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

**Spring 2019**

**Instructor:** Cristina Salinas

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**Faculty Profile:**

**Office Hours:** MWF 11-12

**Section Information:** MAS 2300-001

**Time and Place of Class Meetings:** MWF 10-10:50 AM; LS 424

**Description of Course Content:** 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 literature, 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 Textbooks and Other Course Materials:**

**Jovita González and Eve Raleigh, Caballero: A Historical Novel (Texas A&M University Press, 1996)**

**Gloria Anzaldúa, Borderlands/La Frontera:The New Mestiza (25th Anniversary Edition)**

**Yuri Herrera, Signs Preceding the End of the World (2015)**

**Plus, Material Posted on Blackboard**

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:**

**Caballero Paper 25%:** Students will compose a brief (4) four-page paper on a prompt related to the novel *Caballero*.

**Borderlands Paper 25%:** Students will compose a brief four (4) four-page paper on a prompt related to Gloria Anzaldua’s cultural theories.

**Attendance, Class Discussion, and In-Class Writing 25%:** A substantial portion of the course is designed to be discussion oriented. This grade will consist of reading quizzes and small group work.

**Immigration Debate/Group Presentation 25%:** Students will form groups and debate a current immigration question/issue.

**Attendance:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. 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 require attendance. I will monitor student attendance and it will factor into the final grade. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients “begin attendance in a course.” UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

**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. Students can keep track of their performance by factoring their point total against the maximum point total possible at any given time.

**Make-up Exams**: Make-ups will not be available for reading quizzes or other in-class writing. Make-ups will also not be available for in-class presentations. I will accept late papers, but a penalty will be assessed for every day it is late.

**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/>).

**Disability Accommodations:** UTArlington 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), The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA),* and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.* 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 disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of **a letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD).Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting: **The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD)** <http://www.uta.edu/disability/> or calling 817-272-3364. 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).

**Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)** [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

**Non-Discrimination Policy:** The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit [uta.edu/eos](http://www.uta.edu/hr/eos/index.php).

**Title IX Policy:** The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated.*For information regarding Title IX, visit* [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX) or contact Ms. Michelle Willbanks, Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-4585 or [titleix@uta.edu](mailto:titleix@uta.edu)

**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 in their courses by 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. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>. Faculty are encouraged to discuss plagiarism and share the following library tutorials <http://libguides.uta.edu/copyright/plagiarism> and <http://library.uta.edu/plagiarism/>

**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>.

**Campus Carry:** Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” are 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 via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students’ anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** for semester-long courses**,** 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 evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

**Active Shooter:** The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by UTA Police regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. <https://police.uta.edu/activeshooter>

**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](http://www.uta.edu/studentsuccess/learning-center/utsi/tutoring/index.php), [major-based learning centers](http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/college-based-clinics-labs.php), developmental education, [advising and mentoring](http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/advising.php), personal counseling, and [federally funded programs](http://www.uta.edu/studentsuccess/learning-center/mcnair-scholars/index.php). 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](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/studentsuccess/success-programs/programs/resource-hotline.php>

**The** [**IDEAS Center**](https://www.uta.edu/ideas/) **(**2nd Floor of Central Library) offers **FREE** [tutoring](https://www.uta.edu/ideas/services/tutoring/index.php) to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. Students can drop in, or check the schedule of available peer tutors at www.uta.edu/IDEAS, or call (817) 272-6593.

**The English Writing Center (411LIBR)**: The Writing Center offers **FREE** tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at [https://uta.mywconline.com](https://uta.mywconline.com/). Classroom visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see [www.uta.edu/owl](http://www.uta.edu/owl) for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library’s 2nd floor Academic Plaza offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the library’s hours of operation. <http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>

**Course Schedule  
As the instructor of this course, I reserve the right to amend the syllabus as needed.**

Week One: Introductions. What is Chicanx Studies?

Mon. Jan. 14. Course Introductions

Wed. Jan. 16. Labeling. Reading: Dowling, “I’m Not Mexican, *Pero Soy Mexicano*,” article on Blackboard. Discussion.

Fri. Jan 18. War and Conquest

Week Two: Spanish Conquest

**M. Jan. 21. MLK Day. No Class.**

W. Jan. 23. Labor and Slavery

F. Jan. 25. Gender and Conquest. Reading: Castañeda article on Blackboard.

Week Three: Mexican Independence and the Northern Frontier

M. Jan. 28. Mexican Independence and Northern Policies

W. Jan. 30. The Alamo in History and Myth

F. Feb. 1. Reading: *Caballero*, Introduction-Chapter 8. Discussion. Paper Prompt Posted on Blackboard.

Week Four: Mexican American War

M. Feb. 4. Mexican American War. Reading: Primary Documents

W. Feb. 6. Mexican American War.

F. Feb. 8. Reading: *Caballero*, CH 9-18. Discussion.

Week Five: Violence and Incorporation

M. Feb. 11. Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

W. Feb. 13. Violence and the Creation of the Outlaw.

F. Feb. 15. The Corrido. Reading: Caballero, CH-19-End of Book.

Week Six: Mexican Migration and Community Formation

M. Feb. 18. Mexican Revolution and the U.S.

W. Feb. 20. Early Immigration and Naturalization.

F. Feb. 22. Americanization and Cultural Adaptation. Reading: Vicki Ruiz chapter on Blackboard. **Paper One Due: Submit Via Blackboard.**

Week Seven: World War II

M. Feb. 25. Great Depression and Repatriation.

W. Feb. 27. WWII.

F. Mar. 1. Pachucos and Zoot Suiters. Reading: Octavio Paz chapter and Catherine Ramirez article, both on Blackboard.

Week Eight: Zoot Suit

M. Mar. 4. Film Screening. Zoot Suit.

W. Mar. 6. Film Screening. Zoot Suit.

F. Mar. 8. Discussion of Film.

**Week Nine: Spring Break**

Week Ten: Concepts of the Borderlands

M. Mar. 18. Anzaldua CH. 1. Paper Two Prompt on Blackboard.

W. Mar. 20. Anzaldua. CH 2-3.

F. Mar. 22. Anzaldua. CH 4.

Week Eleven: Borderlands

M. Mar. 25. Anzaldua CH 5-7.

W. Mar. 27. Anzaldua Poetry.

F. Mar. 29. Anzaldua Poetry.

Week Twelve: Chicano Movement

M. Apr. 1. Chicano Movement.

W. Apr. 3. Chicano Movement.

**F. Apr. 5. NO CLASS. PAPER TWO DUE. Submit via Blackboard.**

Week Thirteen: Chicano Movement

M. Apr. 8. Chicano Movement

W. Apr. 10. Chicano Movement

F. Apr. 12. Chicano Movement

Week Fourteen: Immigration

M. Apr. 15. Immigration 1965-1986. Debate Prompt Posted on Blackboard.

W. Apr. 17. Immigration 1996

F. Apr. 19. Reading: Signs Preceding the End of the World, 1st Half. Discussion

Week Fifteen: Immigration

M. Apr. 22. 2006 Immigration Rallies.

W. Apr. 24. State-Based Restriction Laws.

F. Apr. 26. Reading: Signs Preceding the End of the World, 2nd Half. Discussion.

Week Sixteen: Last Week of Class

M. Apr. 29. Current Immigration Issues.

W. May 1. In-Class Research Session.

F. May 3. In-Class Research Session

**Final Exam. Immigration Debate**.

**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. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381