The University of Texas at El Paso

Colonias on the U.S.-Mexico Border

CHIC 4306, CRN 35211, Summer 7O2 - 2017

UTEP CONNECT: 100% Online Course: Computer Access Required
7-Week Course: July 03, 2017 to August 20, 2017

Dr. Irma V. Montelongo
Office Hours: **Contact via Blackboard**
Office: Graham Hall 110B
Phone: 915-747-7612
Email: imontelo@utep.edu

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:

The U.S.-Mexico border offers a compelling location for understanding a wide range of transnational and trans-border social, political, and economic issues. This course is designed to develop an interdisciplinary awareness of communities such as colonias and other types of settlements and group affiliations as both a local and global phenomenon. With a focus on culture, politics, poverty, racism, gender, sexuality, health, and environmental injustice, this course provides an interdisciplinary analysis of urbanization and community formation processes. Students will analyze texts and films and engage in dialogue to demonstrate an awareness of the social, political, and economic realities of the people and spaces located on peripheries, and specifically on the U.S.-Mexico Border.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course students will:

1. Identify, analyze, and articulate the central themes in ethnic Mexican community and formation.
2. Understand individuals and communities in their historical and socio-political contexts.
3. Examine the forces of power and economics that alienate and marginalize populations, particularly impoverished ethnic minorities and other oppressed enclaves.
4. Understand the effects of gender, sexuality, race, and class in community development and underdevelopment.
5. Identify how individuals, groups, and families establish and maintain formal and informal networks in ethnic communities on the U.S.-Mexico border from a micro and macro perspective.
6. Demonstrate critical understanding of urbanization, population movements, and human settlements in an urban perspective.

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 Module for any particular 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 must be conducted through Blackboard Email. 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. Please do not send emails to my UTEP address.

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 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 Fair Trade Cafe**, located under the *General Discussion Forum* tab on the *Home Page*. The Fair Trade Cafe 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 and attacks toward other students or the instructor.

Required Software:

Please make sure that all of your computer hardware is working properly and please make sure that you have all of 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.

Please access the Blackboard course shell. On the left hand side of the Home Page under the Course Tools you will see the first link entitled **Are You Ready for Online Learning?** Please access that link and then click on **Check Your Technology.** Read this section carefully to ensure that you have the necessary software. If you do not, you will find links on this page for downloading the necessary software and it is free. 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.). If you use Google Chrome as your browser, then the Adobe Flash Player is already built in. 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 have provided a set of *Course Policies and Procedures,* and a *Grading Rubric*. On the *Home Page* go to the *Course Resources* folder and then click on *Class Policies and Procedures* and/or the *Grading Rubric*. Please access them as soon as possible and familiarize yourself with the do's 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 the first Learning Module: 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 four (4) Learning Modules. An Introduction and Getting Started module and three (3) theme related modules. **Learning Modules open at 8:00am (MST) on scheduled dates.** Each theme-related learning module contains some or all of the following; Short Introductions; a Lecture, which deals with the topic at hand; all Reading and Video links; Quiz links; and Assignment links. Theme-related learning modules, with the exception of Learning Module 1, will last *approximately* 14-16 days.

The embedded Quiz and Assignment links will open according to the scheduled due dates and deadlines. See Course Calendar for all due dates and deadlines. Remember: You will not see a Quiz and/or Assignment link until the day that they are scheduled on the Course Calendar.

Quizzes:

There will be four reading quizzes, one in each of the four Learning Modules. The quizzes will be located inside of the individual Learning Modules.

IMPORTANT: Check course calendar for scheduled quiz dates and deadlines.

Individual Assignments:

You will submit two (2) writing assignments: one (1) Critical Response Paper for Learning Module 2 and one (1) Colonias Research Project for Learning Module 3. I will provide a detailed assignment sheet for each assignment that explains what is required.

For your first assignment, I provided a set of guidelines on **"How to Write a Critical Response Paper"** located in the Course Resources Folder on the Home Page. Please access it right away so that you have time to ask me any questions regarding the assignment. I will also provide a set of questions to guide your analysis and these questions will be located in the assignment link.

IMPORTANT: **Check course calendar for assignment due dates and deadlines.**

The grades will be divided as follows:

Quizzes (4 each)   15%
Critical Response Assignment   25%
Colonia Research Project   25%
Final Exam   35%

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 to CHIC 4306: Getting Started

July 3 – 7, 2017

The following information is very important!

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

You are required to post an introduction to yourself in *The Fair Trade Cafe* by Wednesday July 5, 2017 at 11:59pm (MST) *AND* you are also required to take the Syllabus/Plagiarism Quiz, which will be available Thursday July 6, 2017 at 5:00pm (MST) until Friday July 7, 2017 at 11:59pm (MST).

The quiz is based on your reading of the Syllabus, Class Policies and Procedures, and the Plagiarism video. The video is located in the Learning Module entitled "Introduction and Getting Started." The Internet Café and Help Board are located under the General Discussion Forums on the Home Page.

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 – Historical Meanings of Community on the U.S.-Mexico Border

July 8 – July 21, 2017

Please access the sources in the following order: Either view the video first then read the article or vice versa depending on how the resources are listed.

Read – Esparza Donnelson, "A Brief History of the U.S.-Mexico Border Region," 13-27
Videos: "Between Two Worlds: Life on the Border" (57 mins.)

Read – Wood, "Anticipating the Colonias," 31-42
Video: "Life on the Line: Coming of Age Between Nations" (27 mins.)

Read – Mukhija, "What's In a Name," 475-488
Podcast: "From Mom Jokes To Trump-Era Racism" (9 mins.)

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

Reading Quiz: available from July 16, 2017 at 5:00pm (MST) to July 17, 2017 at 11:59pm (MST).

Critical Response Assignment: Due July 21, 2017 at 11:59pm (MST).

Learning Module 3 – Community Development: Race, Class, and Gender on the U.S.-Mexico Border

July 22 – August 6, 2017

Read – Chahin, "The Forgotten Americans: A Voice for the Colonias," 319-331
Video: "The Forgotten Americans" (57 mins.)

Read – Coronado, "Styles, Strategies, and Issues of Women Leaders at the Border," 142-158
Video: "Life in the Colonias" (3 mins.); and "Developing the Colonias" (4 mins.); and "Strengthening Communities" (3 mins.)

Read – Morales and Bejarano, "Transnational Sexual and Gendered Violence," 420-439
Video: "City of Dead Women" (57 mins.)
Podcast: "In Memorium: Esther Chavez Cano, 1933-2009 (6 mins.)

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

Reading Quiz: available from July 29, 2017 at 5:00pm (MST) to July 30, 2017 at 11:59pm (MST).

Colonia Research Project: due August 6, 2017 at 11:59pm (MST).

Learning Module 4: Environmental Injustice and Health Disparities on the U.S.-Mexico Border

August 7 – August 20, 2017

Read – Henkel, "Upholding Environmental Justice in the Colonias," 62-75
Video: "Matamoros: The Human Face of Globalization" (11 mins.)
Podcast: Diabetes, Dialysis, and Dirty Water in Central Valley (10 mins.)

Read – Homedes and Ugalde, "Gobalization and Health on the U.S.-Mexico Border," 2016-2022
Video: "Maquilopolis" (69 mins.)

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

Reading Quiz: available from August 12, 2017, at 8:00am (MST) to August 13, 2017, at 11:59pm (MST).

Final Exam will be available from August 18, 2017 to August 20, 2017 and **is due by August 20, 2017 at 11:59pm (MST).**