**CEC/UNM**

**CCST 2996: Curanderismo: Traditional Mexican Medicine**

**Instructor: Mr. Gabino Noriega**

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**Office Hours: by appointment**

**II: Introduction/Course Description (1.00 high school elective credit/3.00 credit hours, UNM CCS)**

This course will take an approach in exploring how our ancestors used traditional healing methods in their everyday lives to cure and help diminish various ailments. Additionally, this course will look on how our ancestors shaped our cultural diversity of yesterday and today, and what the future of this medicine might be. The course features teachings for a multitude of rituals, such hands-on traditional massages for intestinal blockage (*empacho*), spiritual/energetic cleansings (*limpias*), laugh therapy (*risaterapia*) shawl alignments (*manteadas*), fire cupping (*ventosas*), and the preparation of medicinal teas, tinctures, and micro-dosages. By the end of the course, students will have a general understanding of traditional medicine, *curanderismo*, and its historical usages for addressing different ailments when medical care was a scarce resource for many.

The information in this syllabus outlines the policies and procedures for the course and it serves as a contract between myself, the instructor, and you, the student. **YOU are responsible for familiarizing yourself with these policies and procedures and ensuring that you follow them.** Please feel free to ask questions and alert me to any concerns you may have. I will periodically be emailing the class and therefore it is necessary for you to **check your APS preferred email regularly**.

**III: Textbook & Supplemental Materials**

* **Curanderismo: The Art of Traditional Medicine without Borders** by Eliseo Torres
* **Curandero: Traditional Healers of Mexico and the Southwest**

by Eliseo Torres with Imanol Miranda

* **Curandero: A Life in Mexican Folk Healing**

by Eliseo Torres & Tim Sawyer

**IV: Course Objectives**

* Provide Information on the history, traditions, rituals, herbs, and remedies of Curanderismo, a healing tradition of the Southwestern United States, Latin America and Mexico
* Explain how to use plants in water-based microdosis, alcohol-based tinctures, juice therapy, clay, oils, and smoke.
* Explore different traditional hands on techniques and their impact on bodies ailments such as intestinal blockage empacho, shawl alignments *manteadas*, and fire cupping *ventosas*.
* Appraise the positive effects and elements involved in the *Temazcal* ceremony.
* Describe the benefits of Laugh therapy, sound and music and how they can transform your life.
* Compare different types of spiritual/energetic cleansings including *susto* magical fright.
* Recognize the contributions of the famous Mexican healer Niño Fidencio and how his healing methods have been retained over the years and influenced by healers like Chenchito.

**V. Course Requirements**

* Completing all of the assigned readings in advance
* Writing one MID-TERM essay
* Completing reading responses and completing short assignments
* Completing group and individual projects
* Completing Final Group Video
* Participating in class discussion and group learning activities

**VI. Course Assignments**

**Quizzes:**

Students are required to complete and submit quizzes found at the end of each Module. ALL 12 quizzes are worth 10 points each. You will be graded on whether you answered each question thoroughly and correctly. It is your responsibility as a student to contact us as soon as possible should you need assistance with the materials and/or course content. Even though quizzes allow multiple attempts, please beware they will record the score of your last attempt. Also, they become unavailable after the due date.

**Projects:**

Students will participate in botany and gardening projects throughout the semester that will be focused on connecting to the earth and caring for herbs and other plants we will utilize in the course. There will also be hands on projects focused on creating tinctures, microdoses, balms, juices, medicine bundles, etc. Each project will offer students the opportunity to learn through traditional methods shared by Curanderismo experts.

**Mid-Term Paper:**

Each student will be required to write and submit a mid-term paper through Canvas by the date Outlined below and in the course schedule. Your paper must include your current **personal impressions on the class AND the course readings**. Use this space to talk about how the class impacted you so far  
or how it’s starting to change your outlook or philosophy, etc. on traditional medicine. If it has not started to change your outlook, elaborate on the reasons this might be. You can also include what you look forward to for the rest of the semester. All citations must be in the **correct MLA format**.

**For Undergraduate Dual Credit Students:** a minimum of **3 pages,** not including the cover and

references pages.

* + 12 pt. font, Times New Roman, Double Spaced on 1-inch Margins
  + Must provide a minimum of 3 specific examples from the course readings.
  + Must have references and connections to the required text readings from the semester
  + Worth 150 points
  + **Due Date:**

**Final Group Video (Cuentos):**

Students will create a video focusing on one of the modules covered in the course. In this video students will educate the viewers about their chosen topic through the use of a narrative focused on sharing knowledge about Curanderismo’s history and/or practices.

**VII. Course Grading Procedure**

There will be no “extra credit” in this course. Students are responsible to find out what class assignments they missed and then complete the work. When absences are anticipated, the student is to contact his/her instructor to determine what assignments are to be completed during the absence. It is the student’s responsibility to check with his/her instructor as to work missed during the absence and the procedure to follow.

**Required Work and Grading Scale** (1,000 points= 100%)

Module Quizzes 120 points

Classwork/Participation (10 points a week) 180 points

Reading Responses 75 points

Projects 175points

Midterm Essay 150 points Group Video 200 points

Presentation 50 points

Final Reflection 50 points

**Total Points Possible** 1000 points

Your grade will be computed as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A+ 970-1000 | B+ 870-899 | C+ 700-799 | D+ 670-699 | F Below 600 |
| A 930-969 | B 830-869 | C 730-699 | D 630-669 |  |
| A- 900-929 | B- 800-829 | C- 700-729 | D- 600-629 |  |

*Students will be expected to use complete sentences, proper grammar, and correct spelling in every written performance.*

**VIII. Course Expectations**

Ethnic Studies students are expected to attend class regularly and arrive promptly, to assume responsibility for their assignments and participate in class activities and discussions. In addition, students are expected to display behavior that conveys respect toward the instructor and fellow students and honesty in their academic and personal interactions. Academic dishonesty and Plagiarism on part of the student, such as cheating on a test or aiding others who are cheating, or engaging in plagiarism, falsification, fabrication, or unauthorized collaboration, will be subject to serious academic sanctions. For more information about academic dishonesty and how such incidents will be handled, consult your student handbook. **Student attendance and participation are required.**

**IX: Classroom Rules and Procedures**

1. No cell phones, Ipods, or any other electronic devices are allowed in the classroom.
2. Treat each other with respect. This includes respecting each other’s personal belongings and classroom interactions. Respect each other while having discussions and while working in groups.
3. Respect the classroom as well as its equipment. We are in here together so let’s keep it clean and functional
4. Food or drinks are allowed in the classroom. Preferably bottled drinks. Clean up after yourself!
5. Come prepared to class every day with your notebook and a writing utensil.

**X. UNM Policies**

**Copyright Issues**

All materials in this course fall under copyright laws and should not be downloaded, distributed, or used by students for any purpose outside this course.

**Accessibility**

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring accommodation, please contact me immediately to make arrangements as well as Accessibility Services Office in 2021 Mesa Vista Hall at 277-3506 or<http://as2.unm.edu/index.html>. Information about your disability is confidential.

* Blackboard’s Accessibility statement: <http://www.blackboard.com/accessibility.aspx>
* *Include links to accessibility statements for all other technologies included in the course.*

**Academic Misconduct**

You should be familiar with UNM’s [Policy on Academic Dishonesty](http://pathfinder.unm.edu/common/policies/academic-dishonesty.html) and the [Student Code of Conduct](http://pathfinder.unm.edu/campus-policies/student-code-of-conduct.html)  (http://pathfinder.unm.edu/campus-policies/other-campus-policies.html) which outline academic misconduct defined as plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, or facilitating any such act.

**Example Drop Policy:**

This section states your departmental policy for dropping students.

*UNM Policies: This course falls under all UNM policies for last day to drop courses, etc. Please see http://www.unm.edu/studentinfo.html or the UNM Course Catalog for information on UNM services and policies. Please see the UNM academic calendar for course dates, the last day to drop courses without penalty, and for financial disenrollment dates.*

**UNM Libraries** [**http://library.unm.edu**](http://library.unm.edu)

**Student Health & Counseling (SHAC) Online Services** [**http://online.unm.edu/help/learn/support/shac**](http://online.unm.edu/help/learn/support/shac)