

## ***Societal Issues and Analysis***

CHIC 3311, CRN 25509, Spring 2016

100% Online Course: Computer Access Required  
8-Week Course: January 19, 2016 to March 19, 2016

**Manuel B. Ramírez, Ph.D.**

Office Hours: Contact via Blackboard

Office: Graham Hall 302

Phone: 915-747-5824

Email: [mbramirez@utep.edu](mailto:mbramirez@utep.edu)

Please note: Unforeseen circumstances may necessitate modifications to the course calendar. Any changes will be announced with reasonable notice to students.

**Course Description:** A general course designed to provide the student with an understanding of Mexican American culture and society. This interdisciplinary course explores how ethnic Mexicans in the United States have created a distinct culture. To better understand the Mexican American experience, this survey examines the history of Mexico. Furthermore, issues such as immigration, community formation, nativity, class, and gender are also probed to increase our awareness of the experiences of Mexican Americans.

### **Course Objectives:**

The following are objectives of this course:

1. To increase understanding of the Mexican American experience from a broad and interdisciplinary perspective.
2. To develop independent and critical thinking.
3. To increase skills in communication.
4. To promote cultural understanding.
5. To foster the integration of perspectives.
6. To increase knowledge of Mexican Americans by drawing from the historical perspective, research findings, and methodology of various disciplines.

### **Required Materials:**

- Access to computer and internet
- All readings and videos for the class are posted on the **Blackboard** site and are located inside of the Learning Module for any particular week.

### **Relevant Websites:**

All course content will be delivered via Blackboard. To access Blackboard go to <https://my.utep.edu/My>. Log in and click on the "Blackboard" tab.

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 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 *Communication Forum* section 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 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 and your equipment get off to a successful start!

[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 and Grading Rubric:**

I have provided a set of *Course Policies and Procedures and Grading Rubric*. On the *Home Page* go to the *Course Information* section then click on *Course Resources* and then click on *Class Policies and Procedures and Grading Rubric*. 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 (HOP). 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 person's as ones' own. And, 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 possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. Please consult the Handbook of Operating Procedures at <http://hoop.utep.edu> for the complete University policy on academic dishonesty. You may also consult with the Assistant Dean of Students at the Student Union Building West, Room 102, or by calling 747-5648.

**Students with Disabilities:**

If you have or believe you have a disability, you may wish to self-identify. You can do so by providing documentation to the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). It is located in the Student Union Building East, Room 203, 747-5148, [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu). 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 may require.

**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; 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.

**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.

#### **Individual Assignments:**

You will submit three (3) assignments. You will submit three (3) Critical Response Papers for Learning Modules 2, 3 and 4. I will provide a set of guidelines on “How to Write a Critical Response Paper” as well as a set of questions to guide your analysis. Check course calendar for assignment due dates and deadlines.

#### **Group Discussion Boards:**

You will work in groups of five to six. Random groups will be generated the second week of class. These are permanent groups and no changes will be permitted. There will be three (3) *Group Discussion Boards* associated with Learning Modules 2, 3, and 4, and participation in the group boards **is required**. You will find your Group Discussion Board Links embedded in the opening page of Learning Modules 2, 3, and 4. Check course calendar for Group Discussion Board deadlines and due dates.

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

**4 Quizzes:** lowest quiz grade will be dropped (3 quizzes, each worth 100 points)

**Individual Responses Papers:** (3 papers, each worth 100 points.)

**Discussion Boards:** (3 discussions, each worth 100 points.)

**Final Exam:** 100 points.

---

Total points: 1000

#### **Grading Scale:**

A	1000-900
B	899-800
C	799-700
D	699-600
F	599 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, January 19, 2016, you will access the Course. The Home Page you see will consist of a brief introduction to the course as well as the Learning Modules.

You will also find a section entitled *Course Information* and within that section you will see a link entitled *Course Resources*. Here you will find the **Syllabus, Course Calendar, Course Policies and Procedures and Grading Rubric**. 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.**

Below *Course Resources* is a link entitled *Getting Started*. It includes information on student services and support.

## **Learning Module 1 – Introduction to Blackboard and Getting Started**

January 19-22

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 the first week of the course.

You must post an introduction to yourself in the ***The Miner’s Lounge*** by **Wednesday January 20, 2016 at 11:59pm (MST)**. The Miner’s Lounge and Help Board are located under the *Communication Forum* on the Home Page.

You must also access the brief video entitled “**Plagiarism.**” The video is located in the Learning Module below the “This Week’s Assignment” link. 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.

Finally, for Week 1 you are also required to take the Syllabus/Plagiarism Quiz, which will be available **Thursday January 21, 2016 until Friday January 22, 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 Grading Rubric. 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 Blackboard Help.

## **Learning Module 2 – Manifest Destiny: Recreating the American Southwest**

**January 25-29**

**Read** – Chávez, “Race, Manifest Destiny, and the U.S. War with Mexico” and Horsman, “Race, Expansion, and the Mexican War”.

**Video(s)** – “Latino Americans (watch up to 51:49).”

**Reading Quiz:** available on Thursday 28, 2016 at 5:00pm (MST) through Friday January 29, 2016 at 11:59pm (MST).

**February 1-5**

Individual Response Paper is due on Monday February 1, 2016 by 11:59pm (MST). This assignment is designed to gauge your understanding of the week's readings and video(s). I have provided a guideline for writing a critical response paper, which is located in the *Home Page* under *Course Information* tab. As soon as you submit your assignment you need to copy/post that same response to your Group Discussion Board.

Group Discussion Boards are in effect from the moment you post your Individual Response Paper to your Group Discussion Board; however, the deadline to post your response to the group board is Monday February 1, 2016 by 11:59pm (MST). Once you post you will spend the remainder of the week, February 2 to 5, engaging your group members in discussion about each other's critical response to the week's readings and video(s).

### **Learning Module 3 – Identity and Resistance in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

#### **February 8-12**

**Read** – Orozco, “LULAC’s Founding” and De Leon and Griswold del Castillo, “Aztlán Rediscovered” (part 1 and 2).

**Video(s)** – “A Class Apart”

**Reading Quiz:** available on Thursday February 11 2016 at 5:00pm (MST) through Friday February 12, 2016 at 11:59pm (MST).

#### **February 15-19**

Individual Response Paper is due on Monday February 15, 2016 by 11:59pm (MST). This assignment is designed to gauge your understanding of the week's readings and video(s). I have provided a guideline for writing a critical response paper, which is located in the *Home Page* under *Course Information* tab. As soon as you submit your assignment you need to copy/post that same response to your Group Discussion Board.

Group Discussion Boards are in effect from the moment you post your Individual Response Paper to your Group Discussion Board; however, the deadline to post your response to the group board is Monday February 15, 2016 by 11:59pm (MST). Once you post you will spend the remainder of the week, February 16 to 19, engaging your group members in discussion about each other's critical response to the week's readings and video(s).

### **Learning Module 4 – Multicultural Diversity in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

#### **February 22-26**

**Read** – Zaragosa Vargas, “Mexican Americans at the End of the Twentieth Century” and Jimenez, “Assessing Mexican Immigration”.

**Video(s)** – “Latino Americans: Promise and Peril”

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

#### **February 29-March 4**

Individual Response Paper is due on Monday February 29, 2016 by 11:59pm (MST). This assignment is designed to gauge your understanding of the week's readings and video(s). I have provided a guideline for writing a critical response paper, which is located in the *Home*

*Page* under *Course Information* tab. As soon as you submit your assignment you need to copy/post that same response to your Group Discussion Board.

Group Discussion Boards are in effect from the moment you post your Individual Response Paper to your Group Discussion Board; however, the deadline to post your response to the group board is Monday February 29, 2016 by 11:59pm (MST). Once you post you will spend the remainder of the week, March 1 to 4, engaging your group members in discussion about each other's critical response to the week's readings and video(s).

### **Spring Break: March 7-11**

**Learning Module 5 – Final Exam** – The final exam is comprehensive and will cover Modules 2, 3, and 4. The final exam is available on Thursday March 17, 2016 at 5:00pm (MST) through Saturday December 19, 2016 at 11:59pm (MST).