

HUMA 1311: Mexican American Fine Arts Appreciation "Chicanx Art Criticism" Teamwork Project

Purpose:

The concept of "art" can be complicated and subjective since there are many different opinions and interpretations of works of art. Art "criticism" analyzes art by exploring its aesthetic beauty (visual appeal) and/or its meaning and significance to the human experience. Oftentimes, we look for what the art work is saying, or its "social commentary." This assignment will ask you to be an art critic and analyze a work of Chicanx art.

Additionally, being able to effectively work with fellow students/colleagues is an important life and work skill, and working together in an academic setting enriches individual understanding. The purpose of this assignment is to further your understanding of class concepts through a collaborative effort. This assignment also fulfills the College's **Teamwork Learning Outcome**: "Palo Alto College Students consider different points of view and work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal."

Instructions:

You will be placed into groups of four to five and are to select a work of Mexican American/Chicanx art. In order to add to the course content, you are encouraged to select art work not included in your course textbooks. Once you select an art piece, you are to complete the following:

1. **Description:** Describe the work of art including its medium (or type of art), artist, and background information. Include a visual of the art work.
2. **Making Connections:** Connect the work of art to at least one social, political or cultural concept discussed in class. You can also choose a theme or themes from *Chicana and Chicano Art* Chapter 3 "Prominent Themes in Chicano Art." Describe the concept/theme and provide evidence for your argument.
3. **Social commentary:** What is this piece of art "saying?" This does not have to be made clear by the artist, but by your argument. Provide evidence for your perspective.

Presentation:

You are to develop a presentation that includes the information above. Your group will be graded on your presentation, which should be no longer than 15-20 minutes. Because of time constraints, your presentation cannot exceed 20 minutes. Your classmates will then be allowed to ask your group questions. Your presentation should include:

1. A clear presentation of the content (Practicing helps!)
2. Visuals that enhance your presentation (i.e., PowerPoint, short YouTube video, etc.)

Working as a Team:

- **Discussion and collaboration:** It is important that each group member participate in a group discussion to decide the assignment content and presentation. It is up to the group to decide how you will do this. I will set up Canvas groups where you can collaborate online. You are also encouraged to meet face-to-face.
- **Team member roles:** It is up to the group to delegate roles to team members in order to accomplish the assignment. For example, you may choose to delegate certain questions, the compilation of the visuals, or the presentation speaking role to certain team members. This is one of the important tasks of team work.

Grading:

Your individual assignment grade will be a combination of the overall presentation grade (60%) as well as your role as a team member (40%). You will grade yourself and your teammates on your teamwork effort. You are asked to be honest and fair in your assessment. I will also grade you on your teamwork effort. See attached "Teamwork Learning Outcome" rubrics for details.

Preparation:

We will begin presentations on (date) . All groups should be ready to present by this date. We will begin with volunteers and then I will select groups. If your group is not ready, you will receive a letter grade reduction on your presentation. Therefore, you are advised to start early and manage your time wisely.