**HIST 4388: Comparative U.S. Civil Rights History**

**Fall 2014**

**Instructor: Dr. Cristina Salinas**

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**Faculty Profile:**

**Office Hours:** T/TH 11:00-12:30

**Section Information:** 4388-002

**Time and Place of Class Meetings:** T/TH 2:00-3:20 PM, UH 13

**Course Description:** After decades of struggle for inclusion, recognition, dignity, and equality for marginalized and excluded populations in the United States, what forces came together in the mid-twentieth century to support dynamic and sustained movements for civil rights? How did the civil rights struggles of one group overlap with and influence the momentum of another? This course will examine the diverse origins of civil rights struggles for various populations within the United States, recognizing that many groups had been organizing and struggling against inequality for many years. However, this class will focus on the Civil Rights Movement era, spanning between the 1940s and 1970s, in which various struggles—African American civil rights, the Chicano Movement, the disability rights movement, and the women’s liberation movement—gained visibility and occupied center stage in U.S. social and cultural politics.

This will be a discussion-based course, so reading the assigned material and coming to class prepared to contribute to a lively class discussion is paramount.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

* Students will develop a strong knowledge base about civil rights movements in American history.
* Students will demonstrate an ability to analyze and synthesize complex ideas in writing and oral formats.
* Students will learn how to evaluate evidence in order to distinguish between different types of historical scholarship and historical arguments. Students will examine different types of primary documents and learn about the types of evidence used to construct historical interpretations.

**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:**

James T. Patterson, Brown v. Board of Education: A Civil Rights Milestone and its Troubled Legacy (NY: Oxford University Press, 2002)

Denise Nicholas, Freshwater Road (Pocket Star, 2008)

David Montejano, Quixote's Soldiers: A Local History of the Chicano Movement, 1966-1981 (Austin: UT Press, 2010)

Ruth Rosen, The World Split Open: How the Modern Women's Movement Changed America (NY: Penguin Books, 2006)

Fred Pelka, What We Have Done: An Oral History of the Disability Rights Movement (UMass Press, 2012)

Plus: Additional reading materials on Blackboard

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:**

**Weekly Blogposts: 25%**

On Sunday nights, I will post a question for the week covering material from the readings. Students will address the question in brief, one-two paragraph blogposts by midnight on Wednesdays. Students will submit ten weekly blogposts over the course of the semester.

**Article Summary and Presentation: 15%**

Students will team up in groups of two to read an article that complements the weekly reading, create a presentation of the material, and lead class discussion about the material.

**Mid-term Project: 25%**

Students will research and visit a DFW-area civil rights non-profit organization/museum, interview a staff member and/or executive director and write report with annotated bibliography. An alternative option is for a student to visit UTA special collections, 6th Floor, Main Library, and write a proposal for a research project based on archival research, with annotated bibliography.

**Final Essay: 20%**

Students will write a take-home essay based on a question I develop from course readings. Length: 5-6 pages. Due Dec. 9 via Blackboard.

**Attendance and Participation: 15%**

Since this is a seminar dependent on lively and engaged discussion, participation in class discussions is extremely important and will be closely monitored.

**Attendance:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I will be taking attendance, and more than three unexcused absences will negatively affect a student’s attendance and participation grade. **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. Grades will be posted on Blackboard. Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.

**No late blogposts will be accepted. A late paper will be assessed a half letter grade penalty for each day it is late.**

**Grade Grievances**: [Optional.] Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current University Catalog. <http://catalog.uta.edu/academicregulations/grades/#undergraduatetext>

**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/aao/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.

**Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law “Title IX” such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses 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.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of 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.

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online 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>.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located [insert a description of the nearest exit/emergency exit]. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for

**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).

**Writing Center:** The Writing Center, 411 Central Library, offers individual 40-minute sessions to review assignments, *Quick Hits* (5-10 minute quick answers to questions), and workshops on grammar and specific writing projects. Visit [https://uta.mywconline.com/](https://owa.uta.edu/owa/luket%40exchange.uta.edu/redir.aspx?C=jqplelmmw0KcvkWv1pRv_rHS8ofUUtFIXl_CWZTLffEmCPyZf3x4ncUbBmD9p3gSPROCbhSJj7U.&URL=https%3a%2f%2futa.mywconline.com%2f" \t "_blank) to register and make appointments. For hours, information about the writing workshops we offer, scheduling a classroom visit, and descriptions of the services we offer undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members, please visit our website at [www.uta.edu/owl/](http://www.uta.edu/owl/).

**Course Schedule**

**Readings and Assignments may be adjusted at my discretion:**

**THU. Aug. 21: First Class Day.** Introductions. Review of Syllabus. What are Civil Rights?

**BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**TUE. Aug. 26:** Civil Rights Timeline. Reading: *Brown* CH 1-2.

**THU. Aug. 28:** WWII. Reading: *Brown* CH 3.

**TUE. Sept. 2:** Reading: Brown CH 4-5

**THU. Sept. 4:** Reading: Brown CH 6. In-class article presentation and discussion.

**ACTIVISM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT**

**TUE. Sept. 9:** Film Screening: The Murder of Emmett Till.

**THU. Sept. 11:** Emmett Till Discussion. Reading: *Freshwater Rd.* 1-31.

**TUE. Sept. 16:** Reading: *Freshwater Rd*. 32-108.

**THU. Sept. 18:** Reading: *Freshwater Rd.* 109-148. In-class article presentation and discussion.

**TUE. Sept. 23:** Reading: *Freshwater Rd.* 149-225.

**THU. Sept. 25:** Reading: *Freshwater Rd.* 226-278.

**TUE. Sept. 30:** Reading: *Freshwater Rd*. 279-333.

**THU. Oct. 2: NO CLASS:** Work on mid-term projects.

**CHICANO MOVEMENT**

**TUE. Oct. 7:** Discussion of mid-term projects.

**THU. Oct. 9:** Reading: *Quixote’s Soldiers*, 1-54. **Midterm Project Due via Blackboard by Midnight.**

**TUE. Oct. 14:** Reading: *Quixote’s Soldiers*, 55-116

**THU. Oct. 16:** Reading: *Quixote’s Soldiers*, 117-171.

**TUE. Oct. 21:** Reading: *Quixote’s Soldiers*, 172-207

**THU. Oct. 23:** Reading: *Quixote’s Soldiers*, Appendix. In-class article and presentation.

**WOMEN’S LIBERATION MOVEMENT**

**TUE. Oct. 28**: Reading: *World Split Open*, 1-59.

**THU. Oct. 30:** Reading: *World Split Open*, 63-140.

**TUE. Nov. 4:** Reading: *World Split Open*, 196-226.

**THU. Nov. 6:** Reading: *World Split Open*, 227-260. In-class article and presentation.

**DISABILITY RIGHTS MOVEMENT**

**TUE. Nov. 11:** Reading: *What We Have Done*, 1-47; 61-76.

**THU. Nov. 13:** Reading: *What We Have Done*, 113-130; 151-173.

**TUE. Nov. 18:** Reading: *What We Have Done,* 183-226.

**THU. Nov. 20:** Reading: *What We Have Done*, 261-282; 303-311. In-class article and presentation.

**TUE. Nov. 25:** Reading: What We Have Done, 339-396. Project Adapt.

**THU. Nov. 27:** No Class. Thanksgiving.

**TUE. Dec. 2:** **Last Class Day. Final Take Home Essay Due, TUE. Dec. 9 via Blackboard.**

**Emergency Phone Numbers**: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911.

For non-emergencies that require police assistance, contact the UTA PD at 817-272-3381.