**MAS 2300: INTRODUCTION TO MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES**

**SUMMER 2013**

**Instructor:** Dr. Cristina Salinas

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**Email Address:** csalinas@uta.edu

**Office Hours:** M-W 2:00-3:00 PM and by appointment

**Section Information:**

**Time and Place of Class Meetings:** M-TH 10:30-12:30, in COBA 138

**Description of Course Content:** This course will provide an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of Mexican American Studies. Each week, we will take a specific theme and address it from several vantage points to understand the richness and complexity of a particular concept important to the Mexican American experience. Some of the approaches we will use include history, anthropology, literary analysis, and sociology. Through this course of study, we will explore important currents that have shaped the experiences of the Mexican community in the U.S., including ideas of race and class, processes of cultural adaptation, community formation, and migration, just to name a few. Course concepts are presented through lectures, films, readings, and class discussions.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

* Students will demonstrate an ability to analyze important issues in the Mexican American community using interdisciplinary methodologies.
* Students will be able to write and distinguish between different kinds of writing. For analytical papers, students will learn how to develop effective thesis statements as well as use evidence to support their claims. Students will also engage in creative writing and learn how to develop a personal voice.
* Students will be able to demonstrate critical reading skills.
* Through debates and individual presentations, students will develop strong oral communication skills, learning how to present analytical arguments in a professional manner.

**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:**

Anzaldua, Gloria. Borderlands/*La Frontera*: The New Mestiza.

Martínez, Domingo. The Boy Kings of Texas: A Memoir.

Plus, material posted on Blackboard

**Descriptions of assignments and other graded requirements:**

**Thesis Statement Assignment (5%):** You will use a primary source to develop a thesis statement and paper outline.

**Critical Reading Assignments (15%):** On three occasions of your choice, you will write a short response to selected readings during the summer session.

**Analytical Paper (20%):** You will write a four to five page paper analyzing concepts of the border and borderlands expressed in Gloria Anzaldua’s *Borderlands/La Frontera* and associated readings.

**Power Point Presentation (15%):** You will develop and give a presentation using power point on an aspect of Mexican American expressive culture: music or film.

**Creative Writing Assignment (15%):** You will write a four to five page personal essay based on the memoir style explored in Domingo Martínez’s *Boy Kings of Texas*.

**Debate (20%):** You will enact a debate on the current immigration reform legislation pending in Congress. You will present a case either for or against the legislation based on the approaches to studying immigration covered in class.

**Attendance and Participation (10%):** This course will be based heavily on class discussions. Therefore, attendance and participation is very important. Attendance will be monitored. You can miss up to three classes without penalty. After the third missed class, points will be deducted from your final grade. Make sure you come to class having read the material and prepared to contribute to class discussions.

**Grading**: Assignments will be given a numerical grade based on a 200-point scale. At the end of the course, the 200-point scale will be converted to a 100-point scale and to a letter grade.

**Late Policy**: For the assignments that require your presence such as the debate, the power point presentation, and class participation, make-ups will not be allowed.

All written assignments will be turned in via Blackboard. You will be penalized one letter grade for every 24-hour period it is late.

**Other Policies:**

The use of cell phones, tablets, and laptops is prohibited in the classroom. Though such technology is useful for in-class research and note-taking, it is too tempting to use it to check your e-mail, facebook status updates, and tweets, to the detriment of class discussion and the distraction of your fellow students.

**Grade Grievances**: Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current undergraduate catalog. <http://wweb.uta.edu/catalog/content/general/academic_regulations.aspx#10>.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Academic Integrity:** All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

Suspected violations of the university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Student Support Services**:UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Course and Reading Schedule:**

I reserve the right to adjust the course and reading schedule as necessary, though it will remain substantially the same. In addition to purchased texts, other reading material and links will be posted on Blackboard in folder corresponding to the week.

**Week One: War and Conquests**

**Mon. June 3**: First Class Day: Introduction

**Tue. June 4**: Texas Independence and the Alamo in History and Myth. Reading: Roberts and Olson, *A Line in the Sand*, ppg: 254-276; 315-320. Flores, *Remembering the Alamo*, ppg: xiii-xiv. On Blackboard.

**Wed. June 5**: The Mexican-American War. Reading: Horsman, Race and Manifest Destiny, ppg: 208-248. On Blackboard.

**Thurs. June 6**: The Mexican-American War. Reading: Thesis Statement Exercises, links on Blackboard.

**Assignment:** Your thesis statement assignment must be submitted via Blackboard by Friday, June 7, 11:59 PM.

**Week Two: Borders and Borderlands**

**Mon. June 10:** Borders and Border Militarization. Reading: Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera*. Chapter One, ppg-23-35.

**Tue. June 11:** The Cultural Borderlands. Reading: Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera*. Chapter Five, ppg: 75-86; poetry-128-129; 156-157; 216-217.

**Wed. June 12:** Border Checkpoints and Refusals. Reading, Alejandro Lugo; Newspaper articles and youtube videos. Readings and links on Blackboard.

**Thurs. June 13**: Alternative Visions. Reading: Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera*. Chapter Two, ppg: 37-45; Chapter Seven, 99-113.

**Assignment:** The analytical paper must be submitted via Blackboard by Sunday, June 16, 5 PM.

**Week Three: Expressive Culture**

**Mon. June 17**: The Corrido. Reading: Paredes, With his Pistol in his Hand, ppg. 129-150.

**Tue. June 18**: Mexican American Music.

**Wed. June 19**: Representation in Film. Film Showing. Reading: Ramirez-Berg.

**Thurs. June 20**: Discussion of Film.

**Week Four: Identity Formation**

**Mon. June 24: Assignment:** In-Class Power Point Presentations.

**Tue. June 25:** Memoir and Discussion. Reading: Martínez, *Boy Kings of Texas*, ppg. 1-162.

**Wed. June 26:** Memoir and Discussion. Reading: Martínez, *Boy Kings of Texas,* ppg. 163-287.

**Thurs. June 27:** Memoir and Discussion. Reading: Martínez, *Boy Kings of Texas*, ppg. 288-441.

**Assignment:** Creative Writing Essay must be submitted via Blackboard by Tue., July 2, 11:59 PM.

**Week Five: Immigration**

**Mon. July 1:** Immigration History

**Tue. July 2:** Immigration History

**Wed. July 3**: Contemporary Immigration Issues. Reading: Summary of Current Immigration Reform Legislation.

**Thurs. July 4: No Class. Debate Preparation.**

**Mon. July 8: Immigration Debate.**