

The University of Texas at El Paso

Chicano/a Studies: Societal Issues and Analysis

CHIC 3311, CRN 26986, Spring 2014
TR 10:30-11:50am LART 108

Instructor: Irma V. Montelongo, MA
Office Hours: TTH 3:00-4:30pm and by appointment
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Course Description and Objectives:

This course is designed to provide the student with a general understanding of past and present Mexican American culture and society. This interdisciplinary course examines education, labor, politics, immigration, film, and literature to better understand how ethnic Mexicans create distinct cultures and identities in the United States. Furthermore, issues such as citizenship, class, gender, and sexuality are also explored to further increase awareness of the way that Mexican American culture and society constantly redefines itself. Additionally, students will develop a number of skills to include critical thinking, reasoning, analysis, and maintaining a point of view, verbally and in writing, with appropriate supporting evidence.

Required Texts:

Dennis Bixler-Márquez et al. *Chicano/a Studies: Survey and Analysis*. 4th ed. (Kendall Hunt Publishing, 2013)

Benjamin Alire Sáenz, *Everything Begins and Ends at the Kentucky Club* (Cinco Puntos Press, 2012)

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!** Classroom door(s) will be closed 10 minutes after class starts and anyone not in their seats will receive an unexcused absence...period!

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 (25%): There will be reading quizzes throughout the semester; therefore, you must keep up with your readings to assure that you are prepared on a daily basis and arrive to class on time. **There are absolutely no make-ups for quizzes.**

Midterm Exam (35%): There will be a midterm exam tentatively scheduled for **March 20, 2014.**

Final Exam (40%): There will be a final exam tentatively scheduled for **May 8, 2014.**

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

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 4, 2014.**
- 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 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 5pts. **per day** (not class period) that it is late. I will not accept work that is more than 3 days, **not class periods**, 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. 21 – Introductions

Thursday (Th) Jan. 23 – The Making of Mestizaje in the Americas

Read: (Article) *Del Castillo*, “Malintzin Tenepal” 122-126 and Castañeda, “Gender, Race, and Culture,” 8-20

Week 2: (T) Jan. 28 – Colliding Empires and Cultures

Film: Latino Americans – Foreigners In Their Own Land

(Th) Jan. 30 – Manifest Destiny: Recreating the American Southwest

Read: (Article) *Weber*, “Scarce More Than Apes,” 153-167 and (Text) *Romero*, “El Paso Salt War,” 13-22

Week 3: (T) Feb. 4 – Americanization in the Early 20th Century
Read: (Text) *Garcia*, “Border Culture,” 23-32 and *Ruiz*, “Confronting America,” 33-46
(Th) Feb. 6 – Identity and Resistance: Becoming Mexican-American
Film: Latino Americans – War and Peace

Week 4: (T) Feb. 11 – The Development of a Chicana/o Consciousness
Read: (Text) *Griswold del Castillo*, “The Chicano Movement and the Treaty,” 3-12 and
(Article) *McLean*, “Civil Rights and the Transformation of Mexican American
Identity,” 123-134

(Th) Feb. 13 – The Fight For Civil Rights
Film: Latino Americans – Prejudice and Pride

Part 2: Chicana/o Demographics and Politics

Week 5: (T) Feb. 18 – Becoming Visible
Read: (Text) *Barrera and Lopez*, “A Demographic Portrait of Mexican-Origin
Hispanics, 77-86 and *Pachon*, “Hispanic Mobility Into the Middle Class,” 147-154 and
Garcia et al, “Understanding Latina Political Leadership,” 253-260

(Th) Feb. 20 – The Voice of Hispanic America
Film: Moyers & Company – Hispanic America’s Turn

Part 3: Chicana/o Educational and Perspectives

Week 6: (T) Feb. 25 – Defining and Measuring Mexican American Intellect
Read: (Text) *Gonzalez*, “Segregation and the Education of Mexican Children,” 295-310

(Th) Feb. 27 – Changing Mexican American Education in Texas
Film: Stolen Education

Week 7: (T) Mar. 4 – Chicana/o Education Under Siege
Read: (Text) *Solorzano Torres*, “Border Challenges and Ethnic Struggles,” 193-204 and
Cabrera et al, “The Fight For Mexican American Studies,” 345-350 and *Beltran*, “The
Librotraficante Behind the Movement,” 351-352

(Th) Mar. 6 – Defending Ethnic Studies
Film: Precious Knowledge

Part 4: Chicana/o Society and Culture

Week 8: March 10-14 *Spring Break!!!!*

Week 9: (T) Mar. 18 – **Guest Speaker: TBA**

(Th) Mar. 20 – Midterm Exam

Week 10: (T) Mar. 25 – Debunking the Notion of a Homogenous Identity
Read: (Text) *Dias*, “¡Evangelicos!” 107-112 and (Article) *Vila*, “Identity and Empowerment on the Border,” 40-47

(Th) Mar. 27 – Understanding Cultural Differences
Film: Latino Americans – Perils and Promise

Week 11: (T) Apr. 1 – Locating Chicana/o Cinema in America
Read: (Text) *Noriega*, “Imagined Borders,” 473-488

(Th) Apr. 3 – Chicana’s on the Big Screen
Film: Mi Vida Loca

Last Day to Withdraw From Class is April 4, 2014

Week 12: (T) Apr. 8 – The Sounds of the Chicana/o Communities
Read: (Text) *Ortega*, “On Chicano Music In the United States,” 459-472

(Th) Apr. 10 – Creating a Distinct Voice
Film: Latin Music U.S.A. – The Chicano Wave

Week 13: (T) Apr. 15 – Understanding the Written Word
Read: (Text) *Ortega y Gasca*, “Mexican American Literature,” 399-420 and *Yarbro-Bejarano*, “Chicana Literature,” 421-424

(Th) Apr. 17 – Chicana/o Literature Comes to Life
Film: Bless Me Ultima

Part 5: Transcending Boundaries: Chicana/o Identity in the 21st Century

Week 14: (T) Apr. 22 – Understanding Masculinity
Read: (Book) *Saenz*, “Everything Begins and Ends at the Kentucky Club,” 11-101

(Th) Apr. 24 – Creating Masculine Spaces
Read: (Book) *Saenz*, “Everything Begins and Ends at the Kentucky Club,” 102-157

Week 15: (T) Apr. 29 – Identity on the Periphery
Read: (Book) *Saenz*, “Everything Begins and Ends at the Kentucky Club,” 158-222

(Th) May 1 – Latino Bodies in Contemporary Cinema
Film: Gun Hill Road

Week 16: (T) May 6 – No Class: Prepare for Final Exam

(Th) May 8 – **Final Exam**