

COMMON COURSE SYLLABUS
Introduction to Mexican American Studies
Instructor and Course Information –
Huma 1305.151

Department: Behavioral Sciences

Discipline: HUMANITIES

Course Number: HUMA 1305

Course Name: INTRODUCTION TO MEXICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES

Credit: 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0

This course satisfies a core curriculum requirement: Yes – Language, Philosophy and Culture

Prerequisites: none for campus; TSI reading compliance for Internet

Available Formats: Conventional and Internet

Campuses: INET

Supplies: Computer and Internet access.

Course Description: (3:3:0) : This interdisciplinary survey examines the different cultural, artistic, economic, historical, political, and social aspects of the Mexican-American/Chicano/a communities. It also covers issues such as dispossession, immigration, transnationalism, and other topics that have shaped the Mexican-American experience. Art, literature, historical analysis, economic analysis, and/or music will be utilized to understand the cultural differences.

Semester Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Lab Hours: 0 (This course covers the historical, economic, social, and cultural development of Mexican-Americans)

Learning Outcomes/Competencies:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Analyze the developmental history, culture, and struggles for equality of Mexican-Americans.
2. Articulate an informed personal response and critically analyze works by Mexican-Americans in the arts and humanities.
3. Describe the impact of discrimination on the everyday life of Mexican-Americans in the context of social, political, and economic circumstances.
4. Analyze minority group interactions in the United States focusing on immigration and migration patterns.
5. Formulate an understanding of shifting definitions of Mexican-American cultural identities.

Core Objectives:

- **Communication skills-** to include effective written, oral and visual communication.
- **Critical thinking skills-** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- **Social Responsibility-** to include the demonstrated intercultural knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.
- **Personal Responsibility-** to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Texas Coordinating Board Approval Number..... 45.1101.53 25

Instructor and Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Armida Rosiles

Office Location: RC 405 A
Office Phone: 885-3048, ext. 2944
Office Hours: email and by appointment

Email: arosiles@southplainscollege.edu

board will be the link for professor/student contact.

Textbook and Readings:

Text: There is NO Textbook for this class. Electronic readings and videos will be made available in lieu of a textbook.

Blackboard Information: You can find the following information on Blackboard:

Course Syllabus
Instructor information
Classroom Videos
Assigned Readings
Discussion Postings and Homework link
Grades

Course Description: This course emphasizes the cultural diversity of Mexican Americans. Combining psychological, historical, and sociological perspectives, this course offers an alternative perspective to the typical curricula that is traditionally presented in mainstream liberal arts courses and which ignores all those people who are not of White, European ancestry; of a Judeo-Christian religious tradition; in the middle class; heterosexual; abled/without disabilities, etc.

WARNING

This course involves controversial topics which may challenge or conflict with your existing beliefs and may require you to go outside your comfort zone. We will examine oppression privilege and inequality from a variety of expert, academic, and research perspectives. Although you are not expected to accept or concur with the perspectives, attitudes, and beliefs of the instructor, authors, or fellow classmates, you must at least consider other perspectives and interact with others respectfully.

*My door is always open to any concerns you have during this course.
Confidentiality is guaranteed.*

DOUBLE WARNING

The level of readings for this course ranges from short and sweet to difficult and demanding. You must be prepared to read, read, read, read, read, read . . . and, most importantly, think. If you don't like to read period, you may want to rethink this class. On the other hand, you may find that some of the readings, although challenging, are not incomprehensible and you may even find them fascinating.

NOTE: This is an American Minority Studies class in which the emphasis is on persons of Mexican ancestry. As such, the core of this course includes the history, achievements, contributions, and tribulations of members of this ethnic group as opposed to focusing mainly on White persons who tend to be the nucleus of generic courses. Moreover, due to the subject under study, the written lectures as well as required readings, may to some individuals be disturbing, offensive, or possibly in conflict with their personal beliefs, ideology, values, or worldview. It is not the instructors intent to insult, offend, or convert any student to a view that conflicts with his or her value system, but rather to introduce students to a broader perspective of political, psychological, and sociological thought in today's increasingly pluralistic society.

Specific Course/Instructor Requirements

1) Assignment/Discussion Policy - This course involves no quizzes or tests. My objective is for you to understand, analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and create meaning from the lectures and readings, rather than just regurgitate information back to me on tests. To this end, assignments will require you to answer questions, write an essay, complete an exercise, outline readings, create a product, or complete some other such task. There will be a wide variety of assignments for you to choose from. You will have some flexibility as you need to complete only 8 out of 11 assignments that I post. **Note:** I will only grade the first 8 assignments you turn in. Do not waste your time completing extra assignments. I will not give you extra points. Each assignment will be worth 50 points for a total of 400 points (8 X 50 = 400 points). Assignments will be due on Fridays at 11:00 a.m. Some assignments will consume more of your time than others so please plan our time accordingly. Due dates are posted in the "Schedule of Due Dates" on the left hand tool bar.

There are no make-up assignments, and late assignments will not be graded! Deadlines are firm!! If you realize that you will not be able to get your assignment submitted by the deadline, you should adjust your planning schedule so that you are able to meet future deadlines. If you miss an assignment you should evaluate your progress to determine if you need to drop. Be aware that if you fail to turn in four (4) assignments or partial assignments that are less than 60% complete by the posted date and time, you will receive a grade of "F" in the class. Assignments will be due **no later than 11:00 a.m. on Fridays**. I will make every attempt to have grades returned to you within 7 days. However, this time frame will depend some on the following factors: number of students enrolled, length of the particular assignment, and amount of feedback required to give each individual student.

In lieu of a final exam, you will complete a **final project** worth 100 points. You will be able to choose from a list of suggested projects or devise your own project. If you choose to devise your own project, you will need to communicate those intentions to me for approval to negotiate the terms.

You will need to participate in **10 of 11 class discussion topics** that I provide. Each discussion posting is worth 20 points each for a total of 200 points. (10 X 20 = 200 points). Generally, I will precede these discussions with a brief reading or news item and then start you off with a few questions and allow you to branch off from that starting point. The first 10 points are allocated to your original posting on the weeks readings. You can then earn 5 points each for your responses to two classmates postings. You can post as much as you like to as many classmates as you like, I will grade your top 2 responses for a total of 10 points to add to the points you earn on your initial posting.

Grading Policy

You can earn a total of 700 points (400 assignments, 100 final project, 200 discussions). The total number of points that you earn at the end of the semester will determine your grade as follows:

700 - 630 = A
629 - 560 = B
559 - 490 = C
489 - 420 = D
419 and below = F

Failure to turn in (4) assignments or partial assignments that are less than 60% complete by the posted date and time = automatic F

Specific Requirements:

If you decide to drop this course, a "W" grade indicating Withdrawal does not become effective until **you turn in the completed form to the registrar's office**. You will remain in the class roll until the official notification of your withdrawal from the registrar. You are subject to being dropped with an "F" if you take too long to have the drop slip officially processed.

Note: Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Any student who, through words or actions, seeks to harass, embarrass, intimidate, or coerce staff, faculty or another student will be dropped from the course with an "F"

Disability Statement: Students with disabilities including but not limited to physical, psychological/psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Special Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide

acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Special Services Coordinator. For more information, refer to the SPC General Catalog, as well as call or visit the Special Services office in the Student Services Building of the Levelland campus, or call 894-9611, ext. 2529/2530 or at Reese Center, ext. 4654.