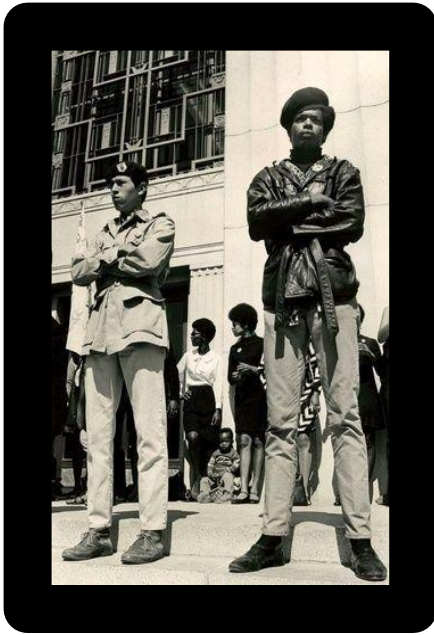




The University of Texas at El Paso



*Photo credit: Oakland Brown Berets and Black Panthers stand in front of the Alameda County Court House on July 14, 1968, the first day of Huey Newton's murder trial. Photo by Lonnie Wilson. (Courtesy of the Oakland Museum of California, the "Oakland Tribune" Collection)*

### **The UTEP Chicano Studies Program Statement of Solidarity**

The recent murders of George Floyd, Amaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and countless others represent the ongoing systemic issues of white supremacy and police brutality in this country. Current national events related to continued police brutality against Black Lives Matter protests have further demonstrated that we must unite in support of our Black brothers and sisters.

Chicano Studies unconditionally supports our hermanas y hermanos in the Black community and their chosen quest for social justice as they strive to achieve equity and equality in every facet of American life. Our choice to back and work with our neighbors is one with storied historical connections; however, and most importantly, standing in solidarity with our hermanas y hermanos is simply the right thing to do.

As program faculty and staff of the UTEP Chicano Studies program, we recognize the importance of addressing anti-Black sentiment in our communities and commit to addressing these matters across our curriculum with our students. Change begins through protest, education, and above all, through love. bell hooks teaches us that “one of the most vital ways we sustain ourselves is by building communities of resistance, places where we know we are not alone<sup>1</sup>,” so in solidarity with the UTEP Black Student Union and the African American Studies Program we commit to stand beside you in the fight against injustice. We commit to your struggle for a more just campus, community, and world because any other alternative is not acceptable.

The El Paso community cannot ignore that while we are a majority Latinx community, it is made up of African-American individuals, inclusive of transgender Black individuals, Afro-Latinx, and undocumented Black immigrants, who are our friends, family, and colleagues. Working towards creating a safe and welcoming space at UTEP - aquí, ellos tienen su casa también / here, they have their home too. While structural racism and a plethora of disparities can and do run amok in the world, Chicano Studies will stand firm with our hermanas and hermanos on and off campus.

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<sup>1</sup> hooks, b. (1992). *Yearning: Race, gender, and cultural politics.*

Right now, there is a deafening silence when there should be a resounding call to action for support, empathy, and above all - a summon to listen to the Black community. It is imperative to listen to what Black folks are saying - not an interpretation, not an analysis of from a point of privilege, or a perception and perspective emanating from a colonizing view. However, we will challenge ourselves to seek out avenues of communication and information to learn more about and listen to our Black brothers and sisters. Rest assured, the point is neither to essentialize or marginalize one history over another. We endeavor to become a space where different voices are respected and acknowledged with an understanding that histories and experiences do not happen in a vacuum.

The UTEP Chicano Studies Program faculty and staff fully support the Black Lives Matter movement and will continue to stand next to our Black brothers and sisters and loudly say their names:

**Eric Carner, John Crawford III, Michael Brown, Ezell Ford, Dante Parker, Michelle Cusseaux, Laquan McDonald, Tanisha Anderson, Akai Gurley, Tamir Rice, Romain Brisbon, Harem Reid, George Mann, Matthew Ajibade, Frank Smart, Natasha McKenna, Tony Robinson, Anthony Hill, Mya Hall, Phillip White, Eric Harris, Walter Scott, William Chapman II, Alexia Christian, Brendon Glenn, Victor Manel Larosa, Jonathan Sanders, Freddie Blue, Joseph Mann, Salvado Ellswood, Sandra Bland, Albert Joseph Davis, Darrius Stewart, Billy Ray Davis, Samuel Dubose, Michael Sabbie, Brian Ketih Day, Christian Taylor, Tory Robinson, Asshams Pharoah Manley, Felix Kumi, Keith Harrison McLeod, Junior Prosper, Lamontez Jones, Patterson Brown, Dominic Hutchinson, Anthony Ashford, Alonzo Smith, Tyree Crawford, India Kager, LaVatne Biggs, Michael Lee Marshall, Jamar Clark, Richard Perkins, Nathaniel Harris Pickett, Benni Lee Tignor, Miguel Espinal, Michael Noel, Kevin Matthews, Bettie Jones, Quintonio Legrier, Keith Childress, Jr., Janet Wilson, Randy Nelson, Antronie Scott, Wendell Celstine, David Joseph, Calin Roquemore, Dyzhawn Perkins, Christopher Davis, Marco Loud, Peter Gaines, Torrey Robinson, Darius Robinson, Kevin Hicks, Mary Truxillo, Demarcus Semer, Willie Tillman, Terrill Thomas, Sylville Smith, Alton Sterling, Philando Castille, Terence Curtcher, Paul O'Neil, Alteria Woods, Jordan Edwards, Aaron Baily, Ronell Folster, Stephon Clark, Antwon Rose II, Botham Jean, Pamela Turner, Dominique Clayton, Atatiana Jefferson, Christopher Whitfield, Christopher MCorvey, Eric Reason, Michael Lorenzo Dean, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Tony McDade, David McAtee, Italia Kelly, Travon Benjamin Martin**

Chicano Studies at The University of Texas at El Paso  
Faculty and Staff