CCS/LATAM 380 Syllabus Fall 2014

CCS/LATAM380 US/Mexico Borderlands Folklore
Classroom M 265
Mondays 4-6:40
Instructor: Coral MacFarland Thuet
Contact information: cmacfarl@mail.sdsu.edu (best way to contact me)
Office: AL 372
Office Hours: Wednesdays and Fridays 9:45 to 11:45

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Mexican-American Folklore by John Q. West
Folk Saints of the Borderlands by James S. Griffith
Aztlan US/Mexico Border Culture and Folklore an Anthology, 4th edition
by Jose Villarino and Arturo Ramirez

There will be other assigned readings TBA. No need of purchase, these readings will be online.

Course Description:
This course is a survey of Mexican and Chicano Folklore, their folk tales, folk heroes, cuentos/stories, dichos/sayings, folk music, folk art, and folk practices of the Mexican people in Mexico and in the Southwest

Course Objectives are the following:
To understand US/Mexico border culture through the study of its folk tales, legends, urban myths, folk saints, Mexican and Chicano folk heroes, corridos/ballads, dichos/sayings, stories and colloquial language patterns and expressions.
To grasp the importance of folklore in the Mexican and Chicano cultures.
To develop understanding of the various ancient traditions and customs and their relevance to the border region.
To understand the relationship between ancient myths and current belief systems.
To develop an understanding of the similarities and differences of the values and needs of other cultures through the study of US/Mexico borderlands folklore.

Method of Instruction: The course will be divided into several themes including, folk and urban legends from the US/Mexico border region, ancient Mexican myths and legends, corridos/ballads, folk heroes, folk saints, border folk traditions, folk foods, border literature, the use or language in the border region, folk architecture, theater, and art. There will be lectures on the various themes, reading assignments, guest speakers and artists, class discussions, documentary films, outside cultural activities, story and poetry writing, and student project presentations. Grading will be based on 2 exams, 5 pop quizzes, two reports on outside the classroom cultural activities, one paper and one written poem.

Required assignments, projects, quizzes and exams.

Readings: The student is to read and study assigned chapters prior to the beginning of each class session and be prepared to discuss them in class.

Pop quizzes: Pop quizzes will be given 5 times during the semester and will based on the reading assignment for that week. This is done to insure reading assignments are done prior to the beginning of each class session.
**Cultural Events:** Students are required to attend two cultural events on campus or in the Community and write a short essay for each event. Choose an event where you will learn about US/Mexico Borderland culture and/or Folklore. Try to attend events that are free of charge or of minimal expense. The student may visit museums, cultural centers, cultural events where Mexican and/or Mexican-American music, dance, theater or poetry are presented, lectures, book presentations, cultural festivals (such as La Gueleguetza). Chicano Park would be an excellent choice and is highly recommended.

Proof of attendance: You must provide proof of attendance to the cultural event or your paper will not be accepted. If you turn in the proof of attendance late, your paper will be considered late. Papers may be turned in up to one week late for maximum half credit. Papers will not be accepted after the one week. Event papers may be turned in ahead of time if necessary. As proof of attendance, have a picture of yourself taken at the event or take it yourself (“selfie”). You must be in the picture! Staple it to the back of your report.

**Paper:** 2 full pages, size 12 font, standard margins, Times New Roman style font, and double spaced. On left hand corner, single spaced, write your full name as registered at SDSU, the date, EVENT #1 or Event #2, and the class name and number. Write your personal number on the right hand corner of your paper. You must staple your paper. Points will be deducted if the above instructions are not followed.

**Content:** Give a brief description of the event, where it took place and the date. Explain 2 new and valuable lessons you learned by attending the event. This should be the main focus of your paper. Be specific and clear. Your grade will be based the depth of what you learned, paper organization, writing skills, grammar, and if directions were followed. Use standard English, no slang please! If you use quotes, do not block from the rest of the paragraph. Go to the Department or Rhetoric and Writing Studies or the English Department’s “drop-in-tutoring” services if you need help.

**Suggested venues:** Chicano Park, San Diego Museum of Man, Heritage Museum, Chicano/Latino art galleries, Centro Cultural de la Raza, The Front at Casa Familiar, Mission de Alcala, Mexican or Mexican/American art exposition or other folkloric musical/cultural event. If in doubt, please ask. If you are currently enrolled in CCS/LATAM310, you may not use the same event for both classes. Events must be attended during the current semester.

**Research project and presentation:** Individuals or small groups, depending on the size of the class, will do a research project on current folk heroes, folk saints, or folk artist, and will present findings in class using PowerPoint or similar program. Each presentation will last between 18 and 20 minutes. Students are encouraged to interview, photograph, and/or video tape for the class presentation. Decide among yourselves which area you will report on. It is important that each presenter is clear as to what was selected to report on. Choose the political, cultural, social, historical, economic, health, educational, gender, religious, transborder, cross-cultural impact of your topic. You will be graded on depth of research (Wikipedia is not an acceptable research source), new findings, conclusions reached, organization of presentation, clarity, originality, flow of presentation, and if instructions were followed. Do not rely on Google or Yahoo search engines. Start with the Library Portal. If you need assistance please go to the library and take a class on doing research through the Library Portal or ask for assistance at the desk. The librarians are more than happy to assist you. A list of research sources must be turned in to the instructor prior to the class presentation.

**Cuento/Story:** Each student will write a story worth passing on to other generations based on a true event in their lives, or a story that has been passed on to the student by elders. Part of the
assignment is to analyze why this story is important and what it is about that makes it valuable to be passed on to future generations. What lessons are being taught? What values are being passed on? How is the story tied to cultural myths and traditions? Make it interesting, be creative, and think outside the box. The story should be between 3 and 4 pages long. Describe the time, place, circumstances, who was present, etc. Use Times New Roman font, size 12 font, double spaced, standard margins. The story may be written in English, Spanish, or a combination of both if it adds to the telling of the story. If quoting, please don’t indent on page. If time permits and depending on the size of the class, stories may be shared in class.

Calavera/poem: an 8 -12 line "calavera" will be written for Day of the Dead celebration. Further explanation will be made during class. The theme TBA.

Exams: Students will be given 2 exams. They must be taken on the specified dates. If the student is absent on the exam day due to a verified emergency, the student must notify the instructor by email prior to exam time. If the student has followed procedure, the make-up exam will be taken during office hours. Excuses must be verified.

Quizzes: There will 5 pop quizzes during the semester. The quizzes will be based on the readings assigned for that week. The quizzes are given in order to insure the student is well prepared for class discussion. The quizzes consist of only 10 questions and are worth 20 points each. Students are to bring a Scantron (form no. 815-E) to class every time class meets. There are no make-up quizzes. If you miss the quiz for any reason, you cannot make it up but there will be extra credit opportunities to cover the missed points. There will be an opportunity to earn a total of 10 points extra credit. If a student misses a quiz due to absence or being late to class, the points can be made up by doing an extra credit assignment or by attending and extra credit event approved by the professor. Proof of attendance to the extra credit event is required.

Personal number: Each student will receive a number at the beginning of the semester. This number is to be included in every piece of paper that is turned in to the instructor. The number must be written on the right hand corner of every document. If the student does not write the assigned number on each document, two points will be deducted from the particular assignment, quiz, or exam.

All assignments are due at 4 PM on the scheduled date.

PLAGIARISM and CHEATING

Plagiarism will result in a 0 grade on the assigned project, a full grade reduction at the end of the course and the student will be reported to the University. If a student is caught cheating on an exam the above applies AND they may also fail the course.

Academic misconduct representative of the falsification of a student’s academic performance is considered plagiarism and is unacceptable as is unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing class work for credit (cheating). Plagiarism can be described as the taking of another’s ideas or writings (as well as material from the Web) and presenting them as your own through unethical or unauthorized behavior. If you quote material word for word (verbatim) you should follow appropriate MLA or APA formatting such a blocking quotes or using quotation marks at the start and end of such material as well as cite the appropriate source. For more information see SDSU General Catalog or go to web links "http://www.wpacouncil.org/node/9"; and https://www11.georgetown.edu/programs/gervase hc/plagiarism.html

TURNITIN
Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. You may submit your papers in such a way that no identifying information about you is included. Another option is that you may request, in writing, that your papers not to be submitted to Turnitin.com. However, if you choose this option you will be required to provide documentation to substantiate that the papers are your original work and do not include any plagiarized material. For additional information and instructions pertaining to Turnitin, consult the ITS Turitin resource page at: http://its.sdsu.edu/tech/plagiarism.html

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES.
If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

BLACKBOARD
Check Blackboard on a regular basis for your grades, course documents, and announcements.

USE OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT
There is to be no cell-phone, listening devices or the use of any other electronic devices in class. Please turn off and store away all equipment before class begins. This class requires active listening. It is very distracting to other students and very tempting to check emails or Facebook while in class. No listening or recording devices are permitted including cameras.

WAIVER
Outside class activities are part of the pedagogy of this class. Students must sign a waiver releasing and discharging any and all claims of danger, death, personal injury or property damage against San Diego State University as a result of your participation in the event or events.

Because there will be guests artists visiting this class, there may be changes to the schedule. Students will be notified of changes if said changes affect student preparation.

Class Calendar, CCS/LATAM 380, US-Mexico Borderlands Folklore Fall 2014

Week 1
Aug. 27
La Frontera/ Mexico/US Border
Overview of the region
What is “Folklore”
Perceptions of the border region
Class overview:
Aztlan, Indigenous Legends, Folk Heroes, Folk Healers, Folk Saints, Urban Legends of the US/Mexico Border, Border Corridos, Mexican and Chicano Folk Art, Murals, Folk architecture, Cuentos/Fables, Dichos-Sayings Folk foods, Celebrations, La Charreada.
Student introductions

Week 2 Sept. 1 No class (Labor Day)
Week 3
Sept. 8
Folk Speech, Proverbs, Riddles, Folk Poetry, Language
Read Chapters 1-5 Mexican American Folklore and
Chapters 1 and 2 Aztlan, US/Mexico Border Culture and Folklore

Week 4
Sept. 15
Folk Narrative- Folk and Urban legends of the border region
Read Chapter 6 Mexican-American Folklore
and Chapter 3 Aztlan, US/Mexico Border Culture and Folklore
Sharing stories or urban legends we have heard about
Be prepared to share family stories that have been passed down from generation to generation in
your family. Bring Mexican-American Folklore book to class.

Week 5
Sept. 22
Folk Saints of the Borderland
Juan Soldado, Jesus Malverde, Teresita Urrea
Read Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 4 Folk Saints of the Borderlands
Chapter 13 Aztlan, US/Mexico Border Culture & Folklore

Week 6
Sept. 29
Folk Saints continued..
Pedrito Jaramillo, Pancho Villa, Nino Fidencio
Read Chapters 5, 6, 7 & 8 Folk Saints of the Borderlands
Cuento/Story due today.

Week 7
Oct. 6
Beliefs and Superstitions
La Bruja, La llorona, The Treacherous Woman Archetype
Read Chapter 8 Mexican American Folklore pp. 137-46
Aztlan, US/Mexico Border Culture and Folklore
pp. 33-47, 51-58, 185-187 207-218
Cultural Event #1 due

Week 8
Oct. 13
Exam # 1- Based on the first 6 weeks
Folk Heroes-
Pedro J. Gonzalez
The Longoria affair

Week 9
Oct. 20
Mexican Legends and legendary Mexicans-Americans
Cesar Chavez, Joaquin Murrieta, Bert Corona, Laura Rodriguez, Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzalez, and
others.
Read: Aztlan 73-77, 81-85, 93-95, 99-100, 105-109. 129-133
Week 10  
Oct. 27  
Corridos! Legends and stories told through music  
Read Chapter 7 Ballads and Folksongs Mexican American Folklore  
Read the following pages on Aztlan, US/Mexico Border Culture and Folklore  
77-80, 97-98, 102-104, 110-111, 161-176  
Extra assignment due today (Calaveras for Dia de Muertos)

Week 11  
Nov. 3  
Customs, rituals, festivals, la Charreada, Dia de Muertos  
Read Chapter 9, Mexican American Folklore

Week 12  
Nov. 10  
Border Folk Art, Crafts and Muralismo Chicano, Low Rider Culture  
Read Chapter 14, Mexican American Folklore  
And Chapter 30 Aztlan  
Class Presentations  
Cultural Event #2 Due

Week 13  
Nov. 17  
Folk Foods, Games, Potpourri  
Read: Chapters 11, 13 & 15 Mexican American Folklore  
pp. 65-69 Aztlan  
Class presentations

Week 14  
Nov. 24  
Folk Drama & Theater  
Teatro Campesino, Teatro de las Chicanas, Lucha Libre, and more…. 
Read: Chapter 10 Mexican American Folklore  
Class presentations  
Extra Credit due

Week 15  
Dec. 1  
Folk Architecture  
Read Chapter 12 Mexican American Folklore  
Class presentations

Dec. 8  
Open  
Class Presentations

Week 16  
Final Exam  
Thursday, December 11, 4-6PM
**STUDENT EVALUATION:**

Student can earn a possible 500 points.

Exam #1 125  
Exam #2 125  
Quizzes #5 @ 10 50  
Cuento/Story -paper 50  
Class Presentation: 100  
Cultural Events: 2 X 20 40  
Calavera/poem 10

Extra credit: 1 opportunity worth 10 points.

**SEMESTER GRADING**

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