

Sul Ross State University

Fall 2014

MAS 2301: Introduction to Mexican American Studies

Professor: Filemon Zamora

Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs 8:00 -9:30 am or by appt.

Office: MAB 113

Telephone: 837-8293

E-mail: fzamora@sulross.edu

P.M.

Classroom and class time: LH 309, M & W 12:30-1:45

Required Texts: *North to Aztlán: A History of Mexican Americans*, second edition by Arnolde de León and Richard Griswold del Castillo

The Adventures of Don Chipote by Daniel Venegas

...And the Earth did not Devour him by Tomás Rivera

Course objective: Our approach to Mexican American Studies will be mainly through history. History will help us understand broadly the situation of Mexican Americans through time, thus we will be informed about their situation in labor, education, politics, race-relations, and immigration. To help us understand the Mexican American experience in the United States we are going to read two novels: *The Adventures of Don Chipote* and *...And the Earth did not Devour him*.

The ultimate goal of this course is for students to understand and be aware of the obstacles Mexican Americans have found in the United States to achieve a better life. We will explore how they reacted toward those obstacles in their path. Also, we will talk about their contributions to U.S. society.

It is expected that through our readings in history, literature, and use of audiovisual materials (documentaries, movies, music, etc.) and discussions about Mexican Americans, we will gain an inter-cultural understanding of our multicultural society.

Course Requirements: Students are expected to attend all classes, participate consistently and complete all reading assignments. It is absolutely imperative that students read all the material assigned and be ready to participate in class discussions. Students must pay attention during lecture time and when watching audiovisual material. **Cell phones should be put aside; I don't want students to use them in any form and I don't want to see them on the desk or in your lap, etc. Also take care of your personal needs before class**

(go to bathroom, drink water, etc.) so that you don't leave the classroom in the middle of lecture or discussions.

Course evaluation:

- Quizzes-----5%
- Mid-term Exam-----20%
- Reflection paper-----10%
- *Participation-----20%
- Final Exam-----25%
- Book Exams (2) -----20%

Quizzes: We will have several quizzes throughout the semester. Some will be announced, some others will be unannounced (“pop quizzes “)

***Participation** is graded using the criteria below. The criteria focus on what you demonstrate in the classroom through your participation. A good participation consists in your contribution to make class a more enriching educational experience. I want you to be generous by sharing your thoughts. We learn from each other. You will be evaluated in every class.

Grade	Criteria
0	Absent.
3-4%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Present. · Seems apathetic and reluctant to participate. · Not focused in class. ·Leaves classroom often
5-8%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Tries to respond when called on but does not offer much. Needs more preparation in general. · Shows some interest in class but demonstrates very infrequent involvement in

	discussion.
9-10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Demonstrates some preparation when called on, but answers are vague. · Checks on book to answer questions. Needs a more adequate reflection on the material being discussed. · Does not volunteer to participate
11-14%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Demonstrates some preparation: knows basic case or reading facts, but does not show evidence of trying to interpret or analyze them. · Offers straightforward information (e.g., straight from the case or reading), without elaboration or very infrequently (perhaps once a class). · Does not offer to contribute to discussion, but contributes to a moderate degree when called on. · Demonstrates sporadic involvement.
15-17%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Demonstrates good preparation: knows case or reading facts well, has thought through implications of them. · Offers interpretations and analysis of case material (more than just facts) to class. · Contributes well to discussion in an ongoing way: responds to other students' points, thinks through own points, questions others in a constructive way, offers and supports suggestions that may be counter to the majority opinion. · Demonstrates consistent ongoing involvement.
18-20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Demonstrates excellent preparation: has analyzed case exceptionally well, relating it to readings and other material (e.g., readings, course material, discussions, experiences, etc.). · Offers analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of case material, e.g., puts together pieces of the discussion to develop new approaches that take the class further. · Contributes in a very significant way to ongoing discussion: keeps analysis focused,

responds very thoughtfully to other students' comments, contributes to the cooperative argument-building, suggests alternative ways of approaching material and helps class analyze which approaches are appropriate, etc.

- Demonstrates ongoing very active involvement.

Midterm: There will be a mid-semester exam (Oct. 20), and it will cover all we have studied up to that point; it will include the audiovisual component.

Reflection papers: You will write a reflection paper at the end of class (3 pages). You will write about what you have learned from this class in general (from class discussions, readings, audiovisual materials, etc.) In addition I may ask you to write a reflection paper on any audiovisual material we have seen in class.

Final Exam: Final exam will be comprehensive. It will include multiple choice questions, true or false statements, matching and essay questions about what we covered from beginning till the end of semester.

Attendance and punctuality: Besides losing points from participation after one absence I will take off 2% of your total grade for every absence. After 3 absences we need to talk. If you do not miss classes I WILL ADD 2% to your final grade; if you miss only one class I will add 1%. If you are late three times it will count for one absence.

Please do not bring food to class (beverages is okay), do not chew gum or tobacco.

Notice of Disability: *Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the American With Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Grace Duffy in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8203.*

Calendar

(This calendar is subject to change)

Aug 25: Introduction to course. Video: *Chicano!* History of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement: In Quest of a Land.

HMK: Read: Preface of *North to Aztlán*, come prepared to discuss it. Answer discussion questions.

Aug 27: HWK: Read Chapter 8: Aztlán Rediscovered: The Chicano Movement. Answer discussion questions. Discussion of video *Chicano!*

Continuation of documentary: *Chicano!*

Sept 01: Labor Day Holiday.

Sept 03: Discussion of Chapter 8 of *North to Aztlán*. Continuation of documentary: *Chicano!*
HWK: Continue reading Chapter 8. Come prepared to discuss it. Answer discussion questions.

Sept 08: Continuation of discussion of Chapter 8. Continuation of documentary *Chicano!*
HWK: Read Chapter 1: Native American and Spanish Settlements. Answer discussion questions.

Sept 10: Discussion of Chapter 1. Discussion of documentary *Chicano!* HWK: continue reading Chapter 1 and answering discussion questions.

Sept 15: Continuation of discussion of Chapter 1 and video *Chicano!* HWK: *North to Aztlán*: Chapter 2: The Spanish/Mexican Northern Frontier. Answer discussion questions.

Sept 17: Discussion of Chapter 2 and documentary *Chicano!* : HWK: Continue reading and answering discussion questions of Chapter 2.

Sept 22: Continuation of discussion of Chapter 2 and documentary *Chicano!* HWK: *North to Aztlán*: Chapter 3. Answer discussion questions.

Documentary: *U.S.-Mexican War 1846-1848*.

Sept 24: Discussion of Chapter 3 and documentary *U.S. –Mexican War 1846-1848*. HWK: Continue reading Chapter 3.

Documentary: *U.S.-Mexican War 1846-1848*.

Sept 29: Discussion of chapter 3 and documentary *U.S –Mexican War North*: HWK: Read and answer discussion questions of Chapter 4.

Oct 01: Discussion of Chapter 4 and documentary *U.S. –Mexican war 1846-1848*. HWK: Continue reading Chapter 4 and answering discussion questions.

Oct 06: Discussion of Chapter 4 and documentary *U.S.-Mexican war 1846-1848*. HWK: Read NTA Chapter 5. Answer discussion questions.

Oct 08: Discussion of NTA Chapter 5. Movie: *The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez*

Oct 13: Discussion of NTA Chapter 5 and *The ballad of Gregorio Cortez*. HWK: read Chapter 6 and answer discussion questions.

Oct 15: Discussion of Chapter 6 and *The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez*.

Oct 20: Midterm Exam.

Oct 22: Start reading *The Adventures of Don Chipote* by Daniel Venegas. NTA Chapter 7

Movie: *The Lemon Grove Incident*

Oct 27: NTA Chapter 7

Movie: *Salt of the Earth*

Oct 29: NTA Chapter 9

Nov 03: Start reading *... and the earth did not devour him*. NTA Chapter 9

Movie: *Zoot suit*

Calendar to be continued

Final Exam: To be announced