

**MAS 364I-40330 + GOV 337V-38440**

## **Mexican American Political Thought**

Department of Mexican American + Latina/o Studies | University of Texas at Austin  
Fall Semester 2023 | 3 Credit Hours

MWF | 11:00am-12:00pm | GEA 114

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

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**Instructor** | Antonio Vásquez, Ph.D.

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**Office** | TBA

**Hours** | TBA

+ by appointment

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

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#### **DESCRIPTION + FORMAT**

##### **Welcome to Mexican American Political Thought!**

The 1967 publication of *El Grito: Journal of Contemporary Mexican American Political Thought* marked the emergence of a distinct Mexican American intellectual formation in academia. At the one hand, this discourse demonstrated a continuity of oppositional consciousness as reflected in writings by preceding generations of intellectuals. At the same time, early writings contextualized experiences of inequality confronting Mexican American communities as a condition of colonialism and anti-colonialism. The purpose of this undergraduate seminar is to collaboratively and critically explore the multiple complementary and contradictory counter-hegemonic intellectual expressions that have contributed to Mexican American political thought, and, in turn, the discipline of Mexican American Studies. Particular attention will be given to political activities and intellectual formations from the aftermath of the U.S. military invasion in the mid-nineteenth century through the period of the Chicano Movement in the latter twentieth century, with a focus on Texas. The bulk of our course material will draw from three (3) required texts as well as a selection of supplementary material accessible online.

To demonstrate knowledge of the course content, you will be asked to engage in eight (8) quizzes, three (3) discussions, and two (2) examinations. One additional and exciting component is a community engagement project in relation to the course content. Please note that assignments in this course may be processed through TurnItIn, a tool that compares submitted material to an archived database of published work to check for potential plagiarism.

To be successful in this class, *do your absolute best* to be present and prepared for every scheduled class activity. Feel free to also contact and visit with your teaching assistant and/or instructor should you have any questions related to the course. *When communicating, please do so through Canvas email first*, and, secondarily, with the contact information provided above. Please be sure to include your name and course in the subject line. In this way, we can best respond and address your inquiry.

All digital submissions for this class will be made through our course **Canvas** site, which is available at <https://utexas.instructure.com>.

This course carries the flag for **Cultural Diversity** in the United States. Cultural Diversity courses are designed to increase your familiarity with the variety and richness of the American cultural experience. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one U.S. cultural group that has experienced persistent underrepresentation.

Consistent with other classes in Mexican American and Latina/o Studies, this course will also enhance our critical thinking skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Welcome again to the class!

## OBJECTIVES

- Increased understanding of varied Mexican American intellectual expressions in historical/contemporary contexts
- Increased interdisciplinary knowledge of course content in relation to Mexican American + Latina/o Studies
- Demonstrated critical thinking skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking related to course content

## TEXTBOOKS + SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

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### TEXTBOOKS

The following books are REQUIRED for this course. They are available for purchase at the **University Co-op** Bookstore. Students majoring in MALS should consult with the department regarding access to texts.

- Gómez-Quiñones, Juan. *Indigenous Quotient/Stalking Words: American Indian Heritage as Future*. Aztlan Libre Press, 2011.
- Oropeza, Lorena. *Raza Sí, Guerra No! Chicano Protest and Patriotism during the Viet Nam War Era*. University of California Press, 2005.
- Padilla, Genaro M. *My History, Not Yours: The Formation of Mexican American Autobiography*. University of Wisconsin Press, 1994.

### SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

- In addition, supplementary course material, grades, and announcements will be available through our course Canvas site at <https://utexas.instructure.com>.

## GRADING + ASSESSMENT

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There are four (4) components that will make-up your overall grade. These include community engagement (5%), quizzes (40%), online discussions (15%), and two examinations (40%). These are described below.

### GRADING COMPONENTS + SCALE

#### GRADING DESCRIPTIONS

<b>Grading Components + Scale</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Community Engagement	5%	A	94-100%+
Online Discussions	15%	A-	90-93%
Quizzes	40%	B+	87-89%
Examinations	40%	B	84-86%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	B-	80-83%
		C+	77-79%
		C	74-76%
		C-	70-73%
		D+	67-69%
		D	64-66%
		D-	60-63%
		F	0-59%

## **I. Community Engagement (5%)**

An exciting component in this course is the completion of a community engagement activity. This objective and possible activities will be discussed during class. Please note that a community engagement self-reflection will be due at the end of the semester. This assignment is worth 5% of your total grade.

## **II. Discussion (15%)**

To strengthen skills in critical thinking and demonstrate knowledge of course content, you will be asked to conduct three (3) online discussion assignments. These are worth 15% of your total grade, or 5% each. More information for each will be posted in Canvas and discussed during class time.

## **III. Quiz (40%)**

We will have eight (8) scheduled quizzes throughout the semester. All quizzes will be based on course readings in accordance with weekly learning modules. These are worth 5% each or 40% total.

## **IV. Examinations (40%)**

There will be two (2) examinations for this semester, worth approximately 40% of your total grade, or 20% each. The first examination will take place during Week 08 and your second examination will take place during Week 15. More information will be shared in-class but be sure to plan accordingly.

**Extra Credit?** When possible, extra credit assignments will be offered during the semester. Be sure to stay informed throughout the semester on pending opportunities.

**All written material submitted for this class  
is subject for screening for academic misconduct.**

## **FALL 2023 GUIDELINES**

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### **Sharing of Course Materials is Prohibited**

No materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, lecture hand-outs, videos, assessments (quizzes, exams, papers, projects, homework assignments), in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets, may be shared online or with anyone outside of the class unless you have my explicit, written permission. Unauthorized sharing of materials promotes cheating. It is a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty. I am well aware of the sites used for sharing materials, and any materials found online that are associated with you, or any suspected unauthorized sharing of materials, will be reported to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity in the Office of the Dean of Students. These reports can result in sanctions, including failure in the course.

### **Safety and Class Participation/Masks**

We will all need to make some adjustments in order to benefit from in-person classroom interactions in a safe and healthy manner. Our best protections against spreading COVID-19 on campus are masks (defined as cloth face coverings) and staying home if you are showing symptoms. Therefore, for the benefit of everyone, this means that all students are encouraged to wear a cloth face-covering properly in class and in all campus buildings.

### **Class Recordings**

Class recordings are reserved only for students in this class for educational purposes and are protected under FERPA. The recordings, if applicable, should not be shared outside the class in any form. Violation of this restriction by a student could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings.

## **GUIDELINES + EXPECTATIONS**

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### **Course Readings + Assignments**

Please note that all course readings and assignments will be posted on our Canvas homepage. The best way to stay informed about weekly readings and assignments for this course is to access our homepage. It is also expected that all work will be submitted before assigned deadlines as stated in Canvas for full consideration. Please *read each assignment carefully in Canvas* to determine cut-off dates for late submissions, if applicable. Generally, you will have no more than two-weeks to turn late work with deductions, but this is not always the case. Please refer back to Canvas.

### **Statement on Learning Success**

Your success in this class is important to me. We will all need accommodations because we all learn differently. If there are aspects of this course that prevent you from learning or exclude you, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we'll develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. I also encourage you to reach out to the student resources available through UT. Several are listed in this syllabus, and I am happy to connect you with a person or Center if you would like.

### **Services for Students with Disabilities**

The university is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive learning environment consistent with university policy and federal and state law. Please let me know if you experience any barriers to learning so I can work with you to ensure you have equal opportunity to participate fully in this course. If you are a student with a disability, or think you may have a disability, and need accommodations please contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Please refer to SSD's website for contact and more information: <http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>. If you are already registered with SSD, please deliver your Accommodation Letter to me as early as possible in the semester so we can discuss your approved accommodations and needs in this course.

### **Title IX**

Title IX, a segment of the Education Amendments of 1972, protects against sex and gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, dating/domestic violence and stalking at federally funded educational institutions. UT Austin is committed to fostering a learning and working environment free from discrimination in all its forms. When sexual misconduct occurs in our community, the University can:

1. Intervene to prevent harmful behavior from continuing or escalating;
2. Provide support and remedies to students and employees who have experienced harm or have become involved in a Title IX investigation;
3. Investigate and discipline violations of the University's relevant policies.

Faculty members and certain staff members are considered "Responsible Employees" or "Mandatory Reporters," which means that they are required to report violations of Title IX to the Title IX Coordinator. **I am a Responsible Employee and must report any Title IX related incidents** that are disclosed in writing, discussion, or one-on-one. Before talking with me, or with any faculty or staff member about a Title IX related incident, be sure to ask whether they are a responsible employee. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources at <https://www.utexas.edu/student-affairs/policies/title-ix>.

### **Q Drop Policy**

If you want to drop a class after the 12<sup>th</sup> class day, you'll need to execute a Q drop before the Q-drop deadline, which typically occurs near the middle of the semester. Under Texas law, you are only allowed six Q drops while you are in college at any public Texas institution. For more information, see: <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/csacc/academic/adddrop/qdrop>.

### **Absences**

Just to be clear, it is expected that you are present and prepared for every class during the semester. If you are absent, you are responsible for any work missed if applicable. It is also expected that you communicate in writing with me (your instructor) prior to the class.

The only absences that will be considered excused are for religious holidays, University commitments, or extenuating emergency circumstances. If you plan to miss class due to observance of a religious holiday or University commitment, please let your instructor know in advance. If you miss due to an emergency, be prepared to provide formal documentation. You will not be penalized for excused absences, although you will still be responsible for any work missed on that day if applicable.

In the event that class may need to be cancelled for any unexpected emergency, I will do our absolute best to let you know as soon as possible.

### **Grading**

It is expected that all assignments will be completed on-time. Grades and individual feedback, if any, should be posted no later than two (2) weeks after each assignment deadline. Should you have any follow-up questions regarding a specific assignment grade, you should contact me directly within two-weeks after being posted *for full consideration. Do not wait until the end of the semester.*

### **TurnItIn**

All assignments in this course may be processed by TurnItIn, a tool that compares submitted material to an archived database of published work to check for potential plagiarism. Other methods may also be used to determine if a paper is the student's original work. Regardless of the results of any TurnItIn submission, the faculty member will make the final determination as to whether or not a paper has been plagiarized.

### **Email Communication**

When sending an email to me, always include your name and course title in the subject line. In this way, I can best respond and address your inquiry. Remember as well that any email related to this class should be considered formal communication. Your email is not a text.

It is expected that I would respond to any email requests once received. If you do not receive an email response after two-weeks, send another follow-up email and let me know in-person.

### **Personal Pronoun Preference**

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by a name that is different from what appears on the official roster, and by the gender pronouns you use (she/he/they/ze, etc.). Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

### **Religious Holy Days**

By UT Austin policy, you must notify the teaching team of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

### **Academic Integrity**

This course adheres with all expectations regarding academic integrity, including the principles of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. **Plagiarism is taken very seriously at UT.** Therefore, if you use words or ideas that aren't your own (or that you have used in previous class), you must cite your sources. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty (including cheating on tests, plagiarism on written assignments, etc.) are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course. It is each and every student's responsibility to be familiar with UT's Academic Honesty and the University Honor Code which can be found at the following:

[http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acadint\\_whatis.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acadint_whatis.php).

The University of Texas Honor Code reads as follows: "As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity." Long live Longhorn nation!

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

As this class relies upon individual-and-group-centered learning experiences, it is expected that mutual respect is applied in everything that we do in this course. This means that we should refrain from any behavior that could disrupt our learning environment, such as calling, texting, smoking, yelling, and the like. Be sure to turn off or put on vibrate mode your cell phone before the class begins. Use of laptops are acceptable when taking notes during lectures but should be put away during other class activities. In addition, *you are not allowed to use any video or audio recording devices* during class.

In other words, respect is respect, is respect.

## **STUDENT RESOURCES**

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### **University Writing Center**

The **University Writing Center** provides a relaxed, yet professional atmosphere in which writers from across the curriculum can become more comfortable with processes of writing at all levels. Appointments are available for all UT students at <http://uwc.utexas.edu/appointments> or by calling the UWC Front Desk at 512-471-6222.

### **Counseling and Mental Health Center**

Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, avoiding drugs and alcohol, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress.

All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone. There are many helpful resources available on campus and an important part of the college experience is learning how to ask for help. Asking for support sooner rather than later is often helpful.

If you or anyone you know experiences any academic stress, difficult life events, or feelings like anxiety or depression, we strongly encourage you to seek support. Services are available here at UT, and treatment does work. The **UT Counseling and Mental Health Center** (<http://chmc.utexas.edu/>) provides counseling, psychiatric, consultation, and prevention services that facilitate students' academic and life goals and enhance their personal growth and well-being. The CMHC crisis line is available 24/7/365 at 512-471-2255.

### **Copyright Information**

More information about copyright law can be accessed at **The TEACH Act** or directly at <https://copyright.lib.utexas.edu/teachact.html>.

### **The Sanger Learning Center**

Did you know that more than one-third of UT undergraduate students use the **Sanger Learning Center** each year to improve their academic performance? All students are welcome to take advantage of Sanger Center's classes and workshops, private learning specialist appointments, peer academic coaching, and tutoring for more than 70 courses in 15 different subject areas. For more information, please visit <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/slcc> or call (512) 471-3614 (JES A332).

### **Libraries**

For more information about The University of Texas Libraries, visit <http://lib.utexas.edu> or call 512-495-4250.

### **IT Services**

Walk-up services for any computer and IT help is available on the first-floor lobby of the Flawn Academic Center (FAC), open Monday through Friday except during University Holidays. You can also contact IT Services at <http://it.utexas.edu> or call 512-475-9400. For particular questions about Canvas, technical support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during the semester at 855-308-2494.

### **Important Safety Information**

If you have concerns about the safety or behavior of fellow students, TAs or Professors, call the Behavior Concerns Advice Line at 512-232-5050. Your call can be anonymous.

### **BeVocal Syllabus Statement**

BeVocal is a university-wide initiative to promote the idea that individual Longhorns have the power to prevent high-risk behavior and harm. At UT Austin all Longhorns have the power to intervene and reduce harm. To learn more about BeVocal and how you can help to build a culture of care on campus, please visit <http://wellnessnetwork.utexas.edu/BeVocal>.

### **Emergency Evacuation**

Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may be the one you used when entering the building.
- Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.
- Link to information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at <http://www.utexas.edu/emergency>.

For more information regarding emergency evacuation, contact the Office of Campus Safety and Security at 512-471-5767 or <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/>.

### **COURSE CHANGES**

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**The professor reserves the right to change and/or alter any component of this course, with notice to students.**

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