font. I will provide detailed guidelines to help you think critically of the question(s) I will ask. **See Course Calendar for due dates and deadline.**

3. Personal Narrative Assignment (20%): You will submit one (1) Personal Narrative Paper for Learning Module 4. The paper will be 2-3 pages in length, double-spaced, 12pt font. I will provide detailed guidelines to help you construct your personal narrative. **See Course Calendar for due dates.**

4. Photo Blog Assignment (20%): You will submit an assignment that consists of one (1) photo taken by you and accompanied by a 1-2-page blog. I will provide detailed instructions for this photo blog assignment inside of Learning Module 4. **See Course Calendar for due dates and deadline.**

5. Final Exam (20% of final grade):

You will have a comprehensive final exam at the end of the course that will cover Learning Modules 2, 3, and 4. I will provide a review sheet located in Learning Module 5. **See course calendar for scheduled exam date and deadline.**

See Grading Rubric for more information on Quizzes, 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: 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.

Course Calendar:

Learning Module 1: Introduction and Getting Started

The following information is very important!

March 21 – 25, 2022

The first five days of the course are your opportunity to study the syllabus, course policies and procedures, grading rubric, and to familiarize yourself with the Blackboard System. Use these five days to ask me any questions you have regarding course content as well as the class policies and procedures.

You must also post an introduction to yourself in *The Aztlán Internet Café* by **Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 11:59pm (MST)**. The Internet Café and Help Board are located under the *General Discussion Forums* located on the Home Page.

You are also required to take the Syllabus/Plagiarism Quiz, which will be available Thursday, March 24, 2022, at 5:00pm (MST) until Friday, March 25, 2022, 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 located 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 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 Chicana/o? What is Chicana/o Studies?

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

March 26 – April 8, 2022

Read – Roque Plana, “Chicano: What Does the Word Mean and Where Does It Come From?” and Cheech Marin, “What is a Chicano?” Carlos F. Ortega, “Introduction: Chicano Studies as a Discipline,” vii-xvii; and “El Plan de Santa Barbara”

Video – “**Latino Americans: Pride and Prejudice**” (54 mins.)

Read – Lisa J. Hernandez, “Chicana Feminists and Loyalists,” 136-148; and Gloria Anzaldua, “La Consciencia de la Mestiza,” 99-120

Video – “**Exploring Borderlands: American Passages**” (27 mins.)

Read – Pablo Vila, “Identity and Empowerment on the Border,” 40-47; and Ana Sánchez-Muñoz, “Who Soy You?” 440-441

Podcast – “**Anything for Selena: Spanglish**” (43 mins.)

Reading Quiz: available from April 4, 2022, at 8:00am (MST) to April 5, 2022, at 11:59pm (MST).

Critical Response Assignment: Due on April 8, 2022, at 11:59pm (MST). A detailed assignment sheet is located inside of this learning module.

Learning Module 3 – Becoming American: Education, Labor, and Politics

April 9 – April 22, 2022

Read – Gilbert G. Gonzalez, “Segregation of Mexican Children in a Southern California City: The Legacy of Expansionism and the American Southwest,” 55-76

Video – “**Stolen Education**” (67 mins.)

Read – Richard García, “César Chávez: A Personal and Historical Testimony,” 225-233; and “Dolores Huerta: Woman, Organizer, and Symbol,” 56-71

Video – “**Dolores**” (96 mins.)

Read – Benjamin Marquez, “Choosing Issues, Choosing Sides,” 218-235

Video – “**Willie Velazquez: Your Vote is Your Voice**” (60 mins.)

Reading Quiz: available April 18, 2022, at 8:00am (MST) to April 19, 2022, at 11:59pm (MST).

Personal Narrative Assignment: Due on April 22, 2022, at 11:59pm (MST). Assignment guidelines located inside of this learning module.

Learning Module 4 – Chicana/o Identity Formation Through Literature, Art, and Music

Last day to withdraw from the class is April 29, 2022.

April 23 – May 6, 2022

Read – Felipe de Ortego y Gasca, “Mexican-American Literature: Reflections and a Critical Guide,” 399-419

Podcast – “**Benjamin Alire Saenz Discovers the Secrets of His Universe**” (36 mins.)

Read – George Vargas, “The Progress of Chicano Art: An Overview of Chicano Art History,” 425-433

Video – “**Pedro E. Guerrero: A Photographer’s Journey**” (56 mins.)

Read – Carlos F. Ortega, “On Chicano Music in the United States,” 459-471

Video – “**Con Safos: Ruben Funkahuatl Guevara**” (54 mins.)

Reading Quiz: available from May 2, 2022, at 8:00am (MST) to May 3, 2022, at 11:59pm (MST).

Photo Blog Assignment: Due May 6, 2022, at 11:59pm (MST). Assignment guidelines located inside of this learning module.

Learning Module 5 – Final Exam

May 8 – May 14, 2022

Final Exam will be available on **May 8, 2022, at 8:00am (MST)**. The link to submit the exam will open on **May 10, 2022, at 8:00am (MST)**. The deadline to submit your exam is **May 14, 2022, at 11:59pm (MST)**. Good Luck!