

SYLLABUS || SPRING 2020
Searching For The Plane Wreck at Los Gatos

Research Methodology & Narrative Making || CRW 5368 - CRN 25701

Studies in Borderlands History || HIST 5312 - CRN 23031

Tues./ Thurs. 1:30-2:50pm || Hudspeth Hall 313

Prof. Tim Z. Hernandez

E: tzhernandez@utep.edu || Cell: 303-437-9435

Office Hours

Tuesdays 11-1pm, or by appointment

Education Bldg. Room 905

Important Dates

Class begins January 21

Spring Break, March 16-20

Last day of class, May 7

Finals week, May 11-15

Class Final due May 12, 3pm

Course Description

This is a research heavy course based on the ongoing investigative work surrounding the famous 1948 plane crash at Los Gatos Canyon, in which 28 Mexicans were killed while being deported and buried in a mass unmarked grave for 70 years. Students will assist Professor Hernandez in collecting data, interviewing subjects, and documenting the process of this subject. This course will also include complimentary texts such as Ronald Blythe's *Akenfield*, Renato Rosaldo's narrative experiments in auto-ethnography, texts of New Journalism, and Historical Fiction, and handouts on fiction, non-fiction, the ethics of oral histories and narratives of witness. There will also be some creative writing focusing on how one turns research into compelling creative narrative, however, this course is ultimately designed to give students hands-on experience as they work together on a common research subject. This course is cross-listed and will be accepting three students from the History Department and twelve students from the Department of Creative Writing.

Required Texts

- *All They Will Call You*, Tim Z. Hernandez (University of Arizona Press)
- *The Chasers*, Renato Rosaldo (Duke University Press)
- *The New New Journalism*, Ed. Robert S. Boynton (Vintage)
- *The Collected Works of Billy The Kid*, Michael Ondaajte, (Vintage, Paperback)
- *Letters to Memory*, Karen Tei Yamashita (Coffee House Press)

Handouts

- *Everyone Had Cameras*, Richard Steven Street
- *Mayan Drifter*, Juan Felipe Herrera
- *Akenfield: Portrait of An English Village*, Ronald Blythe
- *My American Century*, Studs Terkel
- *Notes on Poetry & Ethnography*, Renato Rosaldo
- and others

(*Text and handouts list is subject to change, or be expanded)

Some Instructional Guidelines

This course will consist of three main components: 1) Completion of research assignments, tasks, and gathering/filing of data, 2) In class discussions; this will be a combination of the assigned readings, but can also be discussions of ideas, concepts, new directions, research guidance, tips, techniques, handouts, anything that we discuss in the classroom, 3) Creative writing prompts and output; this will be measured by meeting basic requirements of the assignment, but also the creative aspect, are you pushing yourself creatively, experimenting with possibilities, is a real effort toward creative advancement demonstrated.

Required Materials

- 16gb Flash Drive
- Small notepad for “research notes”
- Digital Journal: This will be a single Word Doc that you will use to journal your research process throughout this course.
- Recording device (can be app)

Assignments

Assignments are made up primarily of the following activities: Readings, writing prompts, workshops, critical feedback on writing, digital journals, and engaged class discussion. Some of the assignment will be listed in the Syllabus but please note that because this is the first time I am offering this course it is still being developed, therefore assignments are susceptible to being changed, depending on the direction of the research itself, new ideas, and/ or interests of the class. If this happens, I will always give you advance notice, either in person or via email, so please be aware of all emails from me. Assignments must be turned in on time. No late assignments are accepted. Please see the policy below.

Digital Journals

You will be asked to keep a journal to track your own research process, findings, ideas, thoughts, etc...throughout the course. This must be done as a WORD DOC. Each entry must have the date and time logged.

Late Assignments & Make-Up Work Policy

Because the basis of this course relies heavily on the homework assignments, if your work is not turned in on time chances are it will disrupt the flow of this course. Therefore, no late assignments are allowed under any circumstances without prior notification. In the case of an emergency, you can contact Professor Hernandez (303-437-9435) by call or text and an arrangement will be considered. This is on a case per case basis and at the discretion of the instructor. All late assignments will be given an automatic "0" grade, which will be counted toward your final grade average. **PLEASE NOTE:** There is no late policy for the FINAL PORTFOLIO because a late final will not be accepted, unless for medical reasons with advance notice, and a note from the Doctor.

Blackboard For "Independent Research Days"

Throughout the semester we will also have "Independent Research Days" where you will use the class time to conduct your research, and then be made to post your findings on the Blackboard shell, and possibly respond to one another's work. These days will be posted as we go along, and I will also give you a verbal advance notice, so please be aware as they come up. Also, note that completing these Blackboard assignments on time will count as your attendance and grade, just as if you are in the classroom.

Two Events You Must Attend

As a part of your overall grade, you are required to attend two community events that coincide with our field of study. They must either be events that our initiated by the Dept of Creative of Writing, or the History Dept, or otherwise have prior approval by me in order to count. For your convenience, here are two that have my prior approval:

- TRACY K SMITH READING ON THURSDAY, JAN 30, UNION BLDG. 6:30pm.
- TIM HERNANDEZ TALK at BOTH SIDES NO SIDES ZEN CENTER, THURS. FEB. 20, 6:30pm. Location: 2718 Campbell St. El Paso, TX. 79902

For each event you are required to do a one page (no less than 400 words) write up. Your write-up will focus on how you felt the presentation coincided with our field of study, your specific research goals, and what you took away from it. It's basically a reflection, but with some details and specifics.

Final Portfolio

Each student will turn in a "Final Research Portfolio" on a Flash Drive. The portfolio will consist of the following:

- Research Process Paper & Digital Journal. The Process paper must be 3-5 pages in length, demonstrating whether or not you met your research goals for the course, and if not, what were some of the obstacles, things you learned along the way, referencing some of the texts or techniques we studied, include "works cited" page. If you achieved some of your goals, outline for us the outcomes, and areas for

further research. This paper should give special focus to YOUR specific research goals, but can include some of the larger goals of the course. You will also use some of the info from your digital journal for this, which is why you will need to include your Digital Journal.

- Submit all the writing prompts you did in this course. These need to be in MLA format as well, please label and date each one clearly.

- You will also include all materials you acquired in your research during this course, including, but not limited to online records, photos and images, audio/video interviews or transcriptions, and any other materials. Any physical folders or hard copies will need to be in a folder and submitted with your flash drive.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR FINAL: All materials must be submitted in the Flash Drive and folders must be organized with the following **FOLDER LABELS:**

Folder 1) Online Records and Data

Folder 2) Photos or scanned Images

Folder 3) Research Process Paper (3-5 pgs) & Digital Journal (date/ time)

Folder 4) Writing: creative prompts, notes, interviews, research, etc

Folder 5) Misc.

MLA Formatting: Only your Research Process Paper and your Creative Writing Prompts must be formatted in MLA standard formatting. All pages must be numbered and properly labeled with your name, the course number, and other pertinent information. Must be double-spaced, 12 pt font, Times New Roman. A works cited page is required.

FINAL PORTFOLIO DUE DATE: You may submit your final portfolio Flash Drive and Hard copies of research to my mailbox in the Department of Creative Writing, or hand it to me in-person any day between our last class, Thursday May 7 – Tuesday May 12 no later than 3pm. **NO ACCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE FOR LATE FINALS.** You will simply receive a “0” grade.

Grade Distribution

*These percentages are only approximations, but they are meant to give students an idea as to how much each area reflects upon the overall grade for the course.

- Participation/ attendance/ in-class discussions 25%
- Homework/ Research Assignments 25%
- Written work (prompts, critical papers, etc) 20%
- Final Portfolio 30%

How I Grade

I'm looking for a few key components. First, at the very basic level, all papers turned in must be formatted properly, MLA standard. If they aren't I'll deduct points. Effort must be demonstrated in all the work you do for this course. How else to measure effort but in the writing itself, in the class participation, and in the case of this course, the data collected. First the writing; in your creative writing prompts, I'll look for a developed idea, or at least, a genuine effort toward the idea. Also, are you taking risks? Are you delving deeper, pushing your own limitations? Does your work show progress over time? Did you follow the prompt? And if you did deviate from it, was it a genuine leap of creativity, or a shortcut? These things will inform how I grade your creative work. I'm not looking for "genius," but rather, a willingness to "experiment" and go beyond your comfort zone. Regarding class participation, this simple; show up to class on time, engage in the discussions. As for your research, some weeks you may find exactly what you are looking for, some weeks you may not. On the weeks you do not, you will need to be able to account for the obstacles or challenges. All of this is what I will take into account when considering your grade each week.

Cheating/Plagiarism Policy

Cheating is unethical and not acceptable. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without giving credit to the source of that information or wording; it is also not acceptable. Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself. Also, you **may not** submit work for this class that you did for another class. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Refer to <http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm> for further information.

Disabilities Policy

I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please contact me via e-mail within the first two weeks to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Disabled Student Services Office in the East Union Bldg., Room 106 within the first two weeks of classes. The Disabled Student Services Office can also be reached in the following ways: Web: <http://www.utep.edu/dsso/> Phone: (915) 747-5148 voice or TTY Fax: (915) 747- 8712 Email: dss@utep.edu

Software Requirements

You will need the following software on your computers to efficiently work in this course. In some cases your computer may already have some of these programs installed.

- Adobe Acrobat Reader. You can get the program by going to <http://www.adobe.com> and then clicking on the icon on the center of the screen which says "Get Adobe Reader". Follow instructions to install the reader.
- Adobe Flash Player. You can get the player by going to <http://www.adobe.com> and

- then clicking on "Get Adobe Flash Player". Follow instructions to install the player.
- Apple QuickTime Player. You can get this player by going to <http://www.apple.com>. Once there, click on the "Downloads" tab on the top of the page and then click on QuickTime "Download" and follow instructions.
 - Microsoft Office. I recommend buying this if you do not have any word processing software or presentation software. As students, you can generally buy this whole package for about \$25, far less than the store price of approximately \$400. Email tool with file attachment capability. Please use your UTEP email account.
 - If you do not have a UTEP e-mail account, please get one immediately. Here is how:
 - Go to <https://newaccount.utep.edu/>.
 - Create your account (remember that your date of birth is in the form mm/dd/yyyy: two digits for the month, then day, then year).
 - After you create your account, you must wait 48 hours, then go back to the site and click on "Check on existing account." Enter your UTEP Student ID Number (e.g. 80XXXXXX) and date of birth, and you will get your login name and password. Please let one of us know if you have any difficulty. You may also call the UTEP HELP desk at 1.915.747.5257.
 - The HELP desk hours are given below:
Mon-Fri 7:00am - 8:00pm (Mountain Time) SAT 9:00am - 1:00pm (Mountain Time)
Sundays Closed

Technical Support

If you have technical problems with the course, please contact the UTEP Helpdesk during the normal UTEP working hours at 915.747.4357 or you may call toll-free 1.866.747.5256. <http://issweb.iss.utep.edu/techsupport/>