

Sul Ross State University

Syllabus

Fall 2021

I. Course Number and Instructor Information

MAS 2301 Introduction to Mexican American Studies

Instructor: Dr. Yvonne Realivasquez

Phone: 432.837.8008

Available by Appointment for Individual Meetings

E-mail: yrealivasquez@sulross.edu Available by email M-F 8:00- 5:00

II. Text and Materials

A. Required Text

Neil Foley: *Mexicans in the Making of America*, 2017-paperback, IBN # 978-0674975354, Belknap Press. It is available for order from our bookstore with quick delivery.

And Selected Readings.

III. Course Objectives

- A. The class is an introduction to the Mexican American culture, heritage, and history. Students will be able to recognize contributions of Mexican Americans to the US society.
- B. Students will be able to analyze and study the development of this society within the historical framework of US history.
- C. Students will acquire an understanding of the development of the Mexican American culture in the US up to the XXI Century.

IV. Course Requirements

A. Course Work

1. Student Responsibility

It is the student's responsibility to familiarize himself/herself with the course syllabus consisting of the Instructor's course Requirements. It is also the student's responsibility to familiarize himself/herself with the calendar found in the syllabus. Please note that I am available to discuss the class: by appointment before class on Tuesdays and immediately after class as well.

2. Autobiography

This assignment offers you an opportunity to explore your history to learn why you are you and where you came from. Most importantly, this assignment opens up understanding of comparisons and similarities between your history and that of Mexican Americans in the United States. Your story is much more interesting than you can imagine and you probably have most of the facts to help you with this assignment. Look at it as your first experience with Ancestry.com in a greater context. Remember that an interesting story will get a better response from your audience and a better grade from a professor. **NO LATE WORK ACCEPTED – NO EXCEPTIONS.**

3. Poetry Festival

You are required to either write your own poem relating to the Mexican American/La Frontera experience (I highly encourage you to do this!!) or select a poem of your own choosing that relates to the Mexican American/La Frontera

experience. You will present your poem and the reason that you chose this poem in front of the class in a Poetry Festival. You must provide me with a copy and an explanation of why you chose this poem at the time of your presentation. You will be graded on your presentation, explanation of the poem, and your poem selection as related to the class.

4. Participation

Class participation is a major component of this course which includes but is not limited to class attendance, punctuality, class discussions, in-class assignments, group sessions, a positive attitude, and a general commitment to learn and share your insights with the class. You are encouraged to turn on your cameras for class. Robust discussion is difficult when participants cannot see the people with whom they are talking. This class is an opportunity to share your ideas and thoughts with other students, plan to speak up!

B. Course Evaluation

There will be four grades in this course. Each assignment is worth 100 points. The first exam will be counted as extra credit of up to 10 points to the final semester grade.

Exam 1	Extra Credit	Grade Scale
Autobiography	30 %	A 90-100
Discussion Boards	20%	B 80-89
Poetry	30 %	C 70-79
Participation	<u>20 %</u>	D 60-69
Total	100%	F 0-59

- C. Marketable Skills for Mexican American Studies 1. Gain cultural sensitivity/awareness of Mexican American cultural practices, historical development and socioeconomic conditions 2. Effective written and oral communication 3. Critical thinking

V. Class Policies

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all classes, participate regularly and complete all reading assignments. It is imperative that you attend all classes and participate in class meetings. Attendance and punctuality are crucial to the successful completion of this course. You are accountable for your enrollment in this class including your responsibility to drop after excessive absences. Work, family, medical, or any other personal obligations are no excuse for failure to complete all assignments for this class.

Late Work: NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR ANY REASON. All material must be turned in by 6:00 pm the day it is due.

Academic Dishonesty: Any form of cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student found to be cheating or plagiarizing will receive severe penalties, up to and including failure of the course. Plagiarism a definition - n 1: a piece of writing that has been copied from someone else and is presented as being your own work 2: the act of plagiarizing; taking someone's words or ideas as if they were your own.

Source: WordNet ® 1.6, © 1997 Princeton University

Student's Rights and Responsibilities: Your status as an SRSU student is explained in your student code of conduct found in your student handbook and on the SRSU website. Please note Accessibility Services are available at Sul Ross contact our ADA Coordinator for more information at 432.837.8203.

Ground Rules for Discussion: Although this is a team's/zoom class, I encourage everyone to participate and ask questions and discuss their ideas and views. Please consider the following:

Adapted from: Center for Teaching and Learning. (2020). Sample discussion board ground rules. Retrieved from <https://ctl.wiley.com/sample-discussion-board-ground-rules/>

- Ask questions. If you find something confusing or want to know more, do not hesitate to ask questions.
- Participate. Do not hide in the background; it is not fair to lurk and let others do all the work. Contribute to discussions to get as much as possible from the course and to maintain your participation grade.
- Do not dominate a discussion. Share your knowledge, but not to the point of excluding others. If you have something to offer, please share it, but allow everyone to contribute equally to a discussion.
- Be intellectually rigorous. Do not excuse sloppy or illogical thinking. Challenge yourself and one another.
- Be tactful. Be critical of ideas, but remember there are other people involved. Be tactful and kind.
- Forgive other students' mistakes. Do not correct others. Instead, offer a different perspective to encourage further discussion.
- Listen carefully before responding. Listen before responding so you don't repeat what others have already said. Try to contribute clarifying information or a new idea to a discussion.
- Be concise. Do not waste people's time by stating basic, repetitive information. Make your point clearly and quickly...
- Cite your sources. Give credit where credit is due.
- Maintain confidentiality. Respect your classmates' privacy. Do not repeat the personal information that others share.

VI. Calendar (All dates and activities are subject to change with prior notification by instructor)

Date	Lesson Plan	Activity
Sept. 21, 2021	Introduction to Course	
Sept. 23, 2021	What is the History of Mexican Americans? Who decides what is important?	General Discussion
Sept. 28, 2021	What's in a name? Why study Mexican Americans? Demographics.	Discussion
Sept. 30, 2021	Discussion Board Prompt: What surprised you the most about the history of the Aztecs?	Discussion
October 5, 2021	What did the invasion of Mexico mean for Mexicans and MAs? How does this affect our knowledge of manifest destiny, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, and American Exceptionalism?	Discussion

October 7, 2021	What did the invasion of Mexico mean for Mexicans and MAs? How does this affect our knowledge of manifest destiny, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and American Exceptionalism?	Discussion
October 12, 2021	What brought Mexican labor to the US? How closely tied is the economy with our southern neighbor? Should we have open borders?	Discussion
October 14, 2021	What brought Mexican labor to the US? How closely tied is the economy with our southern neighbor? Should we have open borders?	Discussion
October 19, 2016	Governmental Programs targeted for Mexicans and Mexican Americans. Bracero Program; "Operation Wetback"; Assimilation and Acculturation into America.	Discussion
October 21, 2021	Discussion Board Prompt: What industries do you believe are the most impacted by Mexican American labor?	Online Activity
October 26, 2021	With the arrival of Mexicans to America, in what ways did this affect a cultural change and how did Americans react to it?	Discussion
October 28, 2021	How did the labor movement and the repatriation acts of the 1930s impact cultural values and identity? What role did religion have on the beginning of the movement? Why was religion used at all?	Video: El Paso Bath Riots
November 2, 2021	WWII and Mexican American Involvement. Statistics of GI's. Hollywood representations of Mexican Americans. What were the Zoot Suit Riots? Who were Pachucos?	Autobiography Due
November 4, 2021	Chicano Movement and Teatro Campesino; the founder Luis Valdez; what was the modern day impact of the Chicano Movement? Did you know about it?	Discussion
November 9, 2021	Feminism and La Chicana; What were the roles of Mexican American women? Have they changed?	Discussion
Nov. 11, 2021	Mexican Americans in film, art, music, poems and pop culture	Brief discussion of pop culture; Poetry Festival
Nov. 16, 2021	Mexican Americans in film, art, music, poetry	Continue discussion about pop culture; Poetry Festival
Nov. 18, 2021	Educational Challenges: From then to now.	Video: Taking back the Schools
Nov. 23 & 25, 2021	Discussion Board Prompt: Recommend a movie that you believe describes or captures the Mexican American Experience.	Video: Zoot Suit
Nov. 30, 2021	Demographics and Trends	The Great Debate; Issues in Mexican American Studies

		that cause controversy
Dec. 2, 2021	Dead Day	
Dec. 6, 2021	Sul Ross Finals Week	