

Sul Ross State University

MidWinter 2017

MAS 2301: Introduction to Mexican American Studies

Professor: Filemon Zamora

Office Hours: 8:30 -9:00 am daily or by appt.

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Classroom and class time: MAB 101 MTWRF 9am-1 p.m.

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

Pocho by Jose Antonio Villarreal

You must buy the books immediately.

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 how Mexican Americans have experienced life in the United States we are going to read one novel: *Pocho*.

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 have 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.

Primary Learning Objectives:

- 1. The student will be able to learn basic information about the history of Mexican Americans in the United States.**
- 2. The student will be able to understand issues that have affected Mexican Americans, such as discrimination, segregation, immigration, etc.**
- 3. The student will be able to critically assess reasons for Mexican Americans to have fallen behind in education, economic progress, etc.**

4. **The student will gain an appreciation of Mexican American contributions to U.S. society in many areas such as economic progress.**
5. **The student will gain an appreciation of the culture of Mexican Americans in literature, paintings, music, etc.**

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. Do not put your backpack or purse on the desk. 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.**

We will take at least two breaks.

Course evaluation:

Quizzes -----30%

Reflection paper-----10%

Final Exam-----30%

Book Exam -----15%

Participation-----15%

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

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.) I will give you the instructions on time.

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.

Book Exam: After we discussed *Pocho* by José Antonio Villarreal we will have a book exam. I will make sure you read it and understood the main issues brought up in the book. The book test is

designed to check whether you read the book well enough to understand it and to be able to discuss the main issues brought up by the book about the Mexican American experience.

Participation: In every class you must participate. You must show you are doing the reading assignments and you must contribute with your own understanding from the readings from the textbook and the audiovisuals. In every class I will grade your participation.

Attendance and punctuality: Besides losing points from participation FOR EACH absence I will take off 3% of your total grade. Let me know if you are going to be absent. After 2 absences I may ask you to drop the course. If you do not miss classes I WILL ADD 2% to your final grade. If you are late three times it will count for one absence.

Please do not bring food to class (beverages are okay), do not chew gum or tobacco. Sit straight, do not sleep, take off your hat or hood.

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**)

January 2: Introduction to course. Audiovisual: ***Chicano! History of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement.***

Homework: Read Preface of *North to Aztlán* and at least the first half of chapter 8 and answer discussion questions. Do not submit questions just come ready to share your answers to the class. Come prepared to discuss documentary.

January 3: Discussion of video ***Chicano!*** And Preface and chapter 8. We continue watching *Chicano!*

Homework: Finish reading Chapter 8: *Aztlán Rediscovered: The Chicano Movement.* Answer all questions. We continue watching video: ***Chicano!***

January 4: Read chapter 1.

January 5: Read chapter 2. Documentary: *The U.S.- Mexican War 1846-1848*

January 6: Read chapter 3. Documentary: The U.S. Mexican w War 1846-1848

January 9: Read chapter 4. Documentary: The Lemon Grove Incident

January 10: Read chapter 5. Start reading *Pocho* by José Antonio Villarreal.

January 11: Read chapter 6. Finish reading *Pocho* by José Antonio Villarreal.

January 12: Read chapter 7. *Pocho* book test.

January 13. Chapter 9. Final Exam.

We will try to accommodate watching several other documentaries and movies, for example *Bless me, Ultima, Zoot Suit, Salt of the Earth*.