# Chicoano Cinema

**FILM 3302 / CHIC 3302**

**T/Th 10:30 – 11:50 am**

**CoBA #321**

CRN: 13008 / 11855

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**Fall Semester – 2021**

**Instructor:** Roberto Avant-Mier, Ph.D.

**Office:** Cotton Memorial Bldg. #304

**Phone:** (915) 747.6588

**Office Hours:** Tue. & Thur. 8:30 am – 10:30 am (or by appointment), or Virtual (by appt)

**Email:** ravantmier@utep.edu

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**Required Texts:**

REQUIRED Book: *Cine-Mexicans: An Introduction to Chicoano Cinema*

Author: R. Avant-Mier & M. Lechuga

Year: 2018

Publisher: Kendall Hunt

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**Course Description:**

*Chicoano Cinema* is an examination of the U.S. film industry with respect to the Chicoano's role — historically and culturally — in the media genre. A series of films, including mainstream Hollywood (commercial) and other Chicoano-made (independent) films will be screened, as well as documentary films, as part of an analysis of Chicoano images and their impact on U.S. popular culture. This is an interdisciplinary course that employs analytical constructs and techniques used in cultural anthropology, sociology, film criticism, and history. This course will also review basic tenets of Chicoano history, culture, politics, and identity, and apply this knowledge in understanding film/cinema as meaning-making cultural practice and for understanding the impact of mass-mediated representations of Chicoano/as & "Mexicans.”

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**Course Objectives:** In this course you should,

- Develop media literacy skills for better understanding popular culture and media.
- Become familiar with Chicoano/a Studies and develop a working vocabulary of terms and concepts that relate to Chicoano/a history, identity, politics, and "The Chicoano/a experience.”
- Be exposed to Chicoano/a culture and Chicoano film as an art form, become aware of movies & films being made by and/or about Chicoano/a culture, and understand and track the evolution of Chicoano/a filmic expressions.
- Understand and discuss various social issues as expressed within and/or through Chicoano film.
- Recognize the nuances, complexities, and influences of mainstream popular culture on Chicaona/o popular culture (and possibly, vice versa).
- Discover some of the various interdisciplinary theories in studying film/cinema as a popular medium of communication.
Course Policies & Details:

1. ATTENDANCE:

In accordance with the Dept. of Communication Attendance Policy, **ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED** as a condition of successful completion of all courses in the department. **Second, after missing any class session, a student is responsible for finding out about assignments**, due dates, announcements, handouts, and so forth that were covered during the missed session, and for making up any missed work. The student is also responsible for obtaining class notes from a classmate (not the professor) for the session, and for learning material from that session for any relevant exams or quizzes.

**Third, the equivalent of 1 week of absence from any course will reduce a student's course grade by percentage points** on their eventual “Attendance & Participation” grade. However, absence from a combined total of 3 weeks of class meetings will result in automatic failure of the course. Thus, if the class meets once a week, 3 missed sessions means automatic failure. If a course meets twice a week, 8 missed sessions will result in failure of the course, and a combined total of 9 missed class sessions will result in automatic failure of a course that meets 3 times per week. There are no exceptions to this rule.

Fourth, absences for any reason, including illness, personal crises, athletics or other extracurricular activities are included in this total. If a student is involved in any activity that might require that student to miss 3 or more weeks of a particular course, then that student should not enroll in the course. If a student is involved in any activity that might require that student to miss an exam or quiz, then that student should not enroll in the course.

Next, it is important to note that tardies (arriving late to class) will also be marked and counted, and a simple class rule is that excessive tardies/lates will result in the reduction of the student’s final grade. More specifically, for “Attendance & Participation” purposes two tardies will be considered the same as one absence (for final grading). \([2 \text{ tardies/lates} = 1 \text{ absence}]\)

Finally, students are required to keep track of their own absences, and therefore should not expect the instructor to regularly report absences or notify students in case of attendance issues or problems (unless as a courtesy by the instructor, determined by the instructor’s discretion).

2. DATES/DEADLINES:

All assignments and exams/quizzes will be scheduled far in advance, and due dates for exams and assignments are announced in this syllabus. **Therefore, you must plan your work and personal schedule far in advance to accommodate these deadlines and policies.** Because the attendance policy dictates that you will (for the most part) be present in class, make-ups and late work are therefore largely irrelevant. Otherwise, for a few special cases at the discretion of your instructor, late work will be docked one letter grade for each day late (each calendar day, not each day of class).

3. EXAMS:

**Make-up tests will not be given, except for emergencies.** If a student misses an exam or quiz because of a documented emergency or situation, he/she will be required to fulfill an alternative assignment. Only in extreme circumstances will your instructor make arrangements with you to complete your coursework through alternative assignments.

4. ADA STATEMENT (Re: The Americans with Disabilities Act):

The University of Texas at El Paso seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and to the Center for Accommodations & Support Services (CASS) to make arrangements for accommodations in advance.
5. CASS POLICY (Center for Accommodations & Support Services):

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations & Support Services (CASS) at (915) 747.5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu. Or visit their office located in the UTEP Union – East, Room #106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. CASS staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

6. PHONES / ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

Cell phones or other personal electronic communication devices are NOT permitted during class, so phones should be turned off AND put away during class. Laptops for note-taking are permitted, only with (a.) instructor permission and (b.) as long as the student sits in the front rows of the classroom. [In other words, students cannot sit in the back rows when they are using laptops.]

7. ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

The University of Texas at El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence, and students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, submitting work for credit that is attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act that gives or attempts to give unfair advantage.

8. COVID-19 PRECAUTION STATEMENT:

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.

9. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING SCALES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>* Attendance &amp; Participation Points Earned</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
<td>30 %</td>
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<td>Mid-Term Exam:</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<td>Final Exam:</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<td>Quizzes (2 total / 15% each)</td>
<td>30 %</td>
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<tr>
<th>Numeric Scale – Letter Grade Achieved</th>
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<tr>
<td>90 – 100 = A</td>
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<td>80 – 89 = B</td>
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<td>70 – 79 = C</td>
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<td>60 – 69 = D</td>
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<td>below 60 = F</td>
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NOTE:
2 Tardies = 1 Absence
0-1 absences = 90-100% for attendance grade
2-3 absences = 80-89% for attendance grade
4-5 absences = 70-79% for attendance grade
6-7 absences = automatic “D” for final grade
8 or more = automatic failure of course / “F” or “W”
# Tentative Schedule — Fall 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Be ready to do/discuss this:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>T 8/24</td>
<td>Introductions, syllabus &amp; course overview</td>
<td>a. Log in to Blackboard System</td>
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<td>b. Get syllabus</td>
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<td>Th 8/26</td>
<td>a. Chicano/a History &amp; Politics</td>
<td>* Article by C. Ortega: “Introduction”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Th 9/ 2</td>
<td>a. What does “Chicano” mean?</td>
<td>Cine-Mexicans Ch. 1</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>T 9/ 7</td>
<td>a. Stereotyping &amp; Early Activism</td>
<td>* J.E. Limón: “Stereotyping…”</td>
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<td>b. <em>Salt of the Earth</em> (1954)</td>
<td>Cine-Mexicans Ch. 2</td>
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<td>Th 9/ 9</td>
<td>Hollywood’s Latino Imagery</td>
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<td>Cine-Mexicans Ch. 3</td>
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<td>b. Cinematic Mexicans</td>
<td>* Fregoso: “Zoot Suit &amp; La Bamba”</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>T 9/21</td>
<td><strong>QUIZ #1</strong></td>
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<td>Th 9/23</td>
<td>b. Introducing “The Matrix”</td>
<td>Cine-Mexicans Ch. 4</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>T 9/28</td>
<td><em>A Class Apart</em> (2010) [documentary film]</td>
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<td>Th 9/30</td>
<td>a. “Proto-Chicano” Films?</td>
<td>Cine-Mexicans Ch. 5</td>
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<td>b. <em>Touch of Evil</em> (1958)</td>
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<td>b. The Chicano Movement in Film(s)</td>
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<td>Th 10/ 7</td>
<td>a. Periodizing Chicano Cinema (The 4 Eras)</td>
<td>a. * Bernal: “Grassroots…” and</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>T 10/12</td>
<td><em>Latinos Beyond Reel</em> (2013) [documentary film]</td>
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<td>Th 10/14</td>
<td><strong>MID-TERM EXAM</strong></td>
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<td>Date</td>
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| 9    | T   | 10/19  
|      |     | * Del Castillo: “Chicano Movement”  
|      |     | b. Please Don’t Bury Me Alive! (1976)  
|      |     | Th 10/21  
|      |     | a. “Chicano” Activism & Filmmaking  
|      |     | b. Walkout (2006)  
|      |     | a. Cine-Mexicans Ch. 7  
|      |     | b. * del Bosque: “Return of a Pioneer”  
| 10   | T   | 10/26  
|      |     | a. Historical Notes  
|      |     | * C. Noriega: “Imagined Borders”  
|      |     | Th 10/28  
|      |     | a. El Norte (1983) [cont’d]  
|      |     | b. Chicano Filmmaking in the 70s/80s  
|      |     | Cine-Mexicans Ch. 7  
| 11   | T   | 11/ 2  
|      |     | a. Stoners, Cheech, and Born in East L.A.  
|      |     | * C. Noriega: “Born in East LA”  
|      |     | Th 11/ 4  
|      |     | a. The 4 Eras of Chicano/a Film  
|      |     | b. Features of the “Classic Period”  
|      |     | Cine-Mexicans Ch. 8  
| 12   | T   | 11/ 9  
|      |     | a. Limitations of the “Classic Period”  
|      |     | b. Luminarias (2000)  
|      |     | Cine-Mexicans Ch. 9  
|      |     | Th 11/11  
|      |     | Luminarias (2000) [cont’d]  
|      |     | * A. García: “Chicana Discourse”  
| 13   | T   | 11/16  
|      |     | QUIZ #2  
|      |     | Th 11/18  
|      |     | a. Evolving Chicano/a Identity(ies)  
|      |     | b. La Mission (2009)  
|      |     | Cine-Mexicans: Appendix B – H  
| 14   | Th  | 11/23  
|      |     | a. La Mission (2009) [cont’d]  
|      |     | b. Chicano Cinema in the 2000s  
|      |     | Cine-Mexicans: Appendix B – H  
| 15   | T   | 11/25  
|      |     | THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY [no classes]  
| 16   | Thurs. Dec. 9th | FINALEXAM  
|      |     | 10:00 am – 12:45 pm (as per university schedule)  

**FINAL GRADES DUE**
Further Reading Suggestions:


- **Chicano Images: Refiguring Ethnicity in Mainstream Film**, by Christine List (1996, Garland Publishing, Inc.)


- **The Bronze Screen: Chicana and Chicano Film Culture**, by Rosa Linda Fregoso (1993, University of Minnesota Press)


