

Welcome to Mexican America Studies (MAS)

Class Description: The goal of Mexican American Studies is to develop students into culturally literate citizens. In this class our primary objective is to prepare you to develop skills for the world beyond the classroom and have a deeper understanding of different cultures and where they come from. We focus on academic skills, writing, time management and interpersonal communication skills. Small and large group discussions are a part of classroom learning. **All students are expected to participate in class.** Our class moves quickly and covers a variety of material. Therefore, it is important not only that students keep pace with the course, but ask questions and seek additional help when needed. We will discuss some difficult and potentially controversial topics. The purpose is not to create friction, but collaboration, and the ability to listen to, and seek to understand ideas that differ from our own. My main goal is that each student comes out as a more critical thinker with an appreciation for our world as a whole.

Classroom Policies and Procedures:

A. Required Materials Needed:

1. One Subject **Spiral Notebook, Composition Notebook or Binder** will be used for **notes**. I have a few extra I am willing to hand out if necessary.
2. Students may use **Pencils or Blue or black ink pens on assignments**. **Notes** may be taken by **Pencil or Ink pen of any color**.
3. Students **MUST have laptops daily**.
4. **Borrowed Colored pencils or Markers** are to be left in class.

B. Grading Policy:

1. CATEGORIES & WEIGHTS:

TEST/PROJECTS	Daily	Extra Credit
50%	50%	TBD

2. HOMEWORK/ASSIGNMENTS

Will be used to enrich or reinforce topics covered in class. These will be given out daily and are ***intended*** to be finished in class, however, if it is not completed in class it should be done on your own time. I will give students up to 1 week to complete all assignments given the week prior, however, work is assigned daily and to keep up should be completed daily. I will also ensure that students are given an appropriate amount of time to finish an assignment/classwork.

3. LATE WORK POLICY

Late work is defined as not being turned in at the appropriate deadline. Example: If the deadline is at the beginning of the period and the assignment is not turned in until the end of the class period, it is considered one day late.

Days Late Penalty (This may change at the teachers discretion)

Each day late is 10% off per campus policy

5 days or later results in a 0 per campus policy

4. **MAKE UP WORK/TESTS**

Make – up work:

Make up work may not be provided in advance. If a student does not complete the work in the allotted time, the assignment may not be accepted. Students shall be permitted to make up assignments and tests following any absence, according to school policy. All students will receive credit for satisfactory makeup work after an absence, including excused, unexcused, and unexcused absences due to suspension. A student will have the opportunity to make up or correct any test or assignment within a certain window of time, which is at the teacher's discretion, or campus policy, and will be communicated to the students.

A student will be given the same number of missed to complete make-up tests or other missed assignments.

Example: 1 day absent = 1 school day to make up work or test

2 days absent = 2 school days to make up work or test

C. **Classroom Expectations:**

1. Be prompt, be prepared, be polite, be productive, be positive
2. Each student in my class is expected to work hard, try their best and aim high. Every student is capable of high-quality work. I expect every student to comply with the school and classroom rules and policies. I will not tolerate any student disrupting their or another student's learning environment.
 - i. Misbehavior will result in the following consequences:
 1. First Offense: Verbal Warning
 2. Second Offense: Parent Contact
 3. Third Offense: Referral

Some consequences may be skipped depending on severity of the offense

D. **Privileges**

1. Cell Phones - **Cell phones are NOT permitted in class or at school** per state law.
2. Food and drink are NOT allowed in class. I do NOT want bugs, ants or rodents in the room. Any food or drink brought into the classroom will be thrown in the trash. Exceptions made for bottled water or a student who did not have the opportunity to eat lunch or breakfast due to circumstances out of their control. All a student needs to do is ask.

E. **Contact Information**

1. Email is the best way to get a hold of me: ross.ohanlon@fortbendisd.gov
2. Tutorial Hours: Mondays/Fridays: 7:00-7:20 am.
 - i. I am unavailable in the afternoons, due to coaching responsibilities.
3. Reminders will be posted regularly online. Parents are able to see students work via the online classroom.

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Mexican American Studies. I am looking forward to an exciting year learning about our world's cultures and advances. In this course, we place a focus on the different people coming together to change the world and culture around them. The struggle for survival and working together. We break down peoples and events that have influenced and changed our History, and see where we are going into the 21st century.

I have high expectations of my students. Students are expected to come to class on time and prepared everyday with both materials (a writing utensil and notebook/paper) and assignments completed. I also expect my students to actively participate in class and make the most of their time in class. In order to maintain an academic focus, I require that students follow behavioral expectations. These include, but are not limited to, arriving to class on time, listening and remaining quiet when the teacher is speaking, not using electronic devices or eating in the classroom, and showing respect to everyone.

Please take this opportunity, once again, to view the Course Syllabus sheet. Students are expected to keep up with the assignments and projects that are assigned in and outside of class. You are welcome to make a copy for yourself in order to monitor your child's assignments.

Students will need their notes and laptops DAILY, failure to do so will result in lost points, or lost opportunities to complete work. I set up my class to allow students to NOT HAVE HOMEWORK. However, if they fail to take care of business there will be things they need to take home and complete. There are few occasions when I will send work home with students. Additionally, I allow test corrections for each student. This is done in class the day after, or a few days after, the test. Those who make 65 and below will get half credit back, those who made below a 65 will correct all to bring their grade to a 70. I have a sheet we will follow to complete corrections, if done incorrectly students will gain no, or only a few points back.

After reviewing the information, please provide me with your contact information and sign below indicating you and your child understand the requirements for this course. I would like your child to return this page to me. Thank you for your time and support. Please do not hesitate to call or e-mail me at any time. My contact information is provided above.

Sincerely,

Coach O'Hanlon

Period _____

I acknowledge that I have read and reviewed with my parents/guardians the above Mexican American Studies syllabus and agree to abide by the rules and procedures stated in those pages.

Student Name: _____ Student Signature _____

We have received information about the requirements for this course outlined above and in the separate syllabus. Should you need to contact me/us about my/our child in your class you can reach me/us via:

Parent/Guardian(s) Name(s):

Work phone #: _____ Cell/Home Phone #: _____

Email address: _____

(Parent or Guardian signature)

Return this page ONLY to Coach O'Hanlon, the syllabus is yours