

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS EL PASO
CHIC 4301 -- CHICANO LEGAL HISTORY
POLS 4325 – SPECIAL TOPICS IN LAW AND POLITICS
CRIJ 4300,007 – SELECTED JUSTICE TOPICS
Thursdays 6:00 – 8:50 p.m.

Spring 2025

Meeting Room:

RAYMUNDO ELI ROJAS, J.D.

How to contact me:

- rerojas@utep.edu (only check this email once a week)(**NOT the fastest way to get a hold of professor**)
- (915) 747-5462 do not leave message here, see below
- Fastest Way: Mobile: (915) 801-5915 (can receive text) (**see rules regarding texts below**)
- My box is located at Chicano Studies, 2nd floor, Graham Hall # 104 (checked only a few times a semester)

Office Hours by Appointment, or before and after class 5:-45-6pm Thursday; 8:50 – 9:30 PM Thursdays. I can also meet you by Zoom any time during the week by appointment.

1. **Course Description:** The legal history of the Chicano(a) community contains the struggle for civil rights, social justice, and equal protection of the law. We will discuss education, employment, housing, segregation, police misconduct, immigration, administration of justice, voting rights, social service, residential segregation, school segregation, among other topics while applying legal theories such as Critical Race Theory and Critical White Studies, both of which we will devote a substantial focus.

We will review the legal structure that gives the constitutional and statutory background, together with primary cases. We will also look at some cases that occurred in El Paso, as well as other legal observations.

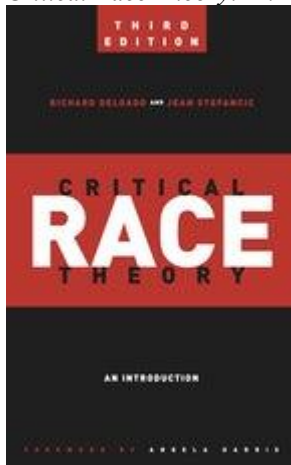
2. Raymundo Eli Rojas is an rebellious lawyer in El Paso and Las Cruces who attended the University of Kansas School of Law. He received his B.A. from UTEP and is an activist for people of color in El Paso. He is the founder of the Kansas City Worker Justice Project and is a former executive director of Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center. He has worked in the fields of immigration; employment; criminal law, and wage and hour. He was a Senior Prosecutor at the District Attorney's office in Las Cruces. He has also served as a community organizer and Open Government advocate. Rojas is a co-founder and former president of the Immigration Defense Bar of El Paso and president of the El Paso chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. He is a co-founder of Raza Organize! and the El Paso Chicano History Project. He is also the regional Co-Vice President for the Texoma Region of the National Lawyers Guild. He's done extensive work in Chicano(a)x literature and still runs a blog and social media focusing on Chicano(a)x writers from El Paso.
3. Advisor: I am the advisor for two student organizations at UTEP: **MECHA or El Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano(a)x de Aztlán** is a student civil rights organization that dates back to 1968 and has a rich history of fighting social and political justice as well as for human rights. The **Chicano(a)x Pre-Law Society** is a **pre-law** student and community organization that seeks to help people of color get into law school as well as teach them leadership skills that they can use in their professional careers. For information on joining, please see me.
4. Class Facebook group: I create a Facebook group for the class each semester. I post interesting articles and events. It is also a way to keep in touch. Joining is voluntary, not mandatory.
5. **Contact with Professor, especially by text:** I am a lecturer and not a full-time professor. My day job is a full-time attorney. **I do not have an office at UTEP.** I have a box at the Chicano Studies office, **but only check the box every few months.** **Please notify me by text or call me if you placed something in my box.** I can also receive texts, **but please limit your text to small text messages.** I will not read long text messages, but will simply reply: "Too long. Please call me." Please do not be offended, but please understand I am not 15-years-old and prefer to talk directly with you if the conversation needs to be a long one. Please preface your texts with your name (e.g., "Hi its Jose Gomez from you Chicano Legal History class."). I will respond to text received without identification: "Please see syllabus #5." All abuses of text, including, but not limited to threats, pretending to be other students, will be reported to the Dean of Students and the UTEP Police.
6. This class uses Socratic Method for instructions. I do not allow use of cell phones during class. I will ask students

who fail to comply with this directive to leave the classroom.

7. **About Socratic Method:** is a form of cooperative argumentative dialogue between individuals, based on asking and answering questions to stimulate critical thinking and to draw out ideas and underlying presumptions. It is a dialectical method, involving a discussion in which the defense of one point of view is questioned; one participant may lead another to contradict themselves in some way, thus weakening the defender's point. This method is named after the Classical Greek philosopher Socrates and is introduced by him in Plato's *Theaetetus* as midwifery (maieutics) because it is employed to bring out definitions implicit in the interlocutors' beliefs, or to help them further their understanding. You may feel that I never say a direct statement. Instead I ask questions and may follow your statement with a question. Please do not be offended if I try to draw the critical thinking out of you. At times it may appear condescending, but please don't be offended. If you are called and it is found you have not read, you will be given some time to read the article and we will resume the discussion.
8. Please note you are required to read **and print** articles posted on Blackboard. Buy a large three-ring binder because you are required to bring a printed copy of each reading to class. Because of the speed in which the class will be instructed using Socratic Method, digital versions slow down the lecture tremendously.
9. All students are expected to take exams when scheduled and or turn in papers when due. Attendance and participation are factored into your grade. Documentation for an excused absence will be required in order to make up quizzes or exams. **Late take home exams will NOT be accepted.** If you are absent the day the paper is due, you need to turn it in beforehand.

10. The textbooks

- ▲ Blackboard: *Mexican Americans and the Law* by Reynaldo Anaya Valencia et. al. University of Arizona Press, 2004 (you must print out the sections for class) – this will be posted chapter by chapter;
- ▲ *Critical Race Theory: An Introduction* by Richard Delgado et. al., 3rd Edition (a.k.a. “CRT”)



- ▲ **Please bring your CRT book and your binders of Blackboard readings to every class.**

Purchase of the textbook is mandatory and if you have not purchased this books by the 3rd class, you will be dropped. It is important to learn to apply the theories given in Delgado's books to all readings in this class.

11. Attendance

This class meets Thursdays from 6-8:50 pm. We will take breaks at 7:00 pm and 8:00 pm. In accordance with university policy, class attendance and participation **are mandatory**.

Because this is a once-a-week class, attendance enforcement is stricter than most classes. Remember, missing one class, although once-a-week class, is equivalent of missing an entire week if the class met three times a week. An attendance sheet is passed out sometime during the class period. The midterm will take up on hour in class and I will take attendance in the second hour of that class. If you do not sign the attendance sheet, **consider yourself marked absent.** It is

your responsibility to let me know you are present during the subsequent class break. Each day of class attendance is added into the equation toward points for participation. When absent, you do not get these points.

12. Leaving early

If you leave class early without notifying me, I will mark you absent.

13. Excused and unexcused absences

More than two unexcused absences *may* result in being dropped from the class but it is my discretion. ****More than three absences, excused or unexcused, may result in being dropped from the class at my discretion.**** Because it is at my discretion, if you stop attending class, **do not rely on me to drop you**. After the drop deadline, I will drop students only after considering a request from the student. **I will not drop you if you cease attending class.** To be excused, I must be informed of your absence before class (before 6:00 pm) via e-mail at rerojas@utep.edu or text. To be excused after-the-fact, some type of written documentation excusing your absence will be needed. When texting, please text this, “Your name, I will be unable to attend class today....” and please send the text BEFORE 6:00 pm.

14. Bullet Points of Reading

This class involved deep reading of the texts so your reading assignments are crucial. Bullets at the beginning of each class. Your bullet points will be five main points you got out of a readings. **Failure to turn in bullets will result in a negative .5 point from your overall grade. You must bring the bullets to each class for the reading that will be lectured upon. If I ask you to take out your bullets and you don’t have them, you will not be given credit for those bullets (-.5 point).**

15. Participation

Since I use Socratic Method, students must be prepared to be called upon to describe and discuss the readings and answer questions. I usually call upon three students per hour and you should expect to “be up” for the entire hour. **This is your participation that will be factored into your final grade.** Your participation will begin at “15” and may lose participation point if you are not prepared. Nevertheless, for extra points, although not a full point, you may still participate and receive points even after I have called upon you. Please do not fear me calling on you and see it as a conversation with me. You do not have to agree with the readings or myself. Be aware I can call on you even if you are not present so, if you are absent without an excuse, keep this in mind as you may gain a negative one point. If I find a substantial number of students unprepared to discuss the reading in class, I will give a pop quiz.

16. Dropping

This semester, the last day you may drop this class with a grade of automatic withdrawal (“W”) is April 1. The last day of my class is the Last Day of Classes, Dec. 1. I have a “no questions asked” drop policy for drops after the drop deadline. However, you must request the drop in writing, and it must be before final grades are posted.

17. Grading Criteria and Course Evaluations

Based on participation, extra credit, bullet points, quizzes, and exams.

Every student starts off with an A in my class. This means on Class 1, you have 100 points. Depending on your grades in each of the items below, I will subtract the numerator from the 100.

Quizzes	15
Participation and Attendance	20
Call Day	10
Midterm	27
Final	28

90 – 100 pt = A
80 – 89 pt = B
70 – 79 pt = C

60 – 69 pt = D
59 or below = F

18. A. Extra Credit: You can earn 10 points by attending 10 Chicano(a)-related academic events like a lecture, film, reading, etc. ALTERNATIVELY, you can get 10 points for volunteering 20 hours:

- ▲ Paso Del Sur/Save Duranguito
- ▲ Lincoln Park Day
- ▲ Border Network for Human Rights,
- ▲ Sin Fronteras Farmworker Center
- ▲ Opportunity Center for the Homeless
- ▲ Raza, Organize! (find on Facebook or ask me)
- ▲ Paso del Norte Civil Rights Project
- ▲ Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services
- ▲ Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center
- ▲ Reynolds House, Center Against Family Violence
- ▲ Any event on the UTEP Hispanic Heritage Celebration Calendar
- ▲ Rescue Mission of El Paso
- ▲ Chicano(a) History Project (ask me)
- ▲ Honest, Open, and Transparent El Paso
- ▲ YMCA – volunteer coaches in soccer, basketball, and volleyball (one night a week practice and one game on Saturday)
- ▲ Sunrise El Paso
- ▲ Any detained migrant advocacy organization.

B. I also give 5 points for a family tree (more on this later). I will give instructions on this later.

C. I will give up to 14 points (one per class) to students who place their cell phone on the front table during class. Please sign the “in and out” sheet.

19. Academic dishonesty (Plagiarism)

I do report plagiarism to the Dean of Students. This includes deliberate and accidental plagiarism. It is not my job to decipher if you plagiarized deliberately or accidentally (“left out quotation marks”). I simply report it to the Dean of Students for his office to decipher and rule upon.

UTEP prohibits academic dishonesty (AD) and considers AD a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP). AD includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, purchasing term papers online, possessing unauthorized material during a test, using work in a paper or assignment for which the student had received credit in another course without direct permission of all involved instructors, or falsifying research data. **Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as one's own.** This includes passing purchased on-line papers as one's own or including/copying passages from books and research material without proper quotation marks and/or citations. This also includes summarizing or paraphrasing a source without giving proper citations. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit an academically dishonest act. The university and I will not tolerate any attempted act of AD. 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 HOP at <http://hoop.utep.edu> for the complete UTEP 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.

20. Student with disabilities

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at (915) 747-5148, by email cass@utep.edu, or visit the CASS office located in the Union Building East, Room 106.

For additional information, please visit the CASS website at: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/>.

21. Attention Graduate Students and Honors Students: Please see me to discuss requirements your graduate adviser may require for this course. Students wishing to receive honors credit must speak with me, as I require religious devotion, punctuality, and attendance to this class.

22. Hall Pass: UTEP students are typically involved in their family and church, working full time, and going to school full time. Please realize we are all in the same boat. However, I frequently get the same excuses on why something was not turned in, or why a student missed a class. Rather than hear them, I will give you two “hall passes” at the beginning of the semester. You can use to excuse an absence (as long as you do not miss more than three classes). If you lose your pass, I will not give you another.

23. COVID-19: Please review the various guidelines regarding COVID-19: <https://www.utep.edu/extendeduniversity/professional-and-public-programs/safety-protocols/index.html>. It is important you follow Center for Disease Control guidelines if you get a COVID-19 positive. The University has asked if you have a positive test for COVID-19, you must report this to screening.utep.edu. I will work with you, as appropriate, to help you successfully complete course requirements. I encourage you to also follow UTEP’s recovery level at:

If maybe that due to an in-person class, we may be exposed. I will notify you of an exposure by one of us in the class. I reserve the right to have class meet by Zoom during the semester as a result of exposure.

We reserve the option of meeting by Zoom should COVID-19 numbers go high in our region.

24. Usage of Artificial Intelligence:

Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all work submitted in this course must be your own and completed in accordance with the **UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures Chapter 1 Section 1.2.3**. AI generated submissions that use ChatGPT, Grammarly, Chegg or other AI composition software is prohibited, will be treated as cheating, and reported to the Dean of Students.

25. Use of equipment in class. Tablets and laptops are allowed as long as they display the class readings and you are not surfing, playing games, or on social media. Students caught abusing this policy will be asked not to bring these electronic devices to class again. Earphone, earbuds, etc. whether wired or wireless, cannot be used in class. Student who have them in their ears will be given one warning. Subsequent use in class will result in being asked to leave the class. **RECORDING IN CLASS IS ALWAYS PROHIBITED.**

Chicana(o) Legal History – Raymundo Rojas

Date	Date	Readings
Jan. 23	<p>Class 1</p> <p>Class Will Not Meet: Please see Blackboard for recorded introduction to the class, first lecture, and link to video:</p> <p>Watch on YouTube: Racism in America: Small Town 1950s Case Study Documentary Film</p> <p>What is a Chicano? What is legal? What is “racism”? Why Am I So Brown? Why are you Black? Introduction to Critical Race Theory: What is Critical Race Theory – Early Origins – Relationship to Other Movements – Principal figures – Spin off Movements – Basic Tenants – How much Racism is there in the World? – Miscegenation: What Is It? What Does it Tell us?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Loving vs. Virginia (Reflection 1)</i>(6) (Blackboard)[3] • <i>Critical Race Theory: An Introduction</i>, read forward by Angela Harris; • Chapter 1 Introduction [8] (Bullet 1), • Chapter 2 to pg. 34 (Bullet 2) • <i>Mexican American and the Law</i>, p. xv – xx (do not read “Structure of this book”[4] and Ch. 1, p. 4-5 [1]) <p>45 PAGES</p>
Jan. 30	<p>Class 2</p> <p>Who Discovered America? “Land, Possession; U.S. Courts; Doctrine of Discovery; The Criminal Justice System: 14th Amendment Equal Protection and Jury Exclusion; <i>Hernandez v. Texas</i>; <i>Hernandez v. New York</i>; Voluntary Confessions and the Fifth Amendment Right against Self-Incrimination; <i>Miranda v. AZ</i>: 6th Amendment Right to Legal Counsel; <i>Escobedo v. Illinois</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackboard: “How to Read a Case,” • <i>Property</i>, Krier, “First Possession: Acquisition of Property by Discovery, Capture, and Creation” and “Doctrine of Discovery” (Reflection 2 [one reflection for

	<p>Racial Standing and White Privilege</p> <p>Legal Story Telling and Narrative Analysis – Opening a Window onto Ignored or Alternative Realities – Counterstorytelling – Cure for Silencing – Storytelling in Court – Storytelling on the Defensive</p>	<p>both articles)[14]</p> <p>Mexican Americans and the Law, ch. 8 “The Criminal Justice System (Bullet 3)[16]</p> <p>Mexican Americans & the Law: Ch. 1, pg. 10-13 Legal Construction of Mexican American Identity – <i>Hernandez v. Texas</i> (1954) – Other Legal Protections [4](Bullet 4)</p> <p>[35]</p>
Feb. 6	<p>Class 3 – Quiz 1 on Basic Tenants of CRT</p> <p>Gender and the Law: Reproductive Rights; <i>Madrigal v. Quilligan</i>, Sexual Harassment and Other Workplace Discrimination; <i>EEOC v. Hacienda Hotel</i>;</p> <p>White Privilege; Chicanos as White;</p> <p>Looking Inward – Intersectionality – Essentialism and Anti-essentialism – Nationalism versus Assimilation – Racial Mixture.</p> <p>Power and the Shape of Knowledge – The Black-White Binary – Critical White Studies – Other Developments: Latino and Asian Critical Thought, Critical Race Feminism, LGBT Theory</p> <p>Critiques and Responses to Criticism – “External” Criticism – “Internal” Criticism – The Activist Critiques – Critique of the Intellectual Heart of the Movement – Critical Race Theory as a Method of Inquiry in New Fields and Countries</p>	<p><u>Blackboard:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Derick Bell's Rules of Racial Standing” [1] • Peggy McIntosh: “Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack” [4] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Include in Reflection 3 for Peggy McIntosh List and Derick Bell reading)[1]; <p><i>CRT</i>: Chapter 3 [12] (Bullet 5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mexican Americans and the Law: Ch. 3, p. 41-54 Gender and the Law [13](Bullet 6) [pgs. 56] • Possible film • <i>Critical Race Theory</i>, Ch. 4 [8 (Bullet 7)[12] • <i>Critical Race Theory</i> ch. 5 [11] (Bullet 8) • <i>Critical Race Theory</i>, -Ch. 5 (Bullet 9)[11] <p><i>Critical Race Theory</i> Ch. 6 [6](Bullet 10)</p> <p>[44pg]</p>
Feb. 13	<p>Class 4</p> <p>Critical Race Theory Today – Right-Wing Offensive – Front Burner Issues - Identify</p> <p>Brief History and Mexican Americans and the Law; School Segregation: Analysis of <i>Alvarado et. al. v. El Paso Independent School District</i></p> <p>Discuss Alvarado presentations. Assign groups.</p>	<p>Critical Race Theory Ch. 7 (Bullet 11)[14]</p> <p>Critical Race Theory Ch. 8 [18] (Bullet 12);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mexican American and the Law: Ch. 2. Educational Equality: Segregation – <i>Mendez v. Westminster</i> – (Bullet 13) <p>[35pg]</p>
Feb. 20	<p>Class 5</p> <p>School Segregation in El Paso</p> <p>Litigating Mexican Identity: 1. The Chicano Movement Cases 2. Proving Mexicans Exist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackboard: <i>Alvarado v. EPISD</i> (District Court – Session’s Opinion) 1976 (Reflection 4)[40]

	Midterm Take Home Essays Handed out	[40 pages]
Feb. 27	Class 6: Alvarado Presentations Texas Open Records Act and Texas Open Meetings Act Texas Open Records Act exercise and assignments. Texas Open Meeting Act	Online: Texas Open Records Act and Texas Open Meetings Act (Essay: How can governments use meetings to disingranchise people of color? How can people of color present this?)
March 6	Class 7 Voting Readings Midterm (lecture continues after exam)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • -Blackboard: See Voting Folder (Reflection 6)
March 13	Spring Break	<u>Spring Break No Class</u>
March 20	Class 8: Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo	<u>Blackboard:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Griswold Del Castillo, p. 43-46, 62 – 86 (Bullet 14)</i>[27] • <i>The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, p. 87-107</i> [20] [47]
March 27	Class 9: Recent Lawsuits Presentation	Blackboard: See (Reflection 7)
April 3	Class 10: Eminent Domain, Gentrification, and City Rejuvenation; Immigration Readings Securing the U.S. – Mexico Border; <i>Us. V. Brigoni-Ponce</i> ; <i>U.S. v. Martinez-Fuerte</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackboard: “Victimizing the Vulnerable: Demographics of Eminent Domain Abuse” [16](Reflection 8) • Blackboard: El Paso City Manager Defends Funds...” [1] • Mexican Americans and the Law, ch. 5, Immigration, p.89- 99 [10], 105-113 [17](Bullet 15) <p>[34]</p>
April 4	Drop Deadline	Drop Deadline
April 10	Class 11 Immigration Readings: Border Patrol Immigration: El Paso Cases: Bowie High School and Immigration Raids; Same Sex Partnerships and Immigraton; Immigraton and LGBTQ+; Immigration and women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackboard: <i>Mendoza v. INS (Bullets 16)</i>[8] • Blackboard: <i>Murillo v. Musegades (Bullets 17)</i>[16] [37p] • Blackboard: “Marriage Equality in Immigration Law”[2] -“Exclusion and Deportation of Lesbians and Gay Men, HIV Positive” [10](Bullet 18 last two articles)

		-“Marginalization of Women Under the Immigration and Nationality Laws” [16](Bullets 19) and VAWA [36] [52]
April 17	Class 12 . El Paso Residential Segregation, Voting Rights, El Paso Politics, Disfranchisement of Chicanos; Organizing in the late-1950s Voting Rights Act; Single-member Districts; At-large voting; Districting and Redistricting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackboard: “The 1957 Election,” (Bullets 20)[31] [50] • Blackboard: “Richard Tellez and the Barrio” (Bullets 2)[16] [66] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackboard: <i>Sierra v. El Paso Independent School District</i>
April 24	Class 13 El Paso City Council, Districting, Voting Rights Act, YISD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackboard: “The Chicano in El Paso Politics” by Ben Marquez (Bullets 22)[13] Blackboard: “Alicia Chacon Readings (2 interviews)” (Bullets 23)[7] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Racial Restrictive Covenants: Enforcing Neighborhood Segregation in Seattle.” (Bullet 24) • Blackboard: Copy of racial restrictive covenant in El Paso (1) • [21]
May 1	Class 14: 1957 Election Continued; El Paso Politics; Taking Office <i>Affirmative Action – Brief History – Legal Standards for Reviewing AA Programs – AA in Institutions of Higher Learning – Bollinger – State Initiatives</i>	Blackboard (Bullet 25)
May 8	Catch Up	Catch Up
May 15	Final Exam, 7pm	