The University of Texas at San Antonio
Department of Bicultural Bilingual Studies

MAS 2013 Introduction to Chicano/a Studies

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: An introduction to the field of Chicano/a studies from its inception to the present. Chicano/a studies and scholarship are explored through multidisciplinary concepts, theory and methodologies, providing differing interpretations of the Chicano and Chicana experience in the United States.

Course Objectives: Through interactive processes that involve engagement of course readings, discussions, film, class presentations and lectures, students will be able to:
1. Understand key concepts used in the field of Chicano/a studies—from the immigrant paradigm to the internal colony model, as well as world systems theory and new spatial models—used in social and historical studies of the Chicano/a population.
2. Analyze historical, social, economic and political processes of social change.
3. Discuss the dynamics and effects of the Chicano/a experience through examinations of space and place in the formation of social identity.

Requirements for successful completion of course: Each student is responsible for completing assigned readings and material covered in lectures, attending class and being active participants, and submitting assignments on the due dates. Class format will include lectures, group assignments and other participatory activities. Students should be prepared to participate in class discussions, to share understanding and formulate questions of the readings. Students are expected to read the assigned material by the due date, as, from time to time, free writes or pop quizzes will be administered.

Written Assignments: (Late papers will be marked down.)
1. There will be one midterm essay (10 pages--typed, double spaced) engaging the concepts, theories and methodologies for the interpretation of the Chicano/a experience.
2. Group presentation and a six page critical reading response based on class discussion and Flores’ text (Remembering the Alamo).
3. A critical reading response (5 pages) on the third and fourth texts (Hispanic spaces/Latino places and The politics of San Antonio).
4. The final will be a presentation and 10-page paper based on the course project (see below) developing any one of the themes of the course. The essays and critical responses will be graded on the following criteria: shows critical thinking and synthesis of class material; includes specific examples from the assigned readings, class discussion and films. Essays should be of the required length with minimal stylistic or grammatical errors. Essays must be typed and turned in at the end of the class period. Late papers will be lowered one letter grade.

Attendance:
Attendance sheets will be circulated. It is the responsibility of each student to sign the sheet. If I forget to circulate the sheet, all will be counted present. Three absences for any reason will reduce you final score ONE LETTER GRADE (e.g. an A becomes a B). Excessive absences (more than five class periods) can result in an F in the class. Tardiness or early departures of 20 minutes or more will be considered an absence.

Required Texts

OTHER ASSIGNED READINGS will be available at the Library on reserve or internet library.

This outline is intended to be flexible to reflect time limitations and worthwhile learning. Any changes on weekly assignments will be posted on the board in class.