Chicano Studies 2: The Mexican American in Contemporary Society Spring 2014 Thursdays 6:50-10:00 CMS 128 Professor Gustavo Jimenez

### **Class Basics**

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Website: <a href="http://www.lamission.edu/~jimenega">http://www.lamission.edu/~jimenega</a>

Office Hours: 6:10-6:45, CMS faculty offices, or by appointment

Class Note: A 20 minute break will be given at the professor's discretion, typically coming at midway point

### **Required Texts**

Chicanos in Contemporary Society 2nd Edition edited by Roberto M. De Anda

# **Optional Texts**

Readings from the following books will be used in this class. Feel free to track these books down online or at the library. Highly recommended you purchase them if you are pursuing a degree in Chicano Studies. *Anything But Mexican* by Rodolfo Acuna

Borderlands/La Frontera by Gloria Anzaldua

Drink Cultura Chicanismo by Jose Antonio Burciago

Magical Urbanism by Mike Davis

The New World Border by Guillermo Gomez-Pena

Recovering History, Constructing Race by Martha Menchaca

# **Course Description**

This course offers an introductory study of Chicanos in contemporary society in the United States. It focuses on areas such as culture, hisotry, arts, family, language, education, politics, economics, and social issues as they relate to the Mexican American experience in relationship to other groups in American society

# **Student Learning Outcomes**

- 1. Students will identify the major characteristics of the Chicano community, the second largest minority group in the United States and largest in the Southwest.
- 2. Students will distinguish the specific, cultural, economic and political elements which differentiate the Mexican America from other groups in American society.

### **Class Objectives**

- 1. Identify and describe the various theories utilized to interpret the status of contemporary Chicano society in the United States.
- 2. Evaluate Chicano group diversity and its impact on cultural and racial self-identity labels.
- 3. Analyze the diverse components of the primary intellectual influences that shape modern Chicano and Mexican American behavior.
- 4. Identify and analyze the influence of the "American Way of Life" on traditional Chicano families and religious values in today's society.
- 5. Discuss the changing characteristics of Mexican American families including marriage patterns, gender, and extended family ties.
- 6. Explain and discuss the various dimensions of feminism among Chicanas in the United States including the intellectual and cultural influences that shape this philosophy.
- 7. Introduce and explain the role of Chicanos in the growing LGBT Civil Rights Movement.

- 8. Outline and asses the complexity of machismo and the varied perceptions held by Americans, Mexicans, Chicanas, and Chicanos regarding its origin, purpose and role in culture.
- 9. Identify and evaluate the importance historically of the American educational system in the de-Mexicanization of cultural values among Chicano children enrolled in public schools.
- 10. Analyze the factors that have contributed to gang behavior among Mexican American adolescents and describe the consequences to family and community life in the barrios of the Southwest.
- 11. Discuss the importance and role of ethnic studies programs as a vehicle for college success among Chicano students since its establishment during the Chicano civil right movement.
- 12. Identify and evaluate the consequences of political empowerment at local, state and national levels since the 1960s by Mexican Americans.
- 13. Discuss the group;s relations with immigrants and other minorities with emphasis on economic and political issues.
- 14. Asses the economic disparity between barrio and non-barrio Chicanos and Mexican Americans and how this influences educational opportunities and health conditions among the group.

#### **Course Outlines**

The class will be organized through lecture and class discussions focused on specific topics relevant to the course. The following is a tentative guideline on specific topics we will cover. Please keep in mind that through the course of the semester some topics and chapters will be changed. Due dates, quizzes, and exams may be change as well. Make sure to stay current by attending class on a weekly basis.

#### Week 1-Feb 13

Introduction to the course Labels and Identity

#### Week 2-Feb 20

Overview of Chicano culture and history

Roots of Chicano culture: native elements and European influence

# Week 3-Feb 27

Chicano experiences in U.S.

Impact of the Chicano Movement

#### Week 4-Mar 6

Quiz#1

Chicano Identity and cultural expression through traditional art forms: Music, theater, literature

#### Week 5-Mar 13

Video

Exam #1

### Week 6-Mar 20

Religion and the Chicano

Traditional Catholicism: icons, rituals, morality.

# Week 7-Mar 27

The Chicano family: traditional and contemporary manifestations.

#### Week 8-Apr 3

Feminism and the Chicana: traditional and contemporary roles.

# Week 9-Apr 10

SPRING BREAK

Week 10-Apr 17

Quiz #2

Machismo / Chicano-LGBT

Week 11-Apr 24

Video

Exam #2

### Week 12-May 1

The American educational system and the Chicano: views on bilingualism and Mexican behavior in the schools. The Chicano experience in the K-12 educational system

#### Week 13-May 8

Stereotypes, American mainstream expectations, marginalization.

Chicano adolescents and gangs.

#### Week 14-May 15

Political conditions in the Chicano community: Challenges, causes, activism, progress Chicano ideologies and political strategies

#### Week 15- May 22

Chicano relations with other groups: Anglos, African-Americans, Asians, Mexican immigrants, other Latinos. Papers Due

Week 16- May 29

Quiz #3

Final Review

Presentations

May 29-June 5

Exam #3 8:00-10:00

# **Important Dates**

FEB 21 Add Deadline

FEB 23 Last day to DROP classes, without a "W"

MAY 11 Last day to drop with a "W"

If you stop attending class (or wish to drop a class), YOU MUST DROP THE CLASS YOURSELF—OFFICIALLY—on or before May 11, 2014. Failure to do so may result in a grade of "F" in that class.

### **Evaluation**

#### **PARTICIPATION (10%)**

This will be evaluated primarily through class conduct. This includes participation in class discussion, courtesy to professor and students, and attendance. The following will be reasons for losing vital percentage points: sleeping during class, texting, mobiles not silenced, tardiness, leaving mid-lecture, not returning promptly from breaks, not returning from breaks, missing class. Since we only meet once a week, it is extremely important to attend every week. Missing 2-3 classes during the smelter will put you in serious danger of not doing well in the class. If those 2-3 absences include missing quizzes and exam, you will be dropped from the class. In addition, pop quizzes will be given at the professor's discretion. The quizzes will take place during the first 10 minutes of class ANDI OR the first 10 minutes after the break.

# **INFORMAL WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS (10%)**

Written assignments will be given throughout the course of the semester. These are expected to be about half to one page in length (about 150-300 words) and should contain a brief analysis of the issues under consideration relative to the assigned reading material or class discussions. These should not be a recitation of facts, but should instead be a discussion of the issues at hand. If you refer to outside material, be sure to cite your sources, whether or not you directly quote the material. Assignments must be typed, 12-point font, and double spaced. Assignments are due in class, no emailed assignments will be accepted, late assignments will be deducted 10%.

# **CLASS PROJECT (15%)**

You will have two options for the class project.

Option 1: A 5-7 minute presentation on a topic relevant to the class. You have the option of doing the presentation with 1 other student.

Option 2: An 8-10 page paper on a topic relevant to the class.

More information will be given at a later date. All topics must be cleared. Once a topic is taken, no other student/group will be allowed to write a paper or do a presentation on that topic.

### **QUIZZES** (20%)

There will be 3 reading quizzes given throughout the course of the semester. The questions will be based on the readings from the required textbook for the class; *Chicanos & Chicanos in Contemporary Society*. **There are no makeups available for the reading quizzes.** The quizzes will be given during the second half of class. The quizzes are as follow:

Quiz 1: Part I & II Quiz 2: Part III Quiz 3: Part IV

### **EXAMS** (45%)

The three exams given will be a combination of subjective questions (short/long response) and objective questions (identifications, multiple choice, true/false). You will need a blue book for each exam (3 blue books in total). The questions will be drawn from class readings, discussions, and lectures. **No make-up exams or pre-exams will be given.** Since this class meets only once a week, giving you an extra week to prepare for an exam is unfair to the other students who have worked hard to prepare for the exam on time. Preparing for exams means taking good notes in class and doing the assigned reading.

### **EXTRA CREDIT**

Throughout the semester there will be opportunities for you to earn extra credit. There is no specific point or grading system for extra credit assignments. Extra credit assignments will not replace assignments, exams, quizzes, or term papers. Instead, e.c. assignments will be taken into consideration if you find yourself on the cusp of a higher grade. If you end up with an 89% and I see that you have done several extra credit assignments, then I will give you a 90%. If you would like to suggest an extra credit assignment make sure you come to me before completing it. All extra credit assignments must be typed. Percentage points added to final overall grade can range from 1% to 3%. Extra credit assignments may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Films or t.v. shows dealing with topics discussed in class
- Extra reading assignments.
- Extra research assignments.
- Art/music/cultural activities in Los Angeles.

#### **GRADING SCALE**

I use the following grading scale to determine your grades and final grade. Since you will be getting back completed work from me with a percentage please refer to the following scale for specific letter grade:

90%-100% A 80%-89% B 70%-79% C 60%-69% D Below 60% FAIL

Rubrics for exams, quizzes, papers, and presentations are available online: <a href="http://www.lamission.edu/~jimenega">http://www.lamission.edu/~jimenega</a>

# **CLASS THOUGHTS**

This class will demand a certain amount of commitment from you. If you run into any problems do not hesitate to contact me. Do not wait until the last week of the class to reveal your problems with the class. Please also be aware that I reserve the right to change this syllabus throughout the course of the semester.

#### LAMC POLICIES

<u>Cheating</u>- unauthorized material used during an examination (including electronic devices), changing answers after work has been graded, taking an exam for another student, forging or altering attendance sheets or other documents in the course, looking at another student's paper/scantron/essay/computer or exam with or without their approval is considered cheating. Any student caught cheating will receive a zero for the assignment/exam and be referred to the Department chair and/or Student Services for further disciplinary action.

<u>Plagiarism</u>- Plagiarism is defined as the act of using the ideas, words, or work of another person or persons as if they were one's own, without giving proper credit to the original sources. This includes definitions found online on Wikipedia, materials from blogs, twitter, or other similar electronic resources. The following examples are intended to be representative, but not all-inclusive:

- Failing to give credit by proper citations for others' ideas and concepts, data and information, statements and phrases, and/or interpretations and conclusions
- Failing to use quotation marks when quoting directly from another, whether it be a paragraph, a sentence, or a
  part thereof
- Paraphrasing the expressions or thought by others without appropriate quotation marks or attribution
- Representing another's artistic/scholarly works (such as essays, computer programs, photographs, paintings, drawings, sculptures) or similar works as one's own.

For a first offense, you will receive a zero for the assignment in question. Any further offenses may result in expulsion from the class, as determined by the disciplinary action of the Office of Student Services.

<u>Recording devices</u> in the classroom: Section 78907 of the California Education Code prohibits the use of any electronic audio or video recording devices, without prior consent of the instructor. (This includes cell phones, laptops, MP3 players, cameras, and other recording devices)

Reasonable Accommodations: If you are a student with a disability who qualifies for accommodations through DSP&S, please contact me privately. The sooner I am aware of your eligibility for accommodations, the quicker I will be able to assist the DSP&S Office in providing them. For students with disabilities, the DSP&S Office at Mission College provides special assistance in areas like: registering for courses, specialized tutoring, note-taking, mobility assistance, special instruction, testing assistance, special equipment, special materials, instructor liaisons, community referrals and job placement. If you have not done so already, you may also wish to contact the DSP&S Office in Instructional Building 1018 (phone 818/364-7732 TTD 818/364-7861) and bring me a letter indicating what accommodations are needed.

Medical conditions: If you have and conditions that I need to know about, please notify me immediately by email.

**Emergencies:** Please program the Campus Sheriff's phone number in your cell: 818 364-7843

<u>Student Portal</u>: update your email address, view your schedule and grades from past semesters through the portal. <u>www.lamission.edu</u>
– "students" – "My Mission student portal access" If you have not yet changed your pin it's your birthdate (MMDD)