

The University of Texas at El Paso

Chicana/o Studies: Societal Issues

**CHIC 3311, CRN 21347, Spring 2016
TR 10:30-11:50am Psych 308**

Dr. Irma V. Montelongo

Office Hours: TR 3:00-4:30pm and by appointment

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Course Description:

This course is designed to provide the student with a general overview of past and present Mexican American culture and society. Using an interdisciplinary framework, this course examines ethnic Mexican identity formation from contact and conquest to the present. The course uses race, ethnicity, class, and gender as categories of analyses to interpret how and why ethnic Mexicans create distinct cultures and identities in the United States. The readings and videos explore a number of topics to include immigration, education, labor, politics, and pop culture for a better understanding of how ethnic Mexicans negotiate, resist, and redefine their place in the U.S.

Student Learning Goals and Objectives:

In this course students will

- 1.** Develop the critical thinking and analytical skills necessary for effective communication both orally and written.
- 2.** Identify, analyze, and articulate the central themes in Mexican American community and identity formation.
- 3.** Identify and analyze differences and similarities among Mexican American experiences over time.
- 4.** Demonstrate their understanding of the concepts of gender, sexuality, race, and class by using them to identify experiences of privilege and inequality as well as collaboration and conflict, with in and between U.S. Latina/o communities.
- 5.** Use an interdisciplinary approach to connect the past to the present in an effort to better understand the world around them and themselves as global citizens.

Required Texts:

Pablo Mitchell. *West of Sex: Making Mexican America, 1900-1930* (University of Chicago Press, 2012).

Manuel Ramos. *The Skull of Pancho Villa and Other Stories* (Arte Publico Press, 2015).

Additional required readings will be located on Blackboard.

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Discussion: You are expected to attend class. 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).

It is equally important that you **arrive to class on time!** If you are more than 10 minutes late to class **DO NOT bother entering the classroom!** Tardiness is disruptive; therefore, classroom door(s) will be closed 10 minutes after class starts.

There are a few ground rules for discussion. You will regularly work in small groups discussing the assigned readings related to the class. 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 make an effort to treat each other, and each other's contributions to class discussions, with respect.**

Reading Quizzes (20%): There will be short reading quizzes throughout the semester to ensure that you are engaging all class materials. Therefore, you must attend class, arrive on time, and keep up with your readings. **There are absolutely no make-ups for quizzes.**

Midterm Exam (25%): There will be a midterm exam tentatively scheduled for **March 03, 2016**. The midterm will cover Parts I and II of the course calendar. **There are no make-ups for exams.**

Short Writing Assignments (30%): There will be two short writing assignments. 1.) *Narrative: Quien Soy Yo?/Who Am I?* and 2.) *Photo Essay: What is Chicanismo?* I will provide a detailed assignment sheet and a detailed in-class explanation of what is required for each assignment.

Final Exam (25%): The semester will end with a final exam scheduled for **May 5, 2016** and cover all material since the Midterm Exam. I will provide a detailed review sheet and detailed in-class explanation of what is required for the final exam.

Grading Scale: Final grades will be given according to the student's demonstrated level of mastery of the subject matter as determined by his/her 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:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Score</u>
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 make contact with a classmate, not the instructor, to find out what you missed. **There are no make-ups for in-class assignments or quizzes.**

2. **Dropping the Class:** Students may drop the class and receive a "W" any time prior to **April 01, 2016**.
3. **Format of Written Work:** All written assignments done outside of class must be typed using **black ink, Times New Roman 12 pt. font, 1.25 inch margins, double-spaced, on white paper**. Notes and in-class work must be legible.
4. **Deadlines:** Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Work handed in after the due date will be **penalized 10pts**. I will not accept work that is more than **one class period** late. Any assignment may be handed in early.
5. **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.
6. **Students with Disabilities:** I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. 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. If you have a documented disability 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
7. **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 during class!!!

Course Calendar: The following is subject to change with reasonable notice to students. Any changes will be announced in class. If you miss a class meeting it is your responsibility to ask about any changes.

Part 1: Chicana/o Historical Perspectives

Week 1: Tuesday (T) Jan. 19 – Introductions

Thursday (Th) Jan. 21 – The Making of Mestizaje in the Americas

Read: (Article) Cypress, "Mother Malinche," 14-27

Week 2: (T) Jan. 26 – Colliding Empires and Cultures
Read: Weber, "Scarce More Than Apes," 153-167
(Th) Jan. 28 – Manifest Destiny: Recreating the American Southwest
Screen the video "The Golden Land" before class

Week 3: (T) Feb. 2 – Creating and Defining Borders
Read: Mitchell, *West of Sex*, 1-36
(Th) Feb. 4 – Foreigners In Their Own Land
Read: Mitchell, *West of Sex*, 37-59

Week 4: (T) Feb. 9 – Gendered and Sexual Borderlands in the Early 20th C
Read: Mitchell, *West of Sex*, 61-99

Assign Writing Assignment #1: Quien Soy Yo?/Who Am I?

(Th) Feb. 11 – Americanization in the Early 20th Century
Read: Mitchell, *West of Sex*, 101-126

Week 5: (T) Feb. 16 – Identity and Resistance: Pachuca/os
(Th) Feb. 18 – Fighting Like Americans
Film: The Longoria Affair

Part 2: Chicana/o Educational and Perspectives

Week 6: (T) Feb. 23 – Defining and Measuring Mexican American Intellect
Read: González, "Segregation and the Education," 295-310
Screen the video "A Class Apart" before class

Writing Assignment #1 due

(Th) Feb. 25 – Developing a Chicana/o Consciousness
Read: *Vigil*, "Civil Rights Ferment," 241-257
Film: Walkout

Week 7: (T) Mar. 1 – Consciousness Developed
Read: *Vigil*, "Civil Rights Ferment," 257-269
Film: Walkout
(Th) Mar. 3 – **Midterm Exam**

Week 8: Spring Break – March 07, 2016 through March 11, 2016

Week 9: (T) Mar. 15 – The Strange Case of Arizona
Read: Cabrera, "The Fight for Mexican American Studies in Tucson," 20-24
(Th) Mar. 17 – **Film: Precious Knowledge**

Part 3: Chicana/o Society and Culture

Week 10: (T) Mar. 22 – Understanding the Written Word
Read: Ramos, *The Skull of Pancho Villa*, 1-39
(Th) Mar. 24 – Debunking the Notion of a Homogenous Identity
Read: Ramos, *The Skull of Pancho Villa*, 43-118

Week 11: (T) Mar. 29 – Mexican American Struggles
Read: Ramos, *The Skull of Pancho Villa*, 121-146
(Th) Mar. 31 – What Is Chicanismo?
Read: Ramos, *The Skull of Pancho Villa*, 149-181

Assign Photo Essay: "Chicanismo" Through My Eyes

Last Day to Withdraw From Class With a "W" is Friday, April 1, 2016

Week 12: (T) Apr. 5 – Chicana/o Popular Culture
Read: Tatum, "Chicano Music," 14-49
(Th) Apr. 7 – Creating a Distinct Voice
Screen the video "Latin Music USA–The Chicano Wave" before class

Week 13: (T) Apr. 12 – Hollywood Stereotypes
Read: Ramirez-Berg, "Stereotypes in Films," 286-300
(Th) Apr. 14 – **Film: McFarland, USA**

Photo Essay Assignment due

Part 4: Chicana/o Identity in the 21st Century

Week 14: (T) April. 19 – **Film: McFarland, USA**
(Th) Apr. 21 – The Immigration Question
Read: Pérez, "Reasonably Suspicious of Being 'Mojado,'" 100-123

Week 15: (T) Apr. 26 – Si Se Puede
Film: Spare Parts
(Th) Apr. 28 – **Film: Spare Parts**

Week 16: (T) May 3 – Study for Final Exam
(Th) May 5 – **Final Exam**