INTRO TO MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES 3301.001
FALL 2014
TR 2:00-3:15
IH 156

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DESCRIPTION:
This course is designed to introduce the student to the discipline of Mexican American Studies (MXAS). Much on the order of American Studies, MXAS is an interdisciplinary field that seeks knowledge of the Mexican American social, cultural, political and economic experiences from the perspectives of more traditional areas of study such as history, art, music, art history, sociology, legal studies, religious studies, folklore and more. By the end of the course, students should have a general sense of the development of Mexican-American life and identity, and have developed a familiarity with the general constructs of knowledge in the various disciplines comprising this minor.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
Student Learning Outcomes:
* Students will develop their thinking and writing skills by generating analyses of monographs, essays, films, and public presentations.
* Students will express an understanding of the major individuals, groups and events related to MXAS through class discussions and papers.
* Students will strengthen their knowledge base through readings, class discussions and written assignments.

ASSESSMENT:
Your course grade will be based on the following assignments:

.................40%
Review of Arreola.................................15%
.................................................10%
.........................10%
.................................................10%
Guest Lecture Papers (5% each)..................15%

Consult separate handouts with instructions for each of these assignments.
There are no examinations this term.
ATTENDANCE: I will not take attendance as part of the course grade. You are adults and can decide whether or not you wish to attend class. Realize, however, that students who miss class do quite poorly. If you miss a class you are responsible for attaining class notes for that day from a fellow student.

EXTRA CREDIT:
If you attend the talk on Wednesday September 19 you will earn 5 points extra credit on your lowest grade. If you cannot attend the talk, turn in a one page double-spaced paper explaining the significance of the Macario Garcia incident after WWII. (Paper must include description of the who, what, when, where, and WHY is this historically significant.)

REQUIRED MATERIALS:


CLASS POLICIES:
LATE PAPERS: late papers will have five points deducted per each day late INCLUDING WEEKENDS. This is NOT negotiable. There will be exceptions only in the most extreme cases, and those will require some sort of documentation. The best strategy is to begin working on all assignments as early as possible.
PLAGIARISM: Plagiarism is the theft of intellectual property. If you present material written by someone else as your own you will receive a grade of "0" for that specific assignment, and you will be subject to further disciplinary action. For specific information on plagiarism see the university catalog. If you are not sure about how to incorporate material into a paper or review see me.
INDIVIDUAL GRADE APPEALS: Students are welcome to appeal grades that they believe were assessed incorrectly. Once a grade appeal gets to me, I will read the work and re-grade it. That is the grade that will be recorded. I may change the grade up or down. That second grade is not negotiable. If a student is still dissatisfied she or he will be advised to file a formal grade challenge with a higher authority.
GENERAL DECORUM: Be respectful of your fellow students and me. Don’t be disruptive by talking, holding hands, reading anything, eating, or monopolizing discussions. Turn off your cell phones, and beepers. Come to class on time. Do not anticipate the end of class by putting away your materials. You are training to be tomorrow’s professionals. Act like it.
PENALTIES: Individuals who consistently behave in an inappropriate manner and distract the class will be warned. In cases of chronic violations of the class rules, students will be removed from the classroom. If removal does not stop future disturbances, students will be referred to the Dean of Students’ Office for further disciplinary procedures.

NOTICE TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

ACADEMIC ADVISING: The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

GRADE APPEALS PROCESS. As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 August 23
Introduction to course

WEEK 2 August 28 & 30
Read and discuss Noriega, et al. pp. 1-169
WEEK 3  September 4 & 6
Read and discuss Noriega pp. 170-220
Watch “Giant”

WEEK 4  September 11 & 13
Watch “Giant”
Paper over Noriega “Decolonizing the Territory” due

WEEK 5  September 18 & 20
Tuesday:  Finish watching “Giant” and discuss

Wednesday:  
Extra Credit:  Attend Dr. Michael Olivas’ talk in LS Ballroom at 2:00 (sign in)

Thursday
Guest Lecture: Michael Olivas in IH 164
Paper over “Giant” due at start of class on Thursday

WEEK 6  September 25 & 27
Read and discuss Noriega pp. 223-255
Paper over Olivas’ guest lecture due at start of class on Thursday

WEEK 7  October 2 & 4
Read and discuss Noriega pp. 257-312
First Guest Lecture on Thursday:  Dr. Jo Rios

WEEK 8  October 9 & 11
Read and discuss Noriega pp. 315-404
Papers over Dr. Rios’s presentation due at start of class on Tuesday
Papers over Noreiga “Performing Politics” are due at the start of class on Thursday

WEEK 9  October 16 & 18
Read and discuss Noriega pp. 405-464
View and discuss “Mi Familia”

WEEK 10  October 23 & 25
Papers over “Configuring Identities” due at start of class on Tuesday
View and discuss “Mi Familia”
Read and discuss Noriega pp. 465-557
WEEK 11 October 30 & November 1
Second Guest Lecture with Dr. Javier Villarreal on Tuesday
Read and discuss Noriega pp. 559-614 on Thursday
Paper on second film due at start of class Thursday

WEEK 12 November 6 & 8
Read and discuss Noreiga pp. 615-702
Paper on Dr. Villarreal’s lecture due at start of class on Thursday

WEEK 13 November 13 & 15
Read and discuss Arreola
Paper on Noriega “Remapping the World” due at start of class on Thursday

WEEK 14 November 20
Third Guest Lecture with Dr. Carey Rote on Tuesday

WEEK 15 November 27 & 29
Read and discuss Arreola
Paper on Dr. Rote’s presentation due at start of class on Thursday
Paper on Noriega “Continuing to Push Boundaries” due at start of class on Thursday

WEEK 16 December 4 & 6
Finish discussing Arreola on Tuesday
Arreola paper due in my office by 1:45 the scheduled time for our final exam. I will accept electronic copies sent as attachments. But anything received later than 1:45 will be counted as late. I will NOT accept any papers after midnight on Thursday December 6 in any format (hard copy or electronic).