

CHIC 3311: Societal Issues (ONLINE)

CRN: 16978

Fall 2021

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Office Hours: Please contact me by email to schedule an appointment

Telephone/Virtually via Blackboard Collaborate/Teams/Zoom Times

Course Information: What this class is about and what we will

do

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 Chicana/o Studies from the Chicana/o Movements of the early 1960s 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, citizenship, education, labor, politics, and pop culture for a better understanding of how ethnic Mexicans negotiate, resist, and redefine their place 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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES OR EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

You should be able to:

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 ethnic Mexican community and identity formation.
3. Identify and analyze differences and similarities among ethnic Mexican experiences over time.
4. Demonstrate an 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, within and between ethnic Mexican 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.

The guiding questions for this course are: What is Chicana/o Studies? What does it mean to be a Chicana/o? How have Chicana/os contributed to the story of the United States?

LEARNING MODULES

This course is designed using a modular format—that is, the course is “packaged” as two-week modules so that all the materials, lecture notes, submission areas, discussion posts are in one area for a given week. Only Week 1 is a one-week module.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Professor will provide readings for this course. All readings will be available in Blackboard. **No textbook is required.**

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Grade Distribution:

- 100-90 A 89-80 = B 79-70 = C 69-60 = D 59 and Below = F
- 20% Quizzes
 - 25% Personal Narrative Assignment
 - 30% Midterm Exam
 - 25% Photo Essay Assignment

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; Assignment links; and Discussion Board links. Theme-related learning modules, with the exception of modules 1, will last approximately 13-16 days.

Any 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 and/or Assignment links until the day that they are scheduled on the Course Calendar.

Quizzes

There will be four reading quizzes, one in each of the first 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) assignments: A Personal Narrative Paper for Learning Module 2 and a Photo Essay Assignment for Module 4. I will provide detailed guidelines for each assignment that explains what is required. Guidelines will be located in the appropriate Learning Module.

Midterm Exam

There will be a comprehensive Midterm Exam that covers Learning Modules 2 and 3. I will provide you a review sheet to be located in Learning Module 3. **IMPORTANT:** Check course calendar for assignment due dates and deadlines.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, scanner, a webcam, and a microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

Course Communication: How we will stay in contact with each other

Because this is an online class, we won't see each other in the ways you may be accustomed to: during class time, small group meetings, and office hours. However, there are a number of ways we can keep the communication channels open:

- **Office Hours:** Please contact me to set-up a meeting via telephone/Blackboard Collaborate/Zoom/Teams
- **Email:** UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number.
- **Discussion Board:** If you have a question that you believe other students may also have, please post it in the Help Board of the discussion boards inside of Blackboard. Please respond to other students' questions if you have a helpful response.
- **Announcements:** Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

NETIQUETTE

As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It's possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other's ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

Course Policies: What do you need to do to be successful in the course

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Attendance in the course is determined by participation in the learning activities of the course. Your participation in the course is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a community of learners. Participation is determined by completion of the following activities:

- Reading/Viewing all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements
- Participating in engaging discussion with your peers on the discussion boards (grading rubric provided in the "grading information" area of each forum)
- Participating in scheduled Blackboard Collaborate sessions
- Other activities as indicated in the weekly modules

Because these activities are designed to contribute to your learning each week, they cannot be made up after their due date has passed.

EXCUSED ABSENCES AND/OR COURSE DROP POLICY

I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

DEADLINES, LATE WORK, AND ABSENCE POLICY

Discussion Board Assignments

- Major writing assignments will be due on Sundays at midnight (11:59 PM). No late work will be accepted if the reason is not considered excusable.

Quiz and Writing Assignments

- All quiz, blog, and discussion board assignments will be due on Friday at midnight (11:59 PM). No late work will be accepted if the reason is not considered excusable.

MAKE-UP WORK

Make-up work will be given *only* in the case of a *documented* emergency. Note that make-up work may be in a different format than the original work, may require more intensive preparation, and may be graded with penalty points. If you miss an assignment and the reason is not considered excusable, you will receive a zero. It is therefore important to reach out to me—in advance if at all possible—and explain with proper documentation why you missed a given course requirement. Once a deadline has been established for make-up work, no further extensions or exceptions will be granted.

ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (answers to discussion points, quizzes, exams, and essays) in a separate Word document as a back-up. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your back-up document as a last resort.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](#).

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY

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, possessing 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 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. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

CLASS RECORDINGS

The use of recordings will enable you to have access to class lectures, group discussions, and so on in the event you miss a synchronous or in-person class meeting due to illness or other extenuating circumstance. Our use of such technology is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP's acceptable-use policy. A recording of class sessions will be kept and stored by UTEP, in accordance with FERPA and UTEP policies. Your instructor will not share the recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, or graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with whom we may engage during a class session. **You may not share recordings outside of this course.** Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

PLAGIARISM DETECTING SOFTWARE

Some of your course work and assessments may submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT FOR COURSE MATERIALS

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID 19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org

Course Resources: Where you can go for assistance

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

Individual Resources

- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

COURSE CALENDAR

Learning Module 1: Introduction and Getting Started

October 18, 2021 (Week 1)

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.

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 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 the UTEP Help Desk. The following link provides the contact information for assistance:

<http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=74092>

Assignments:

- You are required to post an introduction to yourself in the Aztlán Internet Café by Wednesday October 20, 2021 at 11:59pm (MST) AND
- Syllabus/Plagiarism Quiz, which will be available Thursday October 21, 2021 at 8:00 am (MST) until Friday October 22, 2021 at 11:59pm (MST).

Learning Module 2 – What is a Chicana/o? What is Chicana/o Studies?

Starting Monday, October 25, 2021 (Week 2 and Week 3)

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

Read – Roque Plana, "Chicano: What Does the Word Mean and Where Does It Come From?" and Carlos F. Ortega, "Introduction: Chicano Studies as a Discipline," vii-xvii; and "El Plan de Santa Barbara," 1-23; and Cheech Marin, "What is a Chicano?"

Video – "Latino Americans: Pride and Prejudice" (54 mins.) K

Read – Lisa J. Hernandez, "Chicana Feminists and Loyalists," 136-148; and Gloria Anzaldua, "La Conciencia de la Mestiza," 99-120

Video – "Exploring Borderlands – American Passages" (27 mins.) FoD

Read – Ana Sánchez-Muñoz, "Who Soy You?" 440-441; and Cherríe Moraga, "La Guerra," 50-59; and Pablo Vila, "Identity and Empowerment on the Border," 40-47

Podcast – Latino USA: "Palabras" (58 mins.)

Assignments:

- Reading Quiz available from Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 8:00 am (MST) to October 29, 2021 at 11:59pm (MST).
- Personal Narrative Assignment (Week 3): Due on Friday, November 5, 2021 at 11:59pm (MST). I will provide a detailed assignment sheet located inside of this learning module.

Learning Module 3 – Becoming American: Education, Labor, and Politics

Starting Monday, November 8, 2021 (Week 4 and Week 5)

Read – Gilbert G. Gonzalez, “Segregation of Mexican Children in a Southern California City: The Legacy of Expansionism and the American Southwest,” 55-76

Video – “Stolen Education” (67 mins.) K

Read – Richard García, “César Chávez: A Personal and Historical Testimony,” 225-233; and “Dolores Huerta: Woman, Organizer, and Symbol,” 56-71

Video – “A Rape in the Fields” (56 mins.) K

Read – Richard Jensen and John Hammerback, “Radical Nationalism Among Chicanos: The Rhetoric of Jose Angel Gutiérrez,” 191-202

Video – “Willie Velazquez: Your Vote is Your Voice” (60 mins.) K

Assignments:

- Reading Quiz (Week 4): available from November 11, 2021 at 8:00am (MST) to November 12, 2021 at 11:59pm (MST).
- Midterm Exam (Week 5): Midterm Exam Link will open Friday, November 19, 2021 at 5:00pm (MST) and will close Sunday, November 21, 2021 at 11:59pm (MST). I will provide a review sheet for the exam located in this learning module.

Learning Module 4 – Chicana/o Identity Formation Through Art, Literature, and Music

Starting Monday, November 22, 2021 (Week 6 and Week 7)

Read – George Vargas, “*Adelante!*The Progress of Chicano Art: An Overview of Chicano Art History,” 425-433

Video(s) – Visiones: Latino Art & Culture: Episode Three (27 mins.) K

Read – Felipe de Ortego y Gasca, “Mexican-American Literature: Reflections and a Critical Guide,” 399-419

Video – “Pedro E. Guerrero: A Photographer’s Journey” (56 mins.) K

Read – Carlos F. Ortega, “On Chicano Music in the United States,” 459-471

Video – Chicano Rock! The Sounds of East Los Angeles (56 mins.) FoD

Assignments:

- *Reading Quiz (Week 6): available from Saturday, November 27, 2021 to November 28, 2021 at 11:59pm (MST).
- Photo Essay Assignment (Week 7): Due Friday, December 3, 2021 at 11:59pm (MST). I will provide a detailed assignment sheet located inside of this learning module.

*Change because of the Thanksgiving Holiday

