BBL 3023 Mexican American Culture

Note: This Syllabus is provided for informational purposes regarding the anticipated course content and schedule of this course. It is based upon the most recent information available on the date of its issuance and is as accurate and complete as possible. We reserve the right to make any changes deemed necessary and/or appropriate. We will make our best efforts to communicate any changes in the syllabus in a timely manner. Students are responsible for being aware of these changes.

Course Description: A survey of Mexican American cultural distinctiveness in the areas of biculturalism, cultural production and social organization. Topics may include history and culture, family and kinship, arts, folklore, music, health, language, etc.

Course Approach The course readings/topics fall into three general categories:
1. Historical-cultural: Based on Vigil’s book, this phase of the course reviews the historical bases of Mexican culture. The assumption here is that culture is built on a set of experiences, ideas, beliefs that have developed over time.
2. Expressive culture: Presentations and lectures focus on everyday and key patterns of cultural behavior such as family life, language, arts, cuisine, and other examples of commonly observed manifestations of culture.
3. Critical culture: Authors Rodriguez, Anzaldúa, and Cisneros provide a basis for discussion of relatively recent, changing, controversial issues concerning the Mexican American community, including bilingualism, education, assimilation, feminism, lesbian and Gay issues, and cultural auto-criticism.

Course Methodology and requirements: Assigned readings, lectures, guest speakers, films, handouts, etc. Attendance is required for maximum comprehension of course material. Two Midterm Exams and a Final Exam are required.

Learning Objectives; Students will:
1. Understand the dynamics and development of Mexican Culture (MC) over time.
2. Be able to explain the content and significance of selected areas of MC.
3. Be aware of the role of social, economic, political, etc., factors on MC.

Required Textbook:
Cisneros, S. *The House on Mango Street*
Vigil, J.D. *From Indians to Chicanos; The Dynamics of Mexican American Culture*
Rodriguez, R. *Hunger of Memory*
Anzaldúa, G. *Borderlands/La Frontera*
**Course Requirements/Evaluation:**  
(Exams cover assigned readings, lectures, handouts, films & other material)  
1. Midterm 1  
   30%  
2. Midterm 2  
   30%  
3. Final Exam  
   30%  
4. Attendance  
   10% (attendance is recorded)

**Make-up work** is allowed for medical or other emergencies beyond the student’s control, for students celebrating religious holidays, and students absent on official university business. In any case, students must communicate with the instructor at the earliest possible time.

**UTSA Disability Services Offices.** Students with disabilities must register with this office in order to receive necessary classroom and instructional accommodations or other support services. Its location at the 1604 Campus is 2.03.18 Multidisciplinary Studies Building (MS); 458-4157, 458-4981 (TTY).

**Student Rights and Responsibilities.** Students should become familiar with UTSA policies and procedures governing a range of issues including academic dishonesty, plagiarism, hazing, disciplinary actions, student grievances, the Family Educational Rights and privacy Act, the Student Right-to-know and Campus Security Act, as well as other rules and regulations as set by the Board of Regents of the University of Texas system. This and other important information can be accessed from the UTSA homepage, UTSA Information for current students.