

Cultural Diversity and Youth in the U.S  
-Syllabus-  
Department: Chicano Studies  
Instructor: Olivia Garcia, PhD

### **Instructor Information**

Olivia Garcia, PhD (Dr. or Professor Garcia)

[It is best to Email through our course on Blackboard. I will check my Blackboard Email and account at least once every day. I will do my best to respond to your email within 24-hours.](#)

When I need to communicate with all students, I will post in the **Announcements** section. You should be on the look-out for those. **I encourage you to log into the course daily.**

Contact information: [ogarcia10@utep.edu](mailto:ogarcia10@utep.edu) (Please email me for emergencies only. I do not check this email as regularly as I will the course Emails on Blackboard.)

**Office Hours:** [Tuesdays 3:45-5:15 PM](#) and [Sundays 4-6 PM](#) via Blackboard IM (Please download). We may also set up a time to video chat either through Blackboard IM or Skype if you have more individualized questions. Please Email me through Blackboard to arrange an individual video meeting. I also respond to Email messages within Blackboard within 24 hours.

All times listed at MDT. Please keep this in mind.

### **About the syllabus**

This syllabus outlines the course requirements for both the Professor and the student. Make sure to read this thoroughly and understand all the aspects associated with this document. Please contact the Professor if you have questions.

### **Course learning objectives**

This course is intended to give students an understanding of Chicano/a Studies within the fields of education and politics. We will focus on Chicano obstacles for educational attainment, historic political battles that have led to school and curriculum improvements, and end with contemporary educational and political issues.

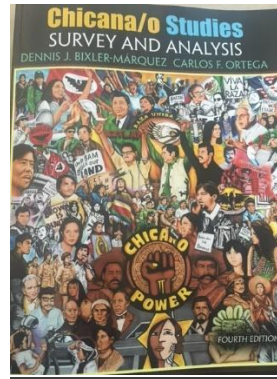
By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Understand the socioeconomic conditions of racial and ethnic groups in the U.S.,
2. Identify how ethnic groups in the U.S. have impacted the educational system,
3. Explain how the formation of the Chicano identity and how it has impacted racial and ethnic educational systems,
4. Critically think and analyze the role of identity in the readings,
5. Understand the role of multicultural education in the U.S.,
6. Critically engage in the literature and “think outside the box” when discussing the reading materials.
7. Gain a better understanding of your own worldviews and opinions towards issues of education, the production of knowledge, and the learning of history.

8. Use multimedia technology to communicate with your peers and the instructor.

### Text and Materials

Textbook: Chicana/o Studies Survey and Analysis. (2014). Bixler-Marquez, Dennis and Carlos F. Ortega. Kendall Hunt Publishers. Dubuque, IA. (Students should purchase this book.) Additional required readings will be posted on Blackboard and that will be indicated on the within the Module.



### Required Software

You must be able to log into UTEP's Blackboard regularly (daily). This requires dependable Internet connection/WiFi and using the appropriate browsers and compatible software to succeed in this online course.

You will need the following software on your computer to efficiently work in this course. If you are using a lab on campus, they already have the necessary software. All the needed programs are free downloads and can be downloaded from the URLs I have provided here and on Blackboard, which are located in the Getting Started tab.

- Blackboard IM: <https://www.blackboardim.com/user/faces/login.xhtml>  
I will use this for my office hours. Please download this.
- Adobe Acrobat Reader: You can get the program by going to <http://www.adobe.com> and then clicking on the icon on the left side of the screen, which says "Get Adobe Reader. Follow instructions to install the reader.
- **Microsoft Word**: I recommend buying this if you do not have any word processing software or presentation software. It is available at the bookstore to students at a discounted price. If you cannot purchase it, you can access it at any of the computer labs on campus. All assignment documents must be submitted as Word .doc files. You can save the files as .doc files from most word processing programs. If I cannot open your documents, I will email you but those documents WILL NOT be graded and are your responsibility to turn in a valid copy.

### Course Requirements

**Course participation is mandatory. Students must keep up with the course assignments to remain in the course. Please see the Course Calendar which provides availability of assignment instructions and deadlines.**

Students must complete the following assignments:

- ✓ Introduce themselves in Discussion Board
  - Provide responses to 3 classmates
- ✓ Quizzes 1-5
- ✓ Exams 1 -3
- ✓ 2 Additional Discussion Board posts

- Provide responses to at least one classmate
- ✓ Final Worksheet
- ✓ Complete optional extra credit assignments

*For all writing assignments (except the Final Worksheet), students will be evaluated on providing a strong thesis, providing supportive evidence and course material to show course mastery, and following instructions (proper grammar, in-text citations and a Works Cited section).*

**Quizzes** – Students will complete online quizzes. These are short answer and/or multiple choice quizzes that will appear within the Module to which they correspond. There is no time limit on quizzes and students may start and stop as needed but must submit before the deadline.

Each quiz is worth 5 points (Total 25 points).

**Exams** – Every student is required to take 3 exams that will consist of short answer (2-3 paragraphs), and/or long answer (1 – 1 ½ page) questions. These questions will be taken from Power Point slides and readings. The exams provide students an opportunity to critically think about the readings, videos and lessons within each Module.

There is no time limit on this exam. You may open and close the exam as needed. Make sure to submit the exam BEFORE the deadline. Submitting the exam late even by 1 second is considered late by Blackboard so plan accordingly. Students can use notes, textbooks, Blackboard course material and the Internet for each exam. You are NOT allowed to work with your fellow students. This is an individual exam. Please make sure to provide a Works Cited (either MLA or APA format is acceptable) section for each question if you cite course material.

Each exam is worth 15 points of your final grade. (Total 45 points).

**Discussion Board Posts** – Students will respond to prompts provided. These are expected to be well-thought out, well written responses. Students are asked to take a position in either agreement or disagreement. Make sure to include your position in the SUBJECT of your POST. You should make your argument clear (strong thesis), include evidence to support your position and try to guide the reader through your logic (try to convince your audience).

*One well written paragraph is worth 3 points. If a video summarizing the paragraph is also submitted, that is an extra 2 points. You MUST turn in BOTH your post and a response.*

**Discussion Board Post Responses** – Students are asked to respond to one other classmate (except for Introduction Discussion Board). Please read the article (<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-to-convince-someone-when-facts-fail>) before responding. Make sure to be respectful in your responses and know that all responses are public (to the class).

*One well written paragraph is worth 3 points. If a video summarizing the paragraph is also submitted, that is an extra 2 points. You MUST turn in BOTH your post and a response.*

**Final Assignment (worksheet)** – Instructor will provide a worksheet and students must complete. This assignment seeks to fuse the course with pop culture. More instructions to come. This assignment is worth 15 points.

Due: December 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 PM. No late assignments will be accepted.

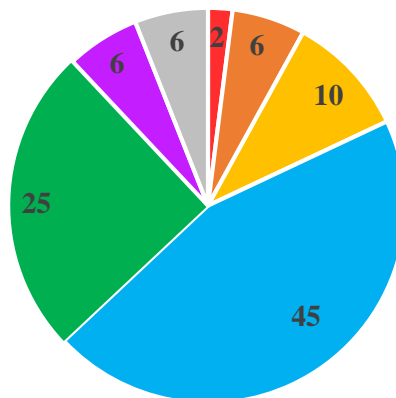
Quizzes and Exams will appear within the Module that they are covering. It is the student’s responsibility to find and complete these.

**Late work is not appreciated although life sometimes throws us curve balls. Please be mindful about due dates because late work has consequences. This is particularly important to keep in mind with Discussion Board Post Responses. It is helpful to communicate directly with the Professor if urgent/emergency situations occur. Late penalties are clearly labeled in the Course Calendar.**

Your final grade will be made up of the following components:

Components of Course Grade Points

- Introduction
- Introduction Responses (3 total)
- Final Worksheet (10 points)
- 3 Exams (15 Points Each)
- 5 Quizzes (5 Points each)
- Discussion Board Posts
- Discussion Board Post Responses (3 points each)



Grades will be based on an accumulation of points, the percentage of which will equal the following grade scale:

Points	Grade
90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
59 - Below	F

### Disclaimers and Additional Resources

- Online Privacy: Everything you say or do on Blackboard is the property of UTEP. Please conduct yourself accordingly.
- Students should review ALL feedback provided on assignments and exams. This will help students do better in the course.
- Students may be penalized for the following non-compliance actions:
  - Plagiarism is taking credit for another's work and passing it off as your own. Plagiarism is unacceptable. When using the ideas of others, it is necessary to properly cite. For more information, read the college catalog or ask instructor.
  - Incompletion of required work, i.e., tests and papers. All work must be completed AND graded in order for complaints to be initiated.
  - Disruptive online behavior including making rude or non-well-thought-out comments on the course Discussion Board.Additional Resources that provide guidance on this topic include:  
UTEP Office of Student Life: <http://sa.utep.edu/studentlife/#student-conduct>  
UTEP Office of Institutional Compliance:  
<http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?alias=admin.utep.edu/hoop>
- Other information:
  - “Having trouble with Blackboard” is not an excuse for late assignments or lack of knowledge about the course. For Blackboard assistance go to:  
<https://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=74327>
  - Students may see the operating manual for other university policies and procedures accessible at:  
<http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?alias=admin.utep.edu/hoop>
- Disclaimer: THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE ANY PART OF THIS DOCUMENT DURING THE TERM AS THE NEED ARISES. Instructor will provide written notice of syllabus changes.
- Disability Services: UTEP offers a variety of services to persons with documented sensory, mental, physical, or temporary disabling conditions to promote success in classes. If you have a disability and believe you may need services, you are encouraged to contact the Center for Accommodations and Student Support. I am happy to accommodate your learning needs. You may obtain more information here:  
<http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>
- I encourage you to visit the Writing Center for assistance with your papers if necessary.

**\*\*\*\*\*Important Advice to Students\*\*\*\*\***

- A. Please make sure you SUBMIT your work.** You must push the SUBMIT button for all assignments (exams and quizzes specifically). If you do not SUBMIT your work, then it is unclear to me that you are done because your work shows up on my end as “Work in Progress.” I will not grade incomplete work (“Work in Progress”) so make sure you **submit** your work to receive credit.
- B. The due dates and time are firm.** *If you are seconds late*, Blackboard counts your submission as late. I encourage you submit your assignments at least 10 minutes early to avoid a late penalty.
- C.** It is each student's responsibility to provide files the Professor can access. If I cannot access your file, it is equivalent to not submitting any work and zero points will be earned.