



Mountain View College
Division of Communications and Teacher Education
Phone: (214) 860-8783 FAX: (214) 860-8755
Spring 2007

Cultural Studies (CUST) 2370
Section 6001/6002

Class Meeting Days/Time: 11:15 – 12:10 p.m., MWF, Room W104
3 Credit Hours

Instructors

Dr. Geoffrey Grimes, W273
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Dr. Laura Gonzalez, W220C
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Course Materials/Supplies Needed

Access to a computer, floppy disk, access to Microsoft

Textbook Title/Edition Number

Emerson, Robert M., Rachel I. Fretz, and Linda L. Shaw. *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. Chicago: UC Press, 1995.

ISBN: 0-226-20681-5

Course Prerequisites

English 1301

DCCC Catalog Course Description

(Not included in the MVC Catalog)

Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies

(Not specified)

Exemplary Educational Objectives

(Not specified)

Instructor Objectives

Students in this course will learn how the Oak Cliff Latino communities work, how families, churches, schools, businesses, political groups, local community organizations, and sports/recreational programs are organized. Through these agencies, readings,

and our observations, we will learn what issues are important to the groups that make up the several Latino communities.

As a result of this course, you will be able to

1. describe/write about a culture different from your own.
2. describe/write about your own culture.
3. observe and participate in the daily life of the Oak Cliff community.
4. write objective observations of experiences in the community.
5. learn how to construct and analyze genealogies (family trees) and sociograms.
6. compose a journal including your observations and interviews supporting your class assignments
7. discuss readings about Latino/Latina cultures.
8. identify and explain the unique elements that characterize different Oak Cliff communities.
9. understand why people in various communities act the way they do and make the decisions they do
10. observe objectively, as ethnographers should
11. describe what you see, orally and in writing
12. read actively
13. write objectively, concisely, but in your own style
14. enter a community other than your own
15. approach, respect, and interview informants
16. research and write a brief history of a local agency or organization
17. give effective presentations

Attendance (from the college catalog):

Students are expected to attend regularly all classes in which they have enrolled. Students have the responsibility to attend class and to consult with the instructor when an absence occurs.

Instructors are responsible for describing class attendance policy and procedures to all students enrolled in their classes. If a student is unable to complete a course (or courses) in which he/she is registered, it is the student's responsibility to withdraw from the course by the appropriate date. (The date is published in the academic calendar for each year.) If the student does not withdraw, he/she will receive a performance grade, usually an F.

Grading Scale

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| In-Class Participation | 25% |
| The Journal (including the Observations) | 25% |
| Genealogy/Family History Project | 40% |
| Student/Family Contract or Service Learning | 10% |

Makeup Exam Policy

There are no exams in this course.

Late Work Policy

Assignments are due as your instructors announce periodically throughout the course. Late work will be penalized ten points subtracted from the grade awarded to the assignment.

Evaluation Procedures

Your grade in the course will be based on five elements:

- 1) In-class participation (regular attendance, peer review, instructor evaluation, see below)
- 2) Completion of the Journal and Observations (graded on the basis of writing quality and the accuracy of observations)
- 3) Presentation of the genealogies and family history projects, collected in a final portfolio of all class work (see handout for preparing the final portfolio)
- 4) Student/Family involvement or volunteer work in the community
- 4) Honors work and/or extra credit activities (optional)

You will be assigned a numerical grade for each of these elements by the team of instructors and receive mid-term and end-of-year grade reports.

Compositions

This course assumes that you have mastered the conventions of standard written American English. All papers should be carefully edited before submission, for they will be judged on content, style, correctness, and appearance. Each assignment should be typed with a full heading in the upper left corner, double-spaced, and in plain type 12 point fonts (Arial, Times New Roman, or Helvetica). Avoid text decorations in any reports or presentations not approved in advance.

Observations

Each observation should be a minimum of two full typed pages (for "C" credit) and longer for additional credit.

Reports and Presentations

Each presentation should be carefully organized and rehearsed. Use index cards rather than full-page texts when presenting your reports before the class. Dress appropriately in business attire; shorts, cut-offs, and other informal attire is inappropriate.

Participation

Your instructors will evaluate your overall contributions to the class through your notes and comments, informed discussions, and active listening and responding to fellow classmate presentations. ***You cannot participate if you are not present!***

Student/Family Contract or Service Learning Volunteer Work

The theme of the course, "Fiesta Oak Cliff," implies connections to and within our community and the greater service area of Mountain View College. To that end, ten percent of your grade in this course will reflect your "connections" to that community,

either through the involvement of a key family member in your learning work or through your volunteer efforts in the DCCCD Service Learning program that connects MVC and other District students in a volunteer service contract with non-profit social service agencies in our area. Both options will fulfill our objective for you—that you grow through your involvement in our community, a chief end of higher education anywhere.

Course Outline

January

- 17W Greetings; overview of the course, distribution of syllabi, calendar and course CD-ROM
Assignment: Watch the CD-ROM and review the web pages of Cultural Studies 2370:
<http://www.distancelearningassociates.com/cust2370/cust2370.htm>
and
The Oak Cliff Center for Community Studies
<http://www.oakcliffccs.org>
- 19F “The Boston Excursion”; review the syllabus
Assignment: Buy your textbook in the MVC Bookstore; bring it to class; begin visits to the Oak Cliff Center for Community Studies
- 22M Review the textbook and the course exercises; introduce the (optional) Student-Family Contract, the (optional) Honors Project, and (optional) Service Learning
Assignment: complete the Student-Family Contract and/or proposal for the Honors Project
- 24W Submit the Student-Family Contract and the Honors Project proposal
“What is Culture, Anthropology, and Ethnography?” - Dr. Gonzalez
Quiz on key elements of culture, anthropology, and ethnography
- 26F Introduce the Observations; explain Observation 1: “MVC During a Peak Hour”
View video for practice observation; distribute a copy of a good student observation
Assignment: Prepare Observation 1
- 29M Submit Observation 1
Discuss Observation 1
An Overview of the Oak Cliff Center for Community Studies, Genealogies, and Journals
- 31W “Tips for Active Reading” and in-class exercises - Dr. Grimes
Assignment: Read Chapter 1 in Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes (WEF)

February

- 2F Submit your textbook with annotations (for a daily grade)
Group discussions of key concepts in Chapter 1 (WEF)
Assignment: Complete Observation 2: “The Field House”
- 5M Submit Observation 2: “The Field House”
“How to Develop a Genealogy,” Dr. Gonzalez
Assignment: Read and annotate Chapter 2 (WEF)
Prepare a rough copy of your own family’s genealogy and be ready to explain it to one of your classmates on Wednesday.
- 7W “How to Develop a Genealogy” (continued)
In-class exercise on the draft of your family genealogy
Assignment: Read WEF, Chapter 3
- 9F Discuss WEF, Chapter 3
Introduce the Oak Cliff Family History Project
- 12M Review the master draft of your Family Genealogy Project
- 14W Begin Presentations of Family Genealogies
- 16F (Continue Presentations of the Genealogies)
- 19M (Continue Presentations of the Genealogies)
- 21W (Continue Presentations of the Genealogies)
- 23F (Continue Presentations of the Genealogies)
- 26M (Continue Presentations of the Genealogies)
- 28W (Continue Presentations of the Genealogies)
Assignment: Complete Observation 3: Eating and Flirting

March

- 2F Submit Observation 3: Eating or Flirting; introduce the second half of the semester and the projects
- 5M “Ethnocentrism, Classism, Racism, and Stereotyping,” Dr. Grimes
”Burlesque and the Crockett Almanacs,” Dr. Grimes
- 7W “Faces of the Enemy” (video)
The Mary Stupp Endowment for Social Justice
- 9F Class Lunch Salvadorian Style

12 – 16 Spring Break

- 19M “Exorcising Demons: Demolishing Stereotypes,” Dr. Grimes
“When the People Lead” (video)
- 21W “Preparing for the Future,” Dr. Gonzalez
”The State of Texas” (video)
- 23F “Preparing for the Future”
The Mexican Diaspora in the United States, Dr. Gonzalez
- 26M “Preparing for the Future,” Dr. Gonzalez
Maria Arita, Channel 11 TV
- 28W “Preparing for the Future,” Dr. Gonzalez
Former MVC Students
Dr. Gonzalez
- 30F “Preparing for the Future: Higher Education – The Latino Experience”
Felix A. Zamora, President, MVC

April

- 2M “Ethics and the Social Sciences,” Dr. Gonzalez
- 4W “Border Issues,” Dr. Grimes
“Zoned for Slavery” (video)
Review Options 1 and 2 for Observation 4: “An Oak Cliff Site Visitation”
Assignment: Complete Observation 4
- 6F Good Friday (Campus is closed)
- 9M Submit Observation 4
“Border Issues,” Dr. Grimes and Dr. Gonzalez
“Natives – The United States Immigration Debate”
- 11W Review of Journals and Research Materials for Class Projects
Review student progress in the course

Thursday, April 12—the last day to withdraw from a course with a “W”

- 13F “History of Dallas and Oak Cliff,” Guest Lecturer
- 16M “Your College Degree Plan and Selecting Senior Universities,” Dr. Grimes
Assignment: Prepare a brief abstract of your final presentation

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| 18W | Review the “Family History Project” |
| 20F | Begin presentations of the “Family History Projects” |
| 23M | (Continue presentations of the “Family History Projects”) |
| 25W | (Continue presentations of the “Family History Projects”) |
| 27F | (Continue presentations of the “Family History Projects”) |
| 30M | (Continue presentations of the “Family History Projects”) |
| May | |
| 2W | “Rites of Passage,” Dr. Grimes “La Fiesta Quinceañera” (video) |
| 4F | (“Rites of Passage” continued) |
| 5Sat | “Fiesta Oak Cliff” – It’s a Party! (at the Oak Cliff Center For Community Studies) |
| 9W | Final Exam (Complete Presentations of the Family History Project including the Genealogies and/or Sociograms) |

Course Schedule of Assignments & Exams

(See the dates above for presentation and submission dates). ***Each student is expected to be ready with the course genealogies and family history projects on the first day of presentations. Students who are not ready for presentation will be penalized a letter grade deducted from the final grade assigned to the project.***

Withdrawal Policy

To drop a class or withdraw from the College, students must obtain a drop or withdrawal form and follow the prescribed procedure. Should circumstances prevent a student from appearing in person to withdraw from the College, the student may withdraw by mail by writing to the Registrar. No drop or withdrawal requests are accepted by telephone. Students who drop a class or withdraw from the College before the semester deadline receive a “Withdraw” in each class dropped.

Semester Drop Date

The deadline for withdrawal with a “W” this semester is Thursday, April 12th.

Disruptive Behavior

All students are expected to adhere to the principles of the DCCCD Student Code of Conduct. Failure to do so can result in penalties, including up to suspension from the college.

District Third Attempt Policy**Withdrawal Policy (with drop date):**

If you are unable to complete this course, it is your responsibility to withdraw formally. The withdrawal request must be received in the Registrar's Office by Thursday, April 12, 2007. Failure to do so will result in your receiving a performance grade, usually an "F." Students who never attend a class session and who then fail to withdraw before the official drop date will receive a grade of "N" in the course.

If you drop a class or withdraw from the college before the official drop/withdrawal deadline, you will receive a "W" (Withdraw) in each class dropped.

Repeating This Course:

Effective for Fall Semester 2005, the Dallas County Community Colleges will charge additional tuition to students registering the third or subsequent time for a course. This class may be repeated for the third or subsequent time without paying the additional tuition. Third attempts include courses taken at any of the Dallas County Community Colleges since the Fall 2002 semester. More information is available at:

https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0506/ss/oep/third_attempt.cfm .

Financial Aid:

If you are receiving financial aid grants or loans, you must begin attendance in all classes. Do not drop or stop attending any class without consulting the Financial Aid Office. Changes in your enrollment level and failing grades may require that you repay financial aid funds.

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI)

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) is a statewide program designed to ensure that students enrolled in Texas public colleges and universities have the basic academic skills needed to be successful in college-level course work. The TSI requires assessment, remediation (if necessary), and advising of students who attend a public college or university in the state of Texas. The program assesses a student's basic academic skills in reading, writing, and math. Passing the assessment is a prerequisite for enrollment in many college level classes. Students who do not meet assessment standards may complete prerequisite requirements by taking developmental courses in the deficient area and passing them with a grade of C or higher. Additional information is available at https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0506/admiss/tsi_requirements.cfm .

Academic Honesty:

Academic honesty is expected, and integrity is valued in the Dallas County Community Colleges. Scholastic dishonesty is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion.

As a college student, you are considered a responsible adult. Your enrollment indicates acceptance of the [DCCCD Code of Student Conduct](#) published in the DCCCD Catalog. More information is available at <https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0406/ss/code.cfm> .

ADA Statement:

If you are a student with a disability and/or special needs who requires accommodations, please contact the college Disability Services Office.

Religious Holidays:

Absences for observance of a religious holy day are excused. A student whose absence is excused to observe a religious holy day is allowed to take a make-up examination or complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

Disclaimer Reserving Right to Change Syllabus:

The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.

Inclement Weather Statement:

In the event there is inclement weather that affects regular scheduled classes and events on the Mountain View campus, the Dallas County Community College District and Mountain View College web pages will display a notification of any closings or delays. If there is no notice of changes or delays, then classes are in session as usual. You also may refer to announcements on major television and radio stations in the event that the DCCCD or Mountain View College Internet sites cannot be accessed.

Revised January 16, 2007