Class meetings:

TR 5:30 – 6:45   CS 114

Texts:

Required:

Recommended:

Articles for class readings to facilitate class discussions, presentations and final research paper (posted on Blackboard):

Course Description:
This course is designed to familiarize students with conventional studies of Mexican-American folklore. It incorporates traditional Mexican and Mexican American norms: from beliefs,
customs, and proverbs to folktales, music, ballad, legends and folk medicine. These themes have been significant to the construction of the Mexican-American cultural identity, they reflect the social and historical environment in which Chicanos live and interact. The intent is to examine important socio-cultural specifics that operate in the Mexican American Community which have traditionally been kept in the private space of the home as well as their multiple adaptations from rural to modern and urban sites.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students who successfully complete course and its requirements will demonstrate the ability to:

- Collect and identify a variety of Mexican-American folklore genre.
- Classify and interpret folklore samples in relation to cultural significance.
- Demonstrate analytical knowledge of Mexican-American folklore.
- Differentiate amongst the nuances of folklore as it evolves from community to community.

**Course Policies:**

It is essential that students attend every class meeting; after one absence two points will be deducted from your grade. You are responsible for the materials covered in class during your absence. All work must be turned in at the beginning of class. **No late assignments will be accepted** unless arrangements have been make with me before the due date.

**Course Evaluation System:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Exams</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Presentations (oral)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Written project</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation and preparation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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**Exams:**

In the short answer response portion of the exam you will demonstrate knowledge of key terminology pertinent to the discussion of Mexican-American folklore. In the essay section of the exam you are expected to elaborate on knowledge gained through class discussion, your own research and experience where you will make critical and appropriate connections to themes as discussed in class in relation to identity construction. In preparation for exam it is necessary that you stay current with the readings, participate in class discussions and take detailed notes.

**Presentations:**

For presentations you are to collect genre samples (legends, songs, riddles etc.) and guide a class discussion based on your materials. As you are leading this conversation you are expected to research the subject matter in-depth. Please refer to instructor if you need guidance with this assignment.
Written project:
This assignment should relate directly to, or be an extension of, one of the major topics covered in the course. This will provide students with a framework within which to operate and/or a point of departure and sense of direction on their chosen topic. If individual students have extensive background in the area, they may be allowed to pursue aspects of the Chicano experience that are outside, the course content, provided the instructor gives his approval. All projects must adhere to a writer’s manual style (MLA) seventh edition and be six to eight pages long. Please review the student handbook of conduct for university policy on plagiarism and academic honesty.

Participation and class preparation:
Each student will lead the class discussion on the day of their presentation, however for the purpose of successful completion of this course all students are required to read the assignments and come to class prepared to participate based on the readings for each class meeting.

Miscellaneous: Please reduce unnecessary distractions to the minimum. No EATING is allowed in class, CELL PHONES must be set on vibration mode and put away. Also, LAPTOP users must be on task at all times. Visitors are not allowed in class, unless permitted by the professor in advance. Students are expected to follow the Student Code of Conduct as described by the University Student Handbook and to have an amicable and respectful attitude towards their instructor, and fellow students.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – FALL 2014

Dates to remember:
August 27………………….. Wednesday…………. Classes begin
September 3……………….. Wednesday…………. Last day to register or add a class
November 7…………………. Friday……………….. Last day to drop a class
November 27-28……………. Thursday and Friday.. Thanksgiving Holidays
December 01………………….. Monday……………... Last day to withdraw from university
December 02…………………. Tuesday……………… Last day of classes
December 03………………….. Wednesday…………. Reading Day
December 04-10……………………… Final Examinations
December 13…………………… Saturday………… Fall Commencement

Academic Advising:
Academic advisers are available to assist students with course selection, degree plans, and other academic matters. Each college has an academic advising center, staffed by full-time, professional advisors. It is imperative that all students visit regularly with an academic adviser. In our college the undergraduate adviser is Linda Miller (825-3466) Linda.miller@tamucc.edu). The graduate adviser is Rachelle Stanley (825-3466, Rachelle.stanley@tamucc.edu). Both are located on the second floor of Driftwood. Students who have yet to declare a major are advised
by the Academic Advising Transition Center. FMI - please call (361) 825-5931 or log on to
http://www.tamucc.edu/~aac.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:**
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

**Grade Appeal Process:**
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website,
cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.
Semester Schedule

August
27-28  General Introduction
Mexican Americans in the U.S. (Corpus Christi)

September
2-4  Mexican American Folklore (Text)
Introduction
Chapter One: The World of the Mexican Americans
Chapter Two: Folk Speech and Naming

8-11  Chapter Three: Proverbs

22-25  Chapter Four: Riddles
Chapter Six: Prose Narratives (Folktales)
• Anaya Reader – La llorona

Oct. –Nov.
29-2  Chapter Seven: Ballads and Folksongs

6-9  Chapter Seven: Ballads and Folksongs
General Review

13-16  EXAM #1

20-23  Presentation #1

Chapter Two: The History of Curanderismo.
Chapter Three: The Cultural Context of Illness
Handout:
Don Pedrito Jaramillo (Falfurrias, Texas)

*Must have topic for final project.

November
3-6  Chapter Eight: Beliefs and superstitions
Folk Medicine in the Mexican American Community
• Teresa Urrea   Santa de Cabora

10-13  Chapter Ten:
• Folk Drama and Dance
Chapter Thirteen:
  - Folk Foods (Now and Then)

17-20 Chapter Six: Social and Symbolic Dimensions of Conjunto: From Ascendancy to Decline.
  - Selena Quintanilla: from a Tejano singer to a cultural icon

24-27 Chapter 15
  - Popurrí (A little of Everything)

December

*Final Project due today*

1-4 Presentation #2

04-10 Exam #2