



EAST TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

Latin American and U.S. Latino Studies 101: What is Identity?



Course Syllabus: Spring 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. E. Mark Moreno (Dr. M)
Office Location: Ferguson 118
Office Hours: MF 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.; MWF 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.
History Dept. Office Phone: (903) 886-5224
University Email Address: mark.moreno@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: Email
Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

Catalog description: *This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary study of Latin America and the Latin American Diaspora in the United States, as manifested through politics, history, language, the arts, literature, economics, and social realities. Students are exposed to the principal themes and methodologies of Latin American and U.S. Latino Studies, by synthesizing contributions from various disciplines. The course emphasizes interdisciplinary collaboration*

across various fields of study and provides students with a basic knowledge base for understanding Latin America and Latina/os in the United States in both a contemporary and historical perspective.

From the instructor: *Three regions we cover this semester are in many ways products of their relationship with the United States: Mexico, Cuba, and Puerto Rico.*

The Mexican and Cuban revolutions of the 20th century each led to massive migration to the U.S., and the American government had an interest in the outcomes of both conflicts for differing reasons. Puerto Rico started out as a colony in the wake of the Spanish-American War and has existed under a dominant power for more than a century. The histories of these regions affected the sentiments of migrants who settled in the U.S., their children, and grandchildren. These groups have left a significant cultural imprint on the nation but also have histories of alienation from the majority American population for most of the 20th century and into our current one. Because of this history, studying issues of identity is important. Through readings, lectures, and media, we will examine what ethnic identity means for these groups, including issues regarding; imperialism, racism, ethnic style and culture, and street gangs.

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Required Texts:

Oscar Zeta Acosta, *Revolt of the Cockroach People* (Penguin Random House, 1989),

Cristina Garcia, *Dreaming in Cuban* (Penguin Random House, 1992), ISBN

Juan Gonzalez, *Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America* (Revised Edition, Penguin Random House, 2011)

Miguel Melendez, *We Took the Streets: Fighting for Latino Rights with the Young Lords* (Rutgers University Press, 2005)

Class textbooks are supplemented by handouts, journal articles, and primary documents for discussions and exams.

Student Learning Outcomes

As a Core Curriculum elective, the Student Learning outcome for the instructor is that:

1. Students will efficiently discuss in writing histories and major issues regarding Latina/o populations in the United States, including interpretations of ethnic identity.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional Methods and Assessment

Participation and attendance: Regular attendance is expected, as well as regular questions and comments from students. **Five points will be deducted for every three unexcused absences. Late assignments can be turned in *only* the week that they are due, and five points will automatically be deducted from them.** Other lectures and film/video presentations will relate to class readings. Class time is meant for both lecture and discussion, so participation is important whether class involves interaction or film/video presentations.

Assignments, Student Responsibilities, Expectations, and Tips for Success

This course consists of regular attendance for points, a total of five class discussions (in-class), two Blue Book exams, and a research essay of at 6-8 pages which is to be turned in near the end of the semester. Participation is essential for success in this course. Five points will be deducted for every three unexcused absences.

Discussions are especially graded on participation, and an absence during those sessions equals a 0 grade for that assignment. Absolutely no smartphone use is permitted, and phones should be removed from desks during class times.

Plagiarism and AI: Taking work directly from other sources and presenting it as your own is a serious academic offense and will automatically result in a “0” grade for your paper, and possibly for the class. In addition, students will need to meet with the instructor for explanation and will be subject to disciplinary action by the University. Modern technology has made detection of plagiarism easier than ever before, and faculty members in most cases have adopted a “zero tolerance” policy for such actions. All work produced for this class must come directly from LALS 101 students and be specific to LALS 101 for the Fall 2026 semester. The instructor requires a minimum of AI use (or none), which can be detected by our D2L software. So please be mindful of this: AI detection is no more than 50 percent.

GRADING

Final grades in this course are based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Assessments

Attendance and participation = 100 points

Discussions (5) = 100 points

Exams (2) = 100 points each

Research paper = 100 points

Total possible = 500 points

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

(The instructor reserves the right to make changes or adjustments in the schedule.)

Week 1

- The Mexican Revolution and Mexican migration
Readings: *Harvest of Empire* (pp. 30-90), class materials

Week 2

- Ethnic style: *pachucos*, *cholas*, and the Zoot Suit Riot
Readings: *Harvest*, 208-120, class materials

Week 3

- First Discussion
The Chicano Movement
Readings: *Harvest of Empire*, 185-129, *Revolt of the Cockroach People*, whole book

Week 4

- Film, "Walkout"

Week 5

- Second Discussion
- Cuba and the Cuban Revolution
Readings: *Harvest of Empire* (121-130), *Dreaming in Cuban*, whole book

Week 6

- Film, "Castro: A Life of Revolution"
- Cuban Migration and Identity

Week 7

- Second Discussion
- Puerto Ricans and American Empire
Readings: *Harvest of Empire*, 91-107

Week 8

- 1960s Puerto Rican Identity, Activism and Visibility
We Took the Streets, whole book

Week 9

- Chicano street and prison gangs

Week 10

- Third Discussion
- The Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation (ALKQN), also film

Week 11

- Film, TBA

Week 12

- Fourth Discussion

Week 13 (Thanksgiving Week)

- Paper review

Week 14

- Exam review
- Paper due

Week 15

- Final Exam

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

[instructor should insert any specific course policies]

Interaction with Instructor Statement

[To be determined by the faculty member teaching the course]

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

Statement on Student Grievances

Students who have questions or concerns about the instructor's course policies or the conduct either of the instructor or a classmate should first consult with the instructor. In the event of a lack of resolution

or satisfaction on the matter, the student may bring their concerns to the head of the History Department, Sharon Kowalsky (Sharon.Kowalsky@etamu.edu). If this does not result in a satisfactory conclusion to the matter, students may bring the issue to the attention of the Associate Dean of Students per procedures outlined on pp. 15-19 of the Student Guide Book.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.etamu.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

AI Use Policy

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there may be legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructor's guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed. In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.etamu.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.etamu.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.etamu.edu/counsel

