

The University of Texas at El Paso

## ***Colonias on the U.S.-Mexico Border***

CHIC 4306, CRN 14893, Fall 7W2 2016

100% Online Course: Computer Access Required, UTEP Connect  
7-Week Course: October 17, 2016 to December 04, 2016

### **Dr. Irma V. Montelongo**

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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:** 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.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

#### **In this course students will**

1. Identify, analyze, and articulate the central themes in ethnic Mexican community and identity 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.

**Relevant Websites:**

All course content will be delivered via the **Blackboard** LMS. To access Moodle go to <https://my.utep.edu/My> 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.* When 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 my Blackboard email regularly Monday - Friday between 8:00am – 5:00pm (MST). I do not respond to email on Saturdays or Sundays.

Online learning is not a spectator sport. It is everyone's responsibility to participate fully so that everyone can get the most from the experience. Here are some simple rules 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 Forums* tab on the *Home Page*. The *Help Board* is for asking questions related to content OR any other problems you are having. Make sure that you have clearly indicated the subject of your message. **If you are having technical difficulties you will probably be directed to tech support.**

**Reach Out to Others:** Offer a fact, article, link or other items that can help others learn something you can share.

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/or attacks toward other students or the instructor.

**Required Software:**

Having your computer hardware and all software up to date is essential to access course content. Please take some time to access the following link and read the information provided to ensure you are prepared for success!

[http://utepconnect.utep.edu/documents/BestPractices\\_New/Check Your Technology.pdf](http://utepconnect.utep.edu/documents/BestPractices_New/Check Your Technology.pdf)

You definitely need Adobe Acrobat Reader to access the lectures and readings for the class, as they are all (.pdf) files. If you do not have Adobe Reader on your computer you can download

the program for free by going to <https://get.adobe.com/reader/otherversions/> and follow the instructions to install the reader.

You are also required to have a media player plug-in to view the assigned videos for this class. The most common plug-ins are Adobe Flash Player, Windows Media Player, QuickTime Player VLC Player. You can get a free media player plug-in by going to <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/> and following the download instructions. 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. Microsoft Office is available at the UTEP bookstore to students at a discounted price. If you cannot purchase it you can access it at any of the computer labs on campus. 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:**

I have provided a set of *Course Policies and Procedures*. From the *Home Page* go to the *Course Resources* folder. Here, along with a copy of the syllabus, you will find the *Course Policies and Procedures*. Please access this 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.

### **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 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](mailto: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](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. In each Learning Module you will find a short Introduction; a Lecture, which deals with the topic at hand; all Readings and Videos; Quiz links; Research Report Assignment links; and Discussion Board links. Each Learning Module will last **approximately** twelve (12) days.

The embedded Quiz, Assignment, and Discussion 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, Assignment, and/or Discussion link until the day that they are scheduled on the Course Calendar.

For this iteration of the class and with the assistance of a Library Literacy Course Enhancement Grant, students will conduct research on colonias specifically and will produce the data, maps, photos, and contextual information required to re-create an actual colonia in Second Life, a 3D virtual world.

The research conducted in this course will become part of a larger project, headed by the Chicana/o Studies Program, in conjunction with Academic Technologies, entitled ***Aztlán in the @21<sup>st</sup> Century: A Multimodal Digital Project***. This digital project consists of the creation of an island in Second Life that models Mexican American history, education, community formation, arts, and culture and that will provide a virtual space for students to learn. The group research conducted in CHIC 4306 for Fall 2016 will become part of the island and will be converted into a 3D model by the multimedia specialists in Academic Technologies.

As part of your research resources, there will be a librarian, **Adrian Morales**, embedded in the course to assist you and guide you through the research portion of this course. You will be able to chat with Mr. Morales and he will also be embedded in all five learning modules.

Students will be placed in random groups of 5-6. These are permanent groups and no changes will be permitted. Each group will be assigned a specific topic that deals with colonia formation on the U.S.-Mexico border. Topics will include, but not be limited to, health, infrastructure, education, social justice, as well as land rights and regulations. With the assistance of Mr. Morales, groups will be required to use library materials and resources and gather all of the research materials necessary for providing a detailed analysis of their group topics.

Although you are part of a group, you will submit individual **Research Reports** for Learning Modules 2,3, and 4. Materials should include, but not be limited to: overviews, statistics, data, maps, plats, photos, and any other information that will ultimately be converted into a 3D model of a colonia. The information provided by the individuals in each group project will ultimately contribute a piece, or phase, of the development of a colonia in virtual reality.

### **Quizzes:**

There will be four reading 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 located inside of the individual Learning Modules. Check course calendar for scheduled dates and deadlines for all quizzes.

### **Bi-Weekly Research Data Report Submission:**

Each student will be placed into a group that is defined by a particular research topic. The research topics will consist of the following:

- **Community Infrastructure**
- **Health Disparities**
- **Education**
- **Housing**
- **Community Organizing and Social Justice**

There will be 5-6 members in each group. Each group member will submit three (3) **Research Reports** for Learning Modules 2,3, and 4. Although you will be part of a group you will submit an individual research reports for each module. The reason you are grouped is because you will research the issues associated with one particular topic for the entire 7 weeks

I will provide a set of guidelines on what is required for your Research Report. Check course calendar for assignment due dates and deadlines. Materials should include, but are not limited to: overviews, statistics, data, maps, plats, photos, and any other information pertinent to the existence of colonias on the U.S.-Mexico border.

All of the material that you uncover as you research your topic will ultimately be converted into a 3D model of a colonia to be housed in the Second Life Island, Known as ***Aztlán in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century***, under construction for the Chicana/o Studies Program.

### **Group Discussion Boards:**

You will be placed into groups in Week 2 of the course. I will provide three (3) *Group Discussion Boards* associated with Learning Modules 2, 3, and 4. The Group Discussion Boards will be available for the entire course for you to collaborate with your group members on the progress of your research. The Group Discussion boards are not graded and are only provided as a resource for group collaboration. ***I strongly recommend that you take advantage of these Groups Discussion Boards as you set out on your research. Ask each other questions, bounce ideas of one another, make suggestions...***

### **Final Exam:**

There will be a final comprehensive exam that covers the entire 7 weeks and is based on your readings and films for each Learning Module.

### **The grades will be divided as follows:**

Quizzes (4 each)	20%
Individual Research Reports (3 each)	60%
Final Exam	20%

### **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:** The Course Calendar is subject to minor changes. If any changes occur I will notify you ahead of time via *Course Announcements*.

On the first day of class, October 17, 2016, you will access the Course. On the Home Page you will see the Course Description as well as a folder entitled *Course Resources* where you can locate the **Syllabus, Course Calendar, and Course Policies and Procedures**. These materials are your road maps for the class and provide all relevant information necessary for successful completion of this online course. **Study these materials very carefully as they provide all due dates and deadlines as well as the do's and don't's of the class.**

You will have two days, October 17 and 18 to study all of these materials and to post an introduction to yourself in *The Fair Trade Internet Café* by **Tuesday October 18, 2016 at 11:59pm (MST)**. The Internet Café and Help Board are located under the *General Discussion Forums* on the Home Page.

After you finish accessing these materials and posting your introduction you will be ready to access Learning Module 1: Introduction to CHIC 4306: Getting Started.

### **Learning Module 1 – Introduction to CHIC 4306: Getting Started**

#### **October 19 - 21**

Inside of this module you will find a link entitled "Lecture." Click on it and read the page very carefully as it explains, in detail, what is expected of you for this course.

You must also access the short video entitled "**Plagiarism.**" This video provides very important information for writing and submitting assignments, especially in an online course. Please pay close attention to this information so that you avoid plagiarism at all cost.

The video link is embedded inside of the "Lecture" but I strongly suggest that you follow the instructions provided on the Home Page for setting up a Virtual Private Network (VPN). Access to *all* of the videos works best when the VPN is set up, if you don't set it up **YOU WILL** experience technical difficulties and you will find yourself spending time on the phone with the Help Desk, **so avoid the drama and set it up!!**

Finally, for Week 1 you are also required to take the Syllabus/Plagiarism Quiz, which will be available **Thursday October 20, 2016 at 5:00pm (MST) until Friday October 21, 2016 at 11:59pm (MST)**. The quiz is based on your reading of the Syllabus, Class Policies and Procedures, Grading Rubric, and the Plagiarism video.

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

The first week of the course is your opportunity to study the Syllabus, Course Policies and Procedures, and the Plagiarism video, and to familiarize yourself with the Blackboard System. Use this week to ask me any questions you have regarding course content as well as the class policies and procedures, **BUT, not technical issues!** I cannot provide technical support. For questions concerning the site and any technical questions or support you must contact the UTEP Help Desk at (915)747-5257 or at [helpdesk@utep.edu](mailto:helpdesk@utep.edu)

### **Learning Module 2 – Historical Meanings of Community on the U.S.-Mexico Border**

#### **October 22 – October 28**

**Read** – Esparza Donnelson, "A Brief History of the U.S.-Mexico Border Region," 13-27; and Wood, "Anticipating the Colonias," 31-42; and Mukhija, "What's In a Name," 475-488

**Video(s)** – “Between Two Worlds” and “Life in Las Colonias” (All videos listed in this course calendar are required viewing).

**Reading Quiz:** available on Thursday October 27, 2016 at 5:00pm (MST) through Friday October 28, 2016 at 11:59pm (MST).

### **October 29 – November 4**

For this entire week you will begin researching your assigned topic per the guidelines provided in this learning module. You will be responsible for submitting 4-5 pages of research on your topic. **Your Research Report is due on Friday November 4, 2016 at 11:59pm (MST).** Please see the Research Report Guidelines located in the Learning Module for an explanation of what is required.

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

### **November 5 – November 11**

**Read** – Esparza and Donnelson, “The Social and Economic Characteristics of Colonias,” 40-57; Arizmendi, et al “Colonia Housing and Community Development,” 87-100; and Morales and Bejarano, “Transnational Sexual and Gendered Violence,” 420-439; and Dolhinow, “Mexican Women’s Activism in New Mexico Colonias,” 125-141

**Video(s)** – “City of Dead Women”

**Reading Quiz:** available on Thursday November 10, 2016 at 5:00pm (MST) through Friday November 11, 2016 at 11:59pm (MST).

### **November 12 – November 18**

For this entire week you will continue researching your assigned topic per the guidelines provided in this learning module. You will be responsible for submitting 4-5 pages of research on your topic. **Your Research Report is due on Friday November 18, 2016 at 11:59pm (MST).** Please see the Research Report Guidelines located in the Learning Module for an explanation of what is required.

## **Learning Module 4 – Health Disparities on the U.S.-Mexico Border**

### **November 19 – November 26**

**Read** – May, “Living Betwixt and Between,” 163-175; and Homedes and Ugalde, “Gobalization and Health on the U.S.-Mexico Border,” 2016-2022; and Peña and Rosenthal, “Colonia Health Issues in Texas,” 176-189

**Video(s)** – “Maquilopolis”

**Reading Quiz:** available on Friday November 25, 2016 at 5:00pm (MST) through Saturday November 26, 2016 at 11:59pm (MST).

### **November 27 – December 2**

For this entire week you will continue researching your assigned topic per the guidelines provided in this learning module. You will be responsible for submitting 4-5 pages of research on your topic. **Your Research Report is due on Friday December 2, 2016 at 11:59pm (MST).**

Please see the Research Report Guidelines located in the Learning Module for an explanation of what is required.

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

The Final Exam is available from December 3, 2016 at 12:00pm (MST) through December 5, 2016 at 11:59pm (MST).

Good Luck!