

**Fall 2019**  
**MW 9:00-10:20**

**Chicana/o Studies 3311**

Manuel Ramírez, Ph.D.  
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Office Hours: MWF 10:30-11:30  
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**Societal Issues and Analysis**

Chicana/o Studies  
GRAH: 106  
Phone: 747-5462

Department of History  
LART: 320  
Phone: 747-5508

**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 nativity, class, and gender are also probed to increase our awareness of Mexican American culture and society.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Dennis Bixler-Márquez et al. *Chicana/o Studies: Survey and Analysis*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.

Additional reading will be posted on Blackboard (Bb)

**Course Policies:**

1. Students are expected to attend class lectures. Attendance will be taken.
2. The assigned readings should be read prior to coming to class.
3. When discussing issues in class, you should be respectful of others. Personal attacks are not permitted. This applies whether the person is a student, a visitor, or the instructor. I look forward to hearing your opinions and ideas.
4. Students are expected to attend and take exams on assigned dates.
5. Do not leave class early unless you have spoken to me. Otherwise, you will be noted absent.
6. Do not carry a conversation, read the newspaper, or study materials for your other classes. Please turn off or set to mute your cell phones. I will not hesitate to point out that your behavior is unacceptable. If the disruptive behavior continues, you will be told to leave class.

If you are having any difficulty in the class, please talk to me. I am here to help you. Please do not miss class for several days. The overwhelming majority of students who do this never catch-up. Instead it is better to communicate any difficulty you are having with the instructor.

**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 written and oral communication.
4. To encourage student scholarship.
5. To promote cultural understanding.
6. To foster the integration of perspectives.
7. To increase knowledge of Mexican Americans by drawing from the historical perspective, research findings, and methodology of various disciplines.

**Evaluation:**

Exams: Four exams will be administered, each worth 100 points. You are responsible for material covered in class and the texts. **No one will be allowed to leave the room during exams. Under no circumstances are students permitted to use headphones during an exam.** Students missing an exam must contact the instructor within 24 hours. Make-up exams are given only in cases of documented emergencies. The instructor will decide whether the student has a legitimate excuse to take a make-up exam. The final exam may be comprehensive so do not discard your notes. I will let the class know whether the final will be comprehensive following the third exam. In addition, students must take the final exam on the UTEP assigned day and hour, unless you have a documented university approved excuse. Please note: students must pass at least one exam in order to get a passing grade in the course.

In-class assignments: Throughout the semester students are expected to complete assignments in class. There will be five written assignments to be completed during the class period, each worth 20 points for a total of 100 points. No make-ups will be given. You should bring your book, reader, and notes to class. Failure to bring class materials will result in a zero for the assignment.

**Grade Scale: A= 500-450; B=449-400; C= 399-350; D=349-300; F=299-0.**

**Attendance Policy:**

**You are urged strongly to attend class. Part of being a successful student in any class is regular attendance. Students will be allowed five absences. I make no distinction between excused and unexcused absences. Any absence over five will result in a twenty- point deduction for each absence from the student's total points (see grade scale above). For example, a student with eight absences will have his/her final grade lowered by 60 points. There will be no exceptions to this rule. Under no circumstance should you sign-in for another student. You risk serious penalties.**

The last day to drop with an automatic "W" is November 1. You are responsible for dropping the course if you no longer plan to attend. If you are considering dropping the course, please discuss the matter with the instructor. Things may not be as bad as you think. I do, however, reserve the right to drop students for excessive absences.

Students are required to obtain a UTEP email address. To obtain an e-mail address log on to: [newaccount.utep.edu](http://newaccount.utep.edu). I strongly encourage students to communicate to me any question or problem using UTEP's email service. Please include class information in your email. In addition, students are urged strongly to consult Blackboard for announcements, grades, test study guides, and other class materials.

**ATTENTION GRADUATE STUDENTS: In order to obtain graduate credit for this course, you must satisfactorily complete a term paper or conduct research on a topic, with parameters and editorial style approved beforehand by the course instructor.**

**Laptop Use:**

Laptops are permitted in class. Students, however, must abide by the following:

1. Set your laptop volume control to mute or off before coming to class.
2. Keep your laptop closed during presentations and other specific in-class activities. Under no circumstances should you have your laptop open during video presentations.
3. Students using laptops are not permitted to sit in the back of the classroom.
4. Do not engage in unauthorized communication or entertainment (web surfing, instant messaging, chat room chatting, DVD viewing, music playing, game playing, etc.) during

class unless it is part of the lesson. Since these activities are extremely disruptive to your classmates and the instructor, violating this policy will result in the student forfeiting the privilege of using a laptop in class.

**Cell Phones:**

1. As previously mentioned, set your phone to mute or silent mode before coming to class.
2. The use of cell phones is prohibited during class, unless you are accessing the e-book for the in-class assignments.
3. **Never text during an exam or answer cells phones. You will receive a zero for the exam and appropriate action will be taken by the instructor. See policy on academic dishonesty.**

**Other Wireless Devices**

1. Shut off the device or set it to mute before coming to class.
2. Do not use text messaging or web browser features while in class.

**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). If you have a condition that may affect your ability to exit safely from the premises in an emergency or that may cause an emergency during class, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of CASS.

**Calendar (subject to change with reasonable notice to students):**

**Week 1: (August 26 to 28)**

**Introduction**

**Background on Chicano/a Studies, Demographics, and Terms.**

“Introduction”, p. vii; “A Demographic Portrait of Mexican-Origin Hispanics in the United States”, p. 79; “Realms of Integration”, p. 87; “The Fight for Mexican American Studies in Tucson”, p. 345.

Film: “Precious Knowledge”

**Week 2: (September 2 to 4)**

**Pre-Columbian Societies and Conquest**

Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., “Was America a Mistake?”; Bartolomé de las Casas, [A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies](#); David E. Stannard, “Genocide in the Americas”; Thomas Jefferson, “Notes on the State of Virginia” (Bb).

Labor Day: September 2, No Class.

1<sup>st</sup> In-Class Assignment: September 4.

**Week 3: (September 9 to 11)**

**Spanish Period**

**Week 4: (September 16 to 18)**

**U.S.-Mexico War and Life after Conquest**

**Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

Thomas J. Farnham, “The Indolent, Mixed Race of California”; Josiah Gregg, “The General Character of New Mexicans” (Bb).

“El Paso Salt War: Mob Action or Political Struggle”, p. 13; Vicki Ruiz, “Confronting ‘America’”, p. 33.

**Week 5: (September 23 to 25)**

**Exam 1: September 23.**

Film: “Ballad of Gregorio Cortez”

**Week 6: (September 30 to October 2)**

**Great Depression, WWII, and Chicanos/as at Midcentury**

Eduardo Obregón-Pagán, “Dangerous Fashion” (Bb)

**Week 7: (October 7 to 9)**

**Contemporary Issues**

**Recent Immigration**

Film-- “El Norte” (“The North”)

Immigration in the United States”, p. 205; Barry Yeoman, “Hispanic Diaspora” (Bb)

**Week 8: (October 14 to 16)**

**Immigration (Continued)**

Leo Chávez, “Separation”, “Families, Domestic Groups, and Networks”, “Learning to Live as an ‘Illegal Alien’”; John Annerino, “Paths of Fire” (Bb)

**Exam 2: October 16.**

**Week 9: (October 21 to 23)**

**Closing the Border?**

George Borjas, “Tired, Poor, on Welfare” (Bb); Philip Martin, “Proposition 187 in California” (Bb); Richard Rodríguez, “Closed Doors” (Bb); “Border Challenges and Ethnic Struggles for Social Justice in Arizona”, p. 193.

Film: “Crossing Arizona”

2<sup>nd</sup> In-Class Assignment: October 23.

**Week 10: (October 28 to 30)**

**Education**

Dolores Delgado Bernal, “Chicana/o Education from the Civil Rights Era to the Present,” p. 311; “Immigrants, Latinos, and Education in the United States”, p. 353; Ward Connerly, “The Sweet Music of Equal Treatment” (Bb); Connie Hopinks, “The Whitewashing of Higher Education” (Bb).

Film: "Fear and Learning at Hoover Elementary"  
3<sup>rd</sup> In-Class Assignment: October 30.  
Drop Deadline: November 1.

**Week 11: (November 4 to 6)**

**The Chicano Civil Rights Movement and Borders**

Alicia Chávez, "Dolores Huerta and the United Farm Workers" (Bb).

**Week 12: (November 11 to 13)**

**Language and Health**

Film: "Hablas Ingles?"

"The Latino Health Research Agenda for the Twenty-First Century", p. 129;

Linda Chávez, "The Bilingual Battleground" and "The Backlash" (Bb).

4<sup>th</sup> In-Class Assignment: November 13.

**Week 13: (November 18 to 20)**

**Exam 3: November 18.**

**Labor and Law**

"Women and Farah: The Unfinished Story", p. 47; "Increasing Hispanic Mobility into the Middle Class", p. 147.

Film: "Harvest of Loneliness"

**Week 14: (November 25 to 27)**

**Politics, Arts, and Media Representation**

"An Awakened Giant", p. 223; "Understanding Latina Political Leadership", 253; "Imagined Borders", p. 473.

5<sup>th</sup> In-class assignment: November 27.

**Week 15: (December 2 to 4)**

**Critical Race Theory, Other Current Debates and Conclusion**

Film: "The Color of Fear."

"Environmental Problems in Ciudad Juárez-El Paso", 117-128, Samuel Huntington, "The Hispanic Challenge", George Lipsitz, "The Possessive Investment in Whiteness." (Bb).

**Final Exam:** December 11 @10.

**Please note: Students will not be allowed to take the final at any other time than the UTEP approved schedule, unless they have a documented university approved excuse.**

**Confusion as to the exam time will not be accepted as a valid reason for missing an examination.**

**Classmate Contacts:**

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