BALLE FOLKLÓRICO
SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE

CENTER FOR MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES
LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

INFORMATION BOOKLET
ACADEMIC YEAR 2014-2015
Table of Contents

Department Information 3

Center for Mexican American Studies 4-9
- Background
- Mission
- Objectives
- Organizational Chart
- Cultural Events, Activities, and Partnerships

Ballet Folklórico South Texas College 10-11
- Background
- Objectives

Performances & Community Events (2013-2014) 13-17

Appendix 19-23
- Course Syllabus - Curriculum
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Financial Structure
Center for Mexican American Studies

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Center for Mexican American Studies

- Background
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- Organizational Chart
- Cultural Events, Activities, and Partnerships

Dr. Luis Alvarez, UC-San Diego, February 19, 2009, “Pláticas Sol de Aztlan Chicana/o Lecture Series”
Background

South Texas College (STC) established the Center for Mexican American Studies (CMAS) in 2011 to provide opportunities for expanded cultural programs and to provide students with additional resources for an enhanced academic experience.

Mission

The Mission of the Center for Mexican American Studies (CMAS) at South Texas College revolves around student completion, engagement, and exposure to research. CMAS seeks to increase student completion by providing support networks that foster enriched pedagogy, increased persistence, and to assist with successful transfers to four year universities.
Objectives

Student and faculty engagement is at the heart of CMAS through events that include lectures, cultural programming, conferences, and community partnerships. Since its inception, more than 8,000 students and community members have attended these events including:

Lecture Series:

- Hispanic Heritage Month
- The Jovita González Women’s History Month
- The José de La Luz Sáenz Veterans Lecture Series
- The Américo Paredes Book Award
- Adelante! Motivational Lecture Series

Cultural programming:

- Conjunto Jaguar
- Ballet Folklórico
- Dia de los Muertos Cultural Festival
Conferences & Symposium:

Over the years, CMAS has established institutional partnerships with the Centers for Mexican American Studies at UT-Austin and at the University of Houston, and the Mexican American Studies Program (MASP) at UT-San Antonio and at UT-Pan American.

As a result of successful conferences and symposiums organized by CMAS, South Texas College has built cultural organizations with:

- The National Association of Chicana & Chicano Studies (NACCS)
  - National and Tejas Regional levels
- Texas Folklife Institute
- Ballet Folklórico de México de Amalia Hernández
- Ballet Folklórico de la Universidad de Guanajuato
- Academia de la Danza Amalia Hernandez
- Universidad de Sonora – Hermosillo
- Preparatoria Cetis 58 – Tijuana Baja California
- Ballet Folklórico del Nuevo Santander del Tecnológico de Reynosa
- Instituto Superior de Artes Escénicas Nandehuí
- Compañía de Danza Región Pindeku del Instituto Educativo Cuauhtémoc – Morelia Michoacán
- Ballet Folklórico Potosino Ollin Cuauhtli – San Luis Potosí

Community Partnerships: Through community support, CMAS provides students exposure to cultural opportunities and activities.

- UT-Pan American, UT-Brownsville, UT-Austin
- Coalition Against the Death Penalty
- Mexican Consulate in Austin & McAllen, Texas
- El Nuevo Heraldo
- Fiestas Patrias Organization in Austin
- McAllen Chamber of Commerce
- City of McAllen, Edinburg
- Edinburg Parks and Recreation
- Dustin Sekula Memorial Library – Edinburg
- Univision/Entravision Communications
- KMBH Radio
- Heritage Village Historic Preservation Society
- Universities and Early College High schools across Mexico
Center for Mexican American Studies

Organizational Chart

The Center for Mexican American Studies (CMAS) is part of Academic Affairs and of the Liberal Arts and Social Science Division (LASS) instructional unit. Ballet Folklórico South Texas College is one of the sponsored activities of the Center for Mexican American Studies.
Cultural Events, Activities, & Partnerships

Through diverse activities CMAS enhances student completion, student and faculty engagement, and exposure to academic research. Following are example of activities sponsored by CMAS since 2011:

National & Regional events: Students have opportunities to participate in regional and national events and activities such as:

- NACCS Student Organization
- National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies (NACCS) Tejas Regional Conference
- NACCS Tejas Regional Conference

South Texas College Events: CMAS collaborates with various South Texas College departments and divisions to offer events such as:

- Conjunto Jaguar
- Ballet Folklórico South Texas College
- Pláticas Sol de Aztlián Chicana/o Lecture Series
- “Día de Los Muertos”
- Jovita Gonzales Women’s History Month Lecture Series
- Mujeres Unidas sponsored event: “Walk A Mile in Her Shoes”
- Annual Celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month
- Annual José de La Luz Saenz Veterans Lecture Series
- Adelante! Motivational Lecture Series

“Walk A Mile in Her Shoes” Event

South Texas College Cultural Festival Dia de los Muertos
Ballet Folklórico South Texas College

- Background
- Objectives
Background

Ballet Folklórico South Texas College (BFSTC) was formed in the Spring of 2012 by the Center for Mexican American Studies. The Ballet Folklórico has been under the leadership of Assistant Professor of History Victor Gomez and is currently comprised of 30 student performers. The BFSTC Program have performed in various community functions across South Texas and the region such as:

- Austin
- San Antonio
- New Orleans

The BFSTC Program hosts their annual concert series, Tradiciones, in February with Conjunto Jaguar, STC’s official Conjunto, and other musical guests, showcase their newest dance repertoire.

The students learn their dance repertoire from professional instructors who have expertise in the history of cultural dances and costumes across Mexico.

Objectives

The goal of Ballet Folklórico South Texas College is to enhance Hispanic student persistence and completion through strengthening cultural identity. Ballet Folklórico South Texas College offers students the opportunity to learn about traditional aspects of dances and music across México including:

- Costuming (performance attire, hair, and make-up related to theme of dance)
- Designing production sets and props
- Dancing and acting to enhance the storyline
- Playing instruments enhance the performance
Performances & Community Events

- 2013-2014
- 2015 Upcoming Events
Performances and Community Events

2013

- **Tradiciones 2013** - Feb. 22-24, 2013 & March 8-10, 2013
- **“El Grito” Celebration at the State Capitol - Austin, TX** – Sept. 15, 2013
- **Palmfest** - October 5, 2013
- **Amistades Concert Series** - October 26, 2013
  - In partnership with Palmview HS, Hidalgo Early College, JD Salinas Middle School and Irene Garcia Middle School
- **H-E-B’s “Feast of Sharing”** - November 16, 2013
- **“Un Día con El Ballet Folklórico de Amalia Hernández”** – November 23, 2013

Fiesta de El Grito de Independencia—State Capital (Sept. 15, 2013)
2014

- **Amistades Concert Series** - January 31, 2014
  • In partnership with Grupo Folklórico Tizatlán - University of Texas at Brownsville
- **Tradiciones 2014** - February 7, 2014
- **Tradiciones San Antonio 2014** - March 13, 2014
- **San Antonio Folk Dance Festival** - March 14, 2014
- **Competencia Folklórica del Colegio del Sur de Tejas 2014** - April 4-5, 2014
- “Un Día con El Ballet Folklórico de la Universidad de Guanajuato” - June 13, 2014
- “Un Día con El Ballet Folklórico Potosino Ollin Cuauhtli” - June 27, 2014
- **El Consulado de México “Celebrar el Grito de la Independencia”** - September 13-14, 2014
- **City of San Antonio’s Día de Los Niños, Culture, Health & Fitness Fair** - San Antonio, TX - September 20, 2014
- **Macy’s “Día de los Muertos Celebration”** - September 26, 2014
- **Palmfest** - October 4, 2014
- **15th Annual Carnaval Latino 2014** - New Orleans, Louisiana – October 11-12, 2014
- **Amistades Concert Series** – November 15, 2014
  • In partnership with El Ballet Folclórico del Nuevo Santander del Instituto Tecnológico de Reynosa, Tamaulipas
- **H-E-B’s “Feast of Sharing”** - November 16, 2014
- **BFSTC presents Ballet Folklórico de la Universidad de Guanajuato en “Al Son de México”** - December 19, 2014
Performances and Community Events

2015 Upcoming Events

► Workshop with San Antonio Park & Recreation Folklórico Group conducted by members of Ballet Folklórico South Texas College – January 2-6, 2015

The City of San Antonio proposed paying for most of the costs and envisioned BFSTC traveling to San Antonio to teach their dancers Folklórico dance sets. The goal is for both groups to perform together during the San Antonio Folk Dance Festival 2015. This workshop has been proposed for January 2015.

► Amistades Concert Series – January 31, 2015

This would be the spring offering of Amistades Concert Series. Costs include: rental of the Edinburg City Auditorium

► Tradiciones 2015 – February 6, 2015

The Tradiciones Concert Series is the main spectacle that BFSTC offers on an annual basis. Costs include: auditorium, musicians, programs, and promotion.


It is the goal of BFSTC to tour locally and abroad with their Tradiciones Concert Series. The purpose of touring is to expand the STC name in the fine arts and that of BFSTC in the world of Folklórico dance. Rental includes: rental of auditorium, security, proper insurance, sound technician, musicians, charter bus, and hotel.

► San Antonio Folk Dance Festival – March 14, 2015

During our trip to San Antonio to share Tradiciones 2015, we have been invited to perform at the San Antonio Folkdance festival. This is a festival in which dance groups across the world convene to share a dance set of their native country. No extra costs.

► Competencia Folklórica del Colegio del Sur de Tejas 2015 – March 28-29, 2015

It is the goal of BFSTC and CMAS to recognize the hard work of local and regional folkloric dance groups. Participants include dance groups from local and regional institutions of higher education, high schools, junior highs, and private dance academies. Researchers and experts in the field of folkloric dance and other similar genres evaluate groups. Costs include: rental of auditorium, trophies, competition t-shirts given to each participant, and judges’ honorarium.

► Tradiciones 2015 – Guanajuato – April 2015

As part of the cultural exchange between BFSTC and the University of Guanajuato, they have invited us to perform in Guanajuato. Performances will be in their community but also on some of their main campuses. They would also want us to give a lecture on folkloric dance in the United States and how it is appreciated and practiced. This is contingent in that students would be allowed to travel to Guanajuato. Costs would include travel and other incidentals.
Appendix

- Course Syllabus - Curriculum
- Memorandum of Understanding
- Financial Structure
**Course Syllabus - Curriculum**

**South Texas College**  
Liberal Arts & Social Sciences  
Ballet Folklórico South Texas College  
Continuing Education Course  
Performing Curriculum  
Fall 2014

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**Instructor’s Information:**
**Name of Instructor:** Victor Gomez  
**Office Location:** Pecan Campus, Portable Building 20A  
**Telephone #:** (956) 872-2070  
**FAX #:** (956) 872-3403  
**E-mail Address:** vgomez@southtexascollege.edu  
**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays during class, after each class session, or by appointment

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**Course Information:**
**Course Name:** Ballet Folklórico IV (Performing Level)  
**Course #:** ART 1050.FZ1  
**Class Meets:** Pecan Campus Wellness Center  
**Contact Hours:** 30 Hours

**Course Description:**
The course is an introduction to Ballet Folklorico dance. The curriculum of this course is designed to support the Dance Performance component of the Ballet Folklórico Program which is part of the Center for Mexican American Studies (CMAS). This course emphasis is on the following Ballet Folklorico themes such as History, Costuming, Music, Media, Art, Cosmetics, Service Learning, and Folk Traditions. Dance component curriculum is taught by highly qualified guest instructors and professional performers.

**Grading Criteria:**
One of the main objectives of the Ballet is to create “leaders.” Therefore, each student is responsible for leading a certain aspect of class (i.e.: warm-up, stretches, technique routine, learned dance set, choreography, etc.). Students are also required to learn, via workshops conducted by guest instructors, and participate in dance sets that will be performed for the upcoming performing season. Performances will include community performances and scheduled concerts series (at least one concert and 3 community performances per semester). Students will be evaluated based on class attendance, participation in workshops and performances.

**Grading Scale:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Satisfactory Grade</th>
<th>Unsatisfactory Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Attendance</td>
<td>30 hours (75% = 23)</td>
<td>23 hours and above</td>
<td>22 hours and less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Performances</td>
<td>3-4 per semester</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repertoire Workshops</td>
<td>1-2 per semester</td>
<td>Positions Earned in Dance Sets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Satisfactory (S)</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory (US)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Continuing Education Certificate, Performances & Workshops:

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be awarded to students who meet 75% or higher of course requirements such as major performances, workshops, and travel opportunities. A “Satisfactory” (S) grade will be issued to students who meet all course requirements.

CMAS will follow CE grade policy: A Satisfactory (S) grade will be issued to students who (a) attend at least 75% of the total number of class hours and (b) make all required group performances and the scheduled workshops. Performances and workshops will be announced weeks in advanced so that you can make all arrangements to attend. “Smaller” performances (those that require few couples) will also be announced with ample time to make arrangements and will be attended on a “voluntary” basis. Still, attendance is encouraged.

Festivals, parades, and community and holiday festivals in which the Ballet is invited to participate will be required attendance. Examples consist of “Palmfest” - McAllen, El Grito de Independencia, and Amistades Concert Series. Any other major performance and opportunity extended to Ballet is common and will be announced once all proper administrative approval and planning are finalized.

Excused absences for extenuating circumstances will be considered only on a case-by-case basis and approved by CE Associate Dean. Instructor must enter the actual number of hours attended on the Class Roster. CE Coordinator must verify the information on the class roster for accuracy.

Please note that constant tardiness and missed class time can prevent you from participating in performances and especially travel opportunities.

Extras:

Students may be asked to attend class sessions outside of the scheduled class time. These instances may be during repertoire workshops, performances, or extra scheduled class sessions in preparation for a major performance or concert. Students will also need to provide their own dance shoes and apparel for class.

There will also be community performances that may require travel. **Students must be registered into class in order to participate in dance repertoire workshops, travel, perform, and participate in class. Students must also sign a waiver upon registering for a class and are responsible for submitting application and registration fee to the Office of Continuing Education.** Students must take proper precautions to avoid injuries in class. Precautions consist of proper stretching and avoiding careless non-class activities in which student or others may get hurt. We must also maintain the Wellness Center or any other class room provided for our instruction. **Cell phones and other electronic devices are not allowed during class instruction.**
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between The Center for Mexican American Studies and South Texas College and

South Texas College’s Continuing Education

Continuing Education Certificate of Completion in Folklorico Dance Performance for 2014-2015

Scope of the Project: STC Continuing Education (CE) will issue a Continuing Education Certificate of Completion to students who successfully complete Folklorico Dance Performance courses ranging from 24 to 32 clock hours, coordinated and taught by The Center for Mexican American Studies (CMAS). Students will pay $6 for each course they register for. These courses are considered non-state and therefore, the College would not receive any contact hour funding for these courses.

Terms of Agreement for each Folklorico Dance Performance Course:

1. Prior to the start of each course:
   a. CMAS will provide CE with a copy of the Folklorico Dance Performance curriculum.
   b. CMAS will select highly qualified instructors to teach the Folklorico Dance Performance course.
   c. CE will provide CMAS with the following documentation to be filled out: Course Information Form and Student Satisfaction Surveys.
   d. CMAS will provide CE with a completed Course Information Form.
   e. Students will register and pay for the course at the CE office and sign a Liability Waiver.
   f. CE will provide CMAS with an official Class Roster.

2. CMAS will follow CE grade policy: A Satisfactory (S) grade will be issued to students who (a) attend at least 75% of the total number of hours comprising the course and (b) make at least a 70 in the course. Excused absences for extenuating circumstances will be considered only on a case-by-case basis and approved by CE Associate Dean. Teacher must enter the actual number of hours attended on the Class Roster. CE Coordinator must verify the information on the Class Roster for accuracy.

3. CMAS will allow CE to observe faculty teaching the course and make necessary recommendations.

4. Two days prior to the end of the course, CMAS will provide CE with the names of the students who will receive a Certificate of Completion.

5. No later than three days after the end of the course, CMAS will provide CE with the following documentation for the course: Student Satisfaction Surveys and Class Roster.

6. At the end of the course, CE will issue a Certificate of Completion to those students who satisfactorily completed the course.

In Agreement:

By ___________________________ Date __________________________
Shirley A. Reed, M.B.A., Ed.D., STC President

By ___________________________ Date __________________________
Dr. Anahid Petrosian, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs

By ___________________________ Date __________________________
Dr. Margareta Bischoff, STC Division of LASS Dean

By ___________________________ Date __________________________
Juan Carlos Aguirre, STC CE Associate Dean
Financial Structure

South Texas College support CMAS and Ballet Folklórico through the following institutional budgets:

► Mexican American Studies
► Folklorico Dance
► Ballet-Folklorico Dance Company & Carryover

In addition, Ballet Folklórico raises additional funds through fundraising activities such as:

► Regional Dance Competitions
► Community Workshops
► Concerts (Amistades, Tradiciones)
► Fundraising Events
► Sponsorships or Donations

The funds provided by South Texas College and Ballet Folklórico fundraising activities supports the following expenditures:

► Performance Apparel
► Promotional Items
► Membership Dues
► Rental of Venues & Vehicles
► Security Services
► Honorariums
► Travel
► Furniture & equipment
► Print Services