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

MAS 4083 Research Seminar in Mexican American 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: Provides students the opportunity to compare, contrast, and integrate social science theory and methods, and guides the students in the conduct of sociocultural research in the Mexican-American community. Emphasis will be given to qualitative and ethnographic methods and theory.

This seminar is designed to introduce the student to the theory and methods of social science and humanities research as applied to the field of Mexican American Studies. This will be accomplished through the following course objectives.

1. Group Process. The course is designed as a seminar, which means that we will rely on class discussion, debate, and sharing as we examine the weekly readings and other course materials. This requires the participation, collaboration, and mutual support among all class members.
2. Advanced Study. The seminar is intended to further your knowledge about research methods and process in other courses, and to help you develop an overall and practical understanding that will serve you in your chosen profession, or in further study at the graduate level.
3. Research Project. Students will be required to complete a research project during the course -- 20-25 pages, double spaced; inch margins; with additional pages for title page, works cited/bibliography/references, appendices (final interview questions, diagrams, etc.).

Requirements for successful completions of course:
Each student is responsible for completing assigned readings and for the material covered in lectures, attending class and active participants and submitting assignments on due dates. Class format will include lectures, group assignments and other participatory activities. Students should be prepared to participate in class discussions and to share understanding and formulate questions of the readings. Students are expected to read the assigned material and submit writing assignments (hard copy) by the due date. Weekly assignments (reading, writing, and research assignments, as well as seminar discussion changes) will be posted on the board in class.

Attendance:
More than three absences for any reason will reduce your 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.
If you plan to miss a class kindly submit your work before your absence. In the event of an unforeseen absence, please submit your work upon your return. Tardiness or an early departure of 20 minutes (or more) will be considered an absence.
If you are absent, please contact classmates to find out what you missed and any adjustments that were announced in the schedule. It is your responsibility to keep updated with changes.
**Required Books**

**GRADING:** based on completion of assignments (points) and grading the Final Research Plan/Proposal and Final Research Essay. (Late assignments are docked 2-5 points accordingly.)

**Assignments**
3-5 free writing exercises  
Transcription of interview  
Questions for Interview  
Extra Reading Responses  
E-journals

**Critical Reading Responses**

**Literature Review**

**Statement of Problem**

**Draft Essay**

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<tr>
<th>All weekly writing assignments</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>100 points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Final Research Plan/Proposal is graded</td>
<td>A, B, C, D</td>
<td>70 - 100 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Research Essay is graded</td>
<td>A, B, C, D</td>
<td>70 - 100 points</td>
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See Grading Rubric for scoring