



HUMA 1311 – Mexican American Fine Arts Appreciation

Course Syllabus: Fall 2026

“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed.”

Instructor: Dr. Maryna Svirska-Otero

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Weekday during Fall and Spring terms	Office Hours
Monday	8:00 AM – 1:30 PM
Tuesday	8:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Wednesday	None
Thursday	8:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Friday	None

This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.

Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.

Course Description:

This course is an exploration of the purposes and processes in the visual and performing arts (such as music, painting, drama, and dance) and the ways in which they express the values of the Mexican American/Chicano/a experience.

Prerequisite(s): Not applicable

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Employ formal elements and principles to critically analyze various works of the visual and performing arts.
2. Articulate the creative process of artistic works as expressions of Mexican American/Chicano/a experiences and cultural values.
3. Formulate an understanding of how Mexican American/Chicano/a arts reflect shifting cultural identities.
4. Describe the relationship of Mexican American/Chicano/a arts to everyday life.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

The breakdown of the course requirements is as follows:

%	Requirement
40%	Discussion-Based Assignments (Include Module Art-Specific Assignments)

40%	Discussions (Include Module Textbook Reading)
20%	Assignments (Include Artistic Presentation Reaction and Personal Artistic Expression)

Semester grades will be earned as follows

Percentage	Letter Grade
89.5% and above	A
79.5 %–89%	B
69.5 %–79%	C
59.5%–69%	D
59.4% and below	F

Required Instructional Materials:

Tatum, Charles *Chicano Popular Culture, Second Edition: Que Hable el Pueblo (The Mexican American Experience)*.

You will need to purchase your textbook through the NTCC Bookstore or another source. You will have access to the Module 1 reading materials within the corresponding folder through Blackboard Ultra to allow you time to purchase the textbook by Module 2.

Optional Instructional Materials:

Spanish/English print or digital dictionary of your choice.

Minimum Technology Requirements:

You must have access to a computer to take this course. Your computer needs to have Windows XP SP3 or later or MAC OS X10.3 or higher. You will need Office 2003 or higher, and you will need broadband internet access. You can check your operating system by right-clicking on the My Computer icon on the home screen. You can check your word processing program by going to Start and clicking on All Programs. You will find your Office program there. If you do not have access to a computer with the minimum computer requirements, I strongly suggest that you reconsider taking this online course.

Required Computer Literacy Skills:

- Ability to use Blackboard as well as Microsoft Office. Microsoft Office programs, including Word, are provided free to all enrolled students.
- You may need to record voice and video clips or create PowerPoint presentations for certain assignments. You can record directly inside Blackboard or use your own device. If you host your files on external platforms (like OneDrive, Google Drive, YouTube, or Vocaroo, among others), you must set the privacy permissions to "Unlisted" or "Anyone with the link can view" so the professor can access and grade your work.

Course Structure and Overview:

- This coursework is fully available on Blackboard. Begin with the Start Here module and observe the contents of Modules 1-8.
- Personal study time will be necessary to complete the required readings, discussion, and assignments.
- Tatum's *Chicano Popular Culture, Second Edition: Que Hable el Pueblo (The Mexican American Experience)*

will be used as a primary instructional resource throughout the course. Selected readings and materials will provide students with historical, cultural, and artistic perspectives on Mexican American experiences and popular culture. The resource will support course discussions and activities by helping students examine how Mexican American identity, traditions, values, and experiences are represented and expressed through the fine arts and popular culture.

Communications:

NTCC uses the college email system as the official form of communication for all matters. Students may communicate with me at msvirskaotero@ntcc.edu or contact me through Microsoft Teams or Blackboard messages. All questions or other needs for information will receive a response within 24-48 hours. The fastest way to reach me is through Microsoft Teams. Students are encouraged to check their NTCC email daily.

Institutional/Course Policy:

- Consistency is Key: Learning is a cumulative process that requires daily practice. Be diligent with your daily study time, staying on top of reading, discussions, and assignments.
- Deadlines Matter: Keeping up with dates is important. Please note that Blackboard automatically tracks the exact date and time of all submissions, so plan to ensure timely submissions.
- Academic Language and Mechanics: HUMA 1311 is an academic course. All oral and written submissions should follow standard academic rules for oral and written output, including proper word choice, sentence structure, capitalization, and punctuation, among other aspects.
- Late Work and Extensions: Late submissions will receive a 10% deduction if turned in within one week of the due date. Work submitted more than one week late will not be accepted. If you face extenuating personal circumstances and need an extension, it is your responsibility to contact the professor before the deadline to request accommodation.

Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or Alternate Course Delivery Requirements:

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to, online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC's website (<http://www.ntcc.edu/>) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information.

Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid). Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format. Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

Statement Regarding the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology:

Employees and students shall be permitted to explore artificial intelligence (AI) and implement its use in and out of the classroom in accordance with policy and administrative regulations. The use of AI shall only be as a support tool to enhance student outcomes or as necessary to engage in research and shall never take the place of faculty, staff, and student decision-making. Any use of AI must comply with law, policy, and administrative regulations relating to student and employee privacy and data security. A student shall only use AI tools with faculty permission and shall be expected to produce original work and properly credit sources, including AI tools used in creating the work.

Example:

APA (7th edition)

OpenAI. (2026). ChatGPT (March 25 version) [Large language model]. <https://chat.openai.com/>
MLA (9th edition)
OpenAI. ChatGPT. 25 Mar. 2026, <https://chat.openai.com/>.

Employees or students who use AI tools to deceptively harm, bully, or harass others shall be disciplined in accordance with policy. [See DH, DIA series, FFD series, FFE, FLB, and the FM series] AI Use by Employees and Students. Northeast Texas Community College 225500 TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES CRB ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (LOCAL) DATE ISSUED: 12/8/2025 1 of 1 UPDATE 50 CRB(LOCAL)-AJC Adopted: 12/16/2025

NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodation for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodation. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special populations page on the NTCC website.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

Tentative Course Schedule: HUMA 1311

Module 1: Start Here Module, Definitions and Theoretical Approaches to Popular Culture

Module 2: Music

Module 3: Cinema

Module 4: Newspapers, Radio, and Television

Module 5: Popular Literature

Module 6: Art

Module 7: Celebrations and Other Popular Traditions

Module 8: Final Projects

Fall 2026 first class day 8/24/2026
Fall 2026 last day to drop with "W" 11/17/2026
Fall 2026 last class day 12/3/2026
Fall 2026 final examinations 12/4/2026 - 12/10/2026
Fall 2026 graduation 12/11/2026
Spring 2027 first class day 1/18/2027
Spring 2027 last day to drop with "W" x/x/2027
Spring 2027 last class day x/x/2027
Spring 2027 final examination x/x-x/2027
Spring 2027 graduation 5/15/2027
Summer 1 first class day 6/7/2027
Summer 1 last day to drop with "W" 6/30/2027
Summer 1 last class day/final examination 7/8/2027
Summer 2 first class day 7/12/2027
Summer 2 last day to drop with "W" 8/5/2027
Summer 2 last class day/final examination 8/12/2027
Summer graduation 8/13/2027