

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS—PERMIAN BASIN

**SPAN —6352
Mexican American Literature
Fall 2020**

Instructor: Dr. Antonio Moreno
MB 4152
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Schedule/Location: Wednesday 6:00-9:00 pm MESA 4113

Office Hours: Monday: 10:00 am —4:00 pm, and by appointment
Tuesday: 10: 00 am— 1:30 pm, and by appointment
Wednesday: 10:00 am— 5:00 pm, and by appointment
Thursday: 10: 00 am— 1:30 pm, and by appointment

Description of the course:

This course focuses on the study of contemporary Mexican American literature from the 1920s to the 1990s. It basically concentrates on literary and film productions. It will cover different topics: the search and construction of identity, nationalism and its extremes, the debate on the definitions of the border, the construction of gender, religion and spirituality, representations of the mainstream and ethnic stereotypes, among others. Chicano literature, basically that written by American authors of Mexican origin, proposes very ambitious readings, beginning with the intercultural discussions between us and you; as well as the recurrent use of Spanglish. Finally, it proposes more local issues, such as the definition of the neighborhood and the negotiations of those who inhabit it. The student will be able to build well-founded ideas about the Latino identity in the United States, its achievements and challenges. The selection of texts will include essay, short story, poetry, theater, films, and novel.

Course objectives:

- a) To understand basic concepts of literary analysis and to train critical reading, discussion and writing skills.
- b) To learn about the historical, political and cultural development of Chicano/a identity.
- c) To think analytically and critically about aspects usually taken for granted in relation to cultural identities such as race, nation, gender, and social class.
- d) To analyze the plot, characters, temporal and space location, structure and language, narrative point of view and other narrative strategies used in the construction of the text.

Course Requirements/Evaluation:

- a) Class attendance and participation: 20%**
There will be 2 excused absences. A third absence will result in his/her grade lowered; anyone with 7 or more absences receives an F for the course. Participation means being prepared, complete all reading, actively participating in class activities.
- b) Final Paper: 40%**
- c) Student Presentation (3): In groups after each reading 40%**
During the semester, students will do team presentations and write a collective 2-page papers based upon their team presentation. Power points may be used but do not read the presentation from the screen.

**No food, beverages, and cellular phones or other electronics devices in class, please. see UTPB regulations regarding plagiarism.

Policies

Academic Honesty

You are expected to adhere strictly to the UTPB academic honesty Code. Academic dishonesty includes, but it is not limited to, cheating and plagiarism. It will not be tolerated in this class. The penalty for academic dishonesty is 0 for the assignment.

Rules of Appropriate Class Behavior

- 1) Be in class before on time, prepared with all required materials
- 2) Put away your phone and headphones when you enter the class. Text messaging or use of phones is absolutely prohibited in class.

Academic Matters

Academic and Disability Support Services

Please let me know should you have any problems, comments or questions about the course. In addition to the resources of the department, a wide range of services is available to support you in your efforts to meet the course requirements.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Students with Disabilities: The University of Texas of the Permian Basin in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provides “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities. Any student with a disability who is requesting an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter from the ADA Officer for Students. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. **Adapted from UTSA ADA syllabus statement.**

ADA Officer for Students: Mr. Paul Leverington

Address: Mesa Building 4243/4901 E. University, Odessa, Texas 79762

Voice Telephone: 432-552-4696

Email: ada@utpb.edu

For the accessibility and privacy statements of external tools used within courses, go to [Accessibility and Privacy Statements](#).

Online Student Authentication

UTPB requires that each student who registers for an online course is the same student who participates in, completes, and receives credit for the course. UTPB's Distance Education Policy requires faculty members to employ at least two methods of verification to ensure student identities. To access online courses students must login to the UTPB learning management system using their unique personal identifying username and secure password. UTPB's Distance Education Policy requires at least one additional student identification method within the course that has been determined and approved by the faculty or academic program. This course satisfies the second method of student authentication through a "selfie." You will take a picture of yourself holding your identification card*. Please take a head shot of you holding your card near your face. I need to be able to clearly see your face and see the picture and name on your card. Please do not alter the picture. No other participant in this class will see your personal information and I already have access to it through your university application files.

This assignment is a requirement of SACSCOC, the accrediting body for the university. I cannot release your course grade at the end of the semester unless I have this authentication on file. Please take care of this assignment in Week 1.

*Approved up- to-date photo identifications are: passports, government issued identification, driver's licenses, military ID from DoD; dual credit and early college high school students may use school district identifications. If your school district does not provide IDs, your facilitator must contact your instructor to verify.

Texts required:

Rivera, Tomás. ...*Y no se lo tragó la tierra*. Trad. Herminio Ríos, Justa, 1979. Impreso.

Venegas, Daniel. *Las aventuras de don Chipote, o cuando los pericos mamen*. Arte Público, 1999. Impreso.

Schedule of classes

Agosto 26: Introducción al curso; actividades sobre el uso del Spanglish, estereotipos comunes, lectura de poesía en voz alta, análisis y discusión:

- Abelardo (“Lalo” Delgado), “Stupid America (1969)
- Margarita Cota-Cárdenas, “Crisis de identidad, o, Ya no chingues” (1970)
- José Antonio Burciaga, “Poema en tres idiomas y caló” (1977)
- Jimmy Santiago Baca, “Pinos Wells” (1984)
- Tino Villanueva, “Unción de palabras” (1987)

Septiembre 2: Lectura de dos piezas teatros, análisis y discusión:

- *Los vendidos* (1967), Luis Valdez.
- *Giving Up the Ghost* (1986; 1994).

Septiembre 9: Filme: análisis y discusión
Zoot Suit (1981), Luis Valdez

Septiembre 16: **Presentaciones 1**

Septiembre 23: Ensayo: análisis y discusión

- “La Güera” (1981), Cherríe Moraga
- “La conciencia de la mestiza: Towards a New Consciousness” (1987), Gloria Anzaldúa
- “Pendejismos” (1993), José Antonio Burciaga

Septiembre 30: Ensayo: análisis y discusión

- “The Evolution of the Mind” (1969), Ysidro Ramón Macías
- “The Historical and Intellectual Presence of Mexican Americans” (1969), Richard Rodríguez
- “Letting La Llorona Go, or, Re/reading Historty’s ‘Tender Mercies’” (1993), Cordelia Candelaria

October 7: **Presentaciones 2**

October 14: Cuentos: análisis y discusión

- “Do you speak Pocho...?” (1924), Jorge Ulica

- “Feliz cumpleaños, E.U.A.” (1979), Rolando R. Hinojosa-Smith
- “El conejo pionero” (1988), Sabine Ulibarri
- **Presentaciones 3**

Octubre 21: Novelas: análisis y discusión

Las aventuras de don Chipone, o cuando los pericos mamen (1928), Daniel Venegas (capítulo 1 al capítulo 10)

Octubre 28: *Las aventuras de don Chipone, o cuando los pericos mamen* (1928), Daniel Venegas (capítulo 11 al capítulo 19)

November 11: *...Y no se lo tragó la tierra* (1971), Tomás Rivera
Capítulos:

- El año perdido
- Los niños no se aguantaron
- Un rezo
- Es que duele
- La mano en la bolsa
- La noche estaba plateada

November 18: Capítulos:

- ...Y no se lo tragó la tierra
- Primera comunión
- Los quemaditos
- La noche que apagaron las luces
- La noche buena
- El retrato
- Cuando lleguemos
- Debajo de la casa

December 2: Taller de ensayo

December 11: Taller de ensayo

Reference works

Hernández-Gutiérrez, Manuel de Jesús y David William Foster (eds.). *Literatura chicana, 1965-1995: an anthology in Spanish, English, and Caló*. Garland, 1997. Impreso.

Sample Syllabus