**MAS 2300: Introduction to Mexican American Studies**

**Spring 2015**

**Instructor: Dr. Cristina Salinas**

**Office Number:** UH 326

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

**Faculty Profile:**

**Office Hours:** MWF 2-3 PM or by appointment

**Section Information:** 001

**Time and Place of Class Meetings:** MWF 9-9:50 AM, UH 02

**Course Description:** This course will provide an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of Mexican American Studies. This course is organized chronologically and thematically, blending the study of history with the study of music, art, and poetry. In addition to exploring various types of cultural expression and historical analysis, this course will also cover key concepts in Mexican American Studies, such as identity formation, race, cultural change, resistance, and politics. By the end of the course, students will gain an understanding of important moments in Mexican American history, key concepts in Mexican American cultural studies, and the issues confronting Latino/as in the present day.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

* Students will demonstrate strong analytical skills and an understanding of key concepts in Mexican American history and cultural analysis.
* Students will demonstrate critical reading skills.
* Students will be able to write analytical essays, developing effective thesis statements and using appropriate evidence to support arguments.
* Students will develop strong oral communication skills, learning how to present analytical arguments in a professional manner.

**Required Books and Other Course Materials:**

Anthony Macias, Mexican American Mojo: Popular Music, Dance, and Urban Culture in Los Angeles, 1935-1968 (Durham: Duke University Press, 2008).

Vicki Ruiz, From Out of the Shadows: Mexican Women in Twentieth-Century America (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998).

Luis Alberto Urrea, The Devil’s Highway: A True Story (NY: Back Bay Books, 2004)

Plus: Additional reading materials on Blackboard

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:**

**Exam One (20%)**

This will consist of a take-home exam that will be submitted via Blackboard. It will cover material from the first third of the class.

**Analytical Paper (25%)**

Students will write a brief 4 page paper on a series of questions I develop from the book, Mexican American Mojo. This paper will contain an effective thesis statement with a clear argument, and use material from the book and lectures as supporting evidence.

**Exam Two (30%)**

This will consist of a take home-exam submitted via Blackboard. It will cover material from the second part of the class.

**Debate Presentation 15%**

In a group debate format, students will debate current immigration legislation and executive actions. Students 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 is dependent on lively and engaged discussion. Attendance and participation in class discussions is very 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.

**I will accept late papers but will assess a significant penalty for every day that it is late.**

**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 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:**

**WED. Jan. 21: First Class Day.** Introductions. Review of Syllabus.

**CONQUESTS and MESTIZAJE**

**FRI. Jan. 23:** The Spanish Conquest and the Origins of the Black Legend

**MON. Jan. 26:** Race Formation in New Spain. Reading: Menchaca chapter on Blackboard.

**WED. Jan. 28:** The Pueblo Revolt and its Legacy.

**FRI. Jan. 30:** Sexual Violence on the Frontier. Reading: Castañeda article on Blackboard.

**MON. Feb. 2:** The Alamo in Myth and History. Reading: Flores reading on Blackboard.

**WED. Feb. 4:** The Alamo, continued

**FRI. Feb. 6:** Mexicans and Manifest Destiny. Reading: Horsman reading on Blackboard.

**MON. Feb. 9:** Violent Incorporation in the U.S. Reading: TBA on Blackboard.

**WED. Feb. 11:** The Corrido as Historical Text. Reading: Paredes reading on Blackboard. **Exam One Posted on Blackboard.**

**FRI. Feb. 13:** **NO CLASS.** **Exam One Due Via Blackboard by Midnight on Friday.**

**ASSIMILATION AND BEYOND**

**MON. Feb. 16:** Mexicanization Projects. Reading: Ruiz Chapter One.

**WED. Feb. 18:** Americanization Projects. Reading: Ruiz Chapter Two.

**FRI. Feb. 20:** The Flapper and the Chaperone. Reading: Ruiz Chapter Three.

**MON. Feb. 23:** Reading: Macias Introduction and Chapter One.

**WED. Feb. 25:** Zoot Suiters and WWII. Reading: Macias Chapter Two.

**FRI. Feb. 27:** Zoot Suiters, Cont. Reading: Macias Chapter Three.

**MON. Mar. 2:** Film Screening and Discussion. Reading: Macias Chapter Four.

**WED. Mar. 4:** Film Screening and Discussion. **Paper Prompt uploaded to Blackboard.**

**FRI. Mar. 6:** Discussion.

**MON. Mar. 9- FRI. Mar. 13: SPRING BREAK.**

**CHICANO MOVEMENT**

**MON. Mar. 16:** Cesar Chavez and the UFW. Labor Union or Social Movement? Reading TBA.

**WED. Mar. 18:** Cesar Chavez, continued.  **Paper Due via Blackboard by Midnight.**

**FRI. Mar. 20:** Chicano Movement. Reading: TBA.

**MON. Mar. 23:** Chicano Movement.

**WED. Mar. 25:** Chicano Art. Reading: TBA.

**FRI. Mar. 27:** Chicano Theater. Reading: TBA.

**CHICANA FEMINISMS**

**MON. Mar 30:** Chicanas in the Movement. Reading: Ruiz Chapter 5.

**WED. Apr. 1:** Chicana Movement continued. Reading: Ruiz Chapter 6.

**FRI. Apr. 3:** Chicana Feminism. Reading: TBA.

**MON. Apr. 6:** Borderlands/La Frontera. Reading: Anzaldua on Blackboard.

**WED. Apr. 8:** Borderlands/La Frontera. Reading: Anzaldua on Blackboard.

**FRI. Apr. 10:** Borderlands/La Frontera.

**MON. Apr. 13:** Poetry. Reading: Pratt on Blackboard.

**WED. Apr. 15:** Poetry. Reading: Sandra Cisneros on Blackboard.

**FRI. Apr. 17:** **Take Home Exam #2 Due by Midnight via Blackboard.**

**IMMIGRATION**

**MON. Apr. 20**: Twentieth Century Immigration History. Reading: Urrea Chapter One.

**WED. Apr. 22:** Immigration History continued. Reading: Urrea Chapters 2-3.

**FRI. Apr. 24:** The Border Patrol. Reading: Urrea Chapters 4-5.

**MON. Apr. 27:** Drugs and the Border. Reading*:* Urrea Chapters 6-8.

**WED. Apr. 29:** The Drug War continued. Reading: Urrea Chapters 9-10.

**FRI. May 1:** 2006 Immigration Rallies. Reading: Urrea Chapters 11-13.

**MON. May 4:** State Based Immigration Legislation. Reading: Urrea Chapters 14-16.

**WED. May. 6:** President Obama’s Executive Actions on Immigration.

**FRI. May 8: Last Class Day.** Debate Prep.

**Debate Held During Final Exam Period.**

**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.