

The University of Texas at El Paso

Chicana/o Legal History

CHIC 4301, CRN 26400, Spring 2020 (7O1)

UTEP CONNECT: 100% Online Course: Computer Access Required

7-Week Course: January 21, 2020 to March 8, 2020

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The “law” is a short term for a very complex aggregation of principles, norms, ideas, rules, practices, and the activities of agencies of legislation, administration, adjudication, and enforcement, backed by political power and legitimacy. The complex “law,” thus condensed into one term is abstracted from the social context in which it exists, and is spoken of as if it were an entity capable of controlling context.

Sally Falk Moore, 1973, Law and Society Review

Course Description:

This course examines the legal history of the Chicana/o community's struggle for civil rights, social justice, and equal protection under the law. It interrogates legal theories on race and racial formation and the ways racial identity impacts the equal economic, social, and political rights of individuals. Additionally, the course explores the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality to better understand the complexities of both individual and community discrimination and its relation to the law. Lastly, it examines important precedent-setting cases in American law related to civil rights and the ways Chicana/os have legally challenged inequality in the U.S. Students will develop a number of 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. Develop the critical thinking and analytical skills necessary for effective communication both orally and written.
2. Explain how racial ideology was/is articulated in law.
3. Explain how Chicana/o identity and community formation was/is embedded in social, political, and economic social justice.
4. Describe the role of legal practices and their influence on the Chicano movement.
5. Understand the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality and the discrimination and struggle for rights by people on the margins.
6. Understand precedent-setting cases in American law and their relation to developing race relations in the U.S.

The guiding questions for this course are the following: *What is the legal history of the Chicana/o community and the struggle for civil rights, social justice, and equal protection under the law? How does racial identity impact the social, political, and economic equal rights of individuals?*

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. 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 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 course issues. Clearly indicate the subject of your thread. **If you are having technical difficulties, you will be directed to UTEP 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 separate class discussion forum called **The Deposition Café**, also located under the *General Discussion Forum* tab on the *Home Page*. The *Deposition 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 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 or 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 Home Page under the *Course Resources* section, you will find the link ***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* located under the *Course Resources* tab on the *Home Page*. 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.

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 special needs, including learning disabilities. Please inform me immediately of any special needs you might have. If you have a documented special need 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 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 group discussion board link. All readings, videos, and podcast links, as well as assignment guidelines are embedded in the lectures. Theme-related learning modules, with the exception of modules 1 and 5, will last approximately twelve (12) days.

1. Quizzes (15% 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.

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

2. Critical Response Assignments (40% of final grade):

You will submit two Critical Response Papers, one for Learning Module 2 and one for Learning Module 3. The papers will be 2-3 pages in length, double-spaced, 12pt font. I will provide guidelines for each critical response assignment, which will require that you share your critical analysis of the readings, films, and podcasts located in each theme-related learning module.

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

3. Group Discussion Board (25% of final grade):

For Learning Module 4, I will divide the class into groups of 7 students. Each student will belong to only one group. In this group discussion board, you are required to engage the discussion question provided by me for each group. This discussion assignment will be in effect for five (5) days and each student is required to post at least five times over this period. That breaks down to approximately 1 post per day, but you are required to maintain ongoing discussion and encouraged to post as many times as necessary. The objective is to provide critical analysis of the questions posed, not simple answers but rather critical thinking that references the materials located in the learning module.

IMPORTANT: Check course calendar for group discussion board openings.

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

You will have a comprehensive final exam at the end of the course that will cover all three theme-related learning modules. I will provide a review sheet to be located in Learning Module 5.

Grading Scale:

A: 100-90 B: 89-80 C: 79-70 D: 69-60 F: 59 and less

See Grading Rubric for more information on assignments, discussions, and final exam.

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

January 21 – 25, 2020

The following information is very important!

The first week of the course is your opportunity to study the syllabus and to familiarize yourself with the Blackboard System. 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 [Deposition Café](#) by Thursday January 23, 2020 at 11:59pm (MST) *AND* you are also required to take the [Syllabus/Plagiarism Quiz](#), which will be available Friday January 24, 2020 at 5:00pm (MST) until Saturday January 25, 2020 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 [Deposition Café](#) and [Help Board](#) are located under the General Discussion Forums tab on the Home Page.

NOTE: The instructor cannot provide technical support. For questions concerning the site and any technical questions or support you must use the UTEP Help Desk. The following link provides the contact information for assistance: <http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=74092>

Learning Module 2 – Critical Race Theory, Racial Restriction, and the Law

January 26 – February 6, 2020

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

Read – Delgado, R. and Stefanic, J. (2012) *Critical Race Theory: An Introduction*, pgs. xiii-xxi; and 1-13; **and** Haney-López, I. (1996) "Racial Restrictions in the Law of Citizenship," pgs. 37-47; **and** "The Prerequisite Cases," pgs. 49-77; **and** McIntosh, P. (1998) "White Privilege, Color, and Crime: A Personal Account," pgs. 1-7

Video – "White Like Me" (69 mins.)

Podcast – "The Politics of Being White" (NPR 54 mins.)

Reading Quiz: available from Feb. 3, 2020 at 8:00am (MST) to Feb. 4, 2020 at 11:59pm (MST).

Critical Response Paper: due February 6, 2020 at 11:59pm (MST).

Learning Module 3 – The Legal Construction(s) of Mexican-American Racial Identity

February 7 – February 18, 2020

Read – Griswold del Castillo, R. (1990) *The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo*, pgs. 62-86; **and** *Botiller v. Dominguez* (1889), pgs. 9-16 **and** Valencia, R.A., et al (2004) *Mexican Americans and the Law*, pgs. xv-xx; and pgs. 3-19; **and** *Hernandez v. Texas* (1954), pgs. 37-47; **and** Haney-López, I. (2003), "The Chicano Movement Cases," pgs. 15-40

Podcast – "Blood and Betrayal in the Southwest" (NPR 52 mins.)

Video(s) – "A Class Apart" (50 mins.)

Reading Quiz: available from Feb. 15, 2020 at 8:00am (MST) to Feb. 16, 2020 at 11:59pm (MST).

Critical Response Paper: due February 18, 2020 at 11:59pm (MST).

Learning Module 4 – Bodies, Sexuality, Immigration, Education and the Law**February 19 – March 1, 2020*****Note: Last Day to Withdraw with a “W” is February 28, 2020***

Read – Stern, A.M (2005), “Sterilized in the Name of Public Health,” pgs. 1128-1138; **and** Novack, N. and N. Lira (2018) “Forced Sterilizations Programs in California Once Harmed Thousands, Particularly Latinas” (NPR article); **and** *Espinoza v. Farah Mfg. Co.* (1973), pgs. 95-106; **and** *United States v. Brignoni-Ponce* (1975), pgs. 107-117; **and** Valencia, R.A., et al (2004) *Mexican Americans and the Law*, pgs. 20-40; **and** Strauss, V. (2017) “Federal Judge Tells Arizona It Can’t Ban Mexican American Studies”

Video(s) – “Southwest of Salem” (91 mins) and
“Precious Knowledge” (70 mins.)

Reading Quiz: available from Feb. 27 at 8:00am (MST) to Feb. 28, 2020 at 11:59pm (MST).

Group Discussion Boards are in effect from February 28, 2020 at 8:00am to March 3, 2020 at 11:59pm (MST).

Learning Module 5 – Final Exam**March 4 - March 8, 2020**

Final Exam will open on **March 6, 2020 at 5:00pm (MST) and will be available through March 8, 2020 at 11:59pm (MST)**. Good Luck!