

**Sul Ross State University**  
**Syllabus**  
**Spring 2022**

**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](mailto:yrealivasquez@sulross.edu) Available by email M-F 8:00- 5:00

**Class Time & Location:** Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 am – 12:15 pm **BAB 319**

**Text and Materials**

Required Text

Selected Readings available via Blackboard

**Course Objectives**

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

**Course Requirements**

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 from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday – Thursday as well as before and after class.

Essays

Two papers will be assigned during the semester coinciding with topics that we have discussed in class or read from our material. Student will have the responsibility of choosing a topic for the first essay and must have prior approval from the instructor before beginning to work on the assignment. The second essay topic will be provided to the class. Essays should be 4-6 pages in length, double-spaced, margins set at 1 inch all around and twelve-point font. Remember to use APA citation style and to cite any information that you get from books, articles or the Internet. There should be a works cited included in every paper turned in. I will not accept papers that are not at least 4 pages or papers without a works cited page. **NO LATE WORK ACCEPTED – NO EXCEPTIONS.**

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, discussion boards, in-class assignments, quizzes, group sessions, a positive attitude, and a general commitment to learn and share your insights with the class. Make sure that you are in class on time. When needed for COVID protocols, the university may announce that the face-to-face classes will be delivered remotely and may include online discussions and assignments or Blackboard Collaborate/Zoom meetings. This class is an opportunity to share your ideas and thoughts with other students, plan to speak up!

#### **Course Evaluation**

Course grades will be based on percentages. Letter grades will then be assigned according the Grade Scale.

Essay 1	30 %	Grade Scale	
Essay 2	35 %	A	90-100
Poetry Project	20 %	B	80-89
Participation	<u>15 %</u>	C	70-79
Total	100%	D	60-69
		F	0-59

#### **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. You are expected to complete all assignments

**Make-up work and Assignments:** Students are to turn in the assignments on the due date. There will be no make-up assignments – no exceptions. It is the student’s responsibility to find out if any assignments were given and when they are due. In class assignments will not be made-up for any reason.

**Late Work: NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR ANY REASON. All material must be turned in as outlined in the calendar.**

**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 is a piece of writing that has been copied from someone else and is presented as being your own work and/or the act of plagiarizing; taking someone's words or ideas as if they were your own.

**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, Mary Schwartz, for more information at 432.837.8203.

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

Date	Lesson Plan	Activity	Read
January 11, 2022	What is the History of Mexican Americans? Who decides what is important? What's in a name? Why study Mexican Americans? Demographics. Getting to know you.	General Discussion	
January 13, 2022	Spanish Conquest and the myths of the Aztecs. Including La Malinche, Moctezuma, Quetzalcoatl, etc.		What's in a Name Reading; Video: Aztecs
January 18, 2022	Spanish Conquest and the myths of the Aztecs. Including La Malinche, Moctezuma, Quetzalcoatl, etc.		Video: Aztecs
January 20, 2022	Religious Syncretism: the beginning of the end for polytheism		
January 25, 2022	Religious Syncretism: the beginning of the end for polytheism		
January 27, 2022	How did the United States begin to acquire land in the Southwest?		Video: Chicano! Quest for a Homeland
February 1, 2022	The Texas Myth Story; California Gold Rush; Silver in Shafter??		Video: Chicano! Quest for a Homeland
February 3, 2022	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?		
February 8, 2022	Use this class time to complete your research and writing	Work on Essays	
February 10, 2022	<b>Essay 1 Due by midnight</b>	<b>Essay 1 Due</b>	
February 15, 2022	What brought Mexican labor to the US? How closely tied is the economy with our southern neighbor? Should we have open borders?	Open Discussion of Mexican and Mexican American Labor in the US.	
February 17, 2022	Governmental Programs targeted for Mexicans and Mexican Americans. Bracero Program; "Operation Wetback"; Assimilation and Acculturation into America.	Open Discussion of Mexican and Mexican American Labor in the US.	
February 22, 2022	With the arrival of Mexicans to America, in what ways did this affect a cultural change and how did Americans react to it? What is Browning of		Video: El Paso Bath Riots

	America?		
February 24, 2022	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?		
March 1, 2022	WWII and Mexican American Involvement. Statistics of GI's. Hollywood representations of Mexican Americans. What were the Zoot Suit Riots? Who were Pachucos?		Video: Zoot Suit
March 3, 2022	Chicano Movement and Teatro Campesino; the founder Luis Valdez		Video: Fighting for Political Power;
March 8 & 10, 2022	<b>Spring Break – No Class</b>		
March 15, 2022	What impact did the Chicano Movement have on our society today?		Video: Fighting for Political Power; I am Joaquin Reading
March 17, 2022	Chicano Movement Continued		I am Joaquin Reading
March 22, 2022	Feminism and La Chicana; What were the roles of Mexican American women? Have they changed?		Excerpt from Like Water for Chocolate & Real Women have Curves
March 24, 2022	Backlash of la Frontera; What does it mean to be from the borderlands? What is the “browning” of America? Discussion about race and ethnicity.		Gloria Anzaldua Borderlands excerpt
March 29, 2022	Mexican Americans in film, art, music, poems and pop culture	Discussion of the importance of art in history;	Video: The Struggle in the Fields
March 31, 2022	Mexican Americans in film, art, music, poetry	Discussion about Pop Culture & Stereotypes;	Cesar Chavez Day; Video: The Struggle in the Fields
April 5, 2022	<b>In Class Poetry Presentations</b>	<b>Poetry Festival;</b> Students must submit poem in advance of class	
April 7, 2022	<b>In Class Poetry Presentations</b>	<b>Poetry Festival</b>	
April 12, 2022	Traditions, Superstitions, and Curandero/as		
April 14, 2022	Educational Challenges: From then to now.		Video: Taking back the Schools
April 19, 2022	Educational Challenges: From then to now.		Video: Taking back the Schools; Excerpt from Richard Rodriguez
April 21, 2022	The Great Debate: Issues in Mexican American Studies that cause controversy		
April 26, 2022	The Great Debate: Issues in Mexican American		

	Studies that cause controversy		
April 28, 2022	Dead Day – No Class		
May 3, 2022	Finals Week	<b>Final Essay Due</b>	