

# Texas State University

# COMMON READING PROGRAM

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## Texas State University Quick Facts

Location	San Marcos, Texas
Mascot	Bobcats
Fall 2015 Enrollment (Total)	38,006
Fall 2015 Freshman Class	5,727
Fall 2015 Enrollment in US 1100	5,214

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The Common Experience at Texas State University is a yearlong initiative designed to cultivate a common intellectual conversation on a theme, enhancing student participation and fostering a sense of community throughout the campus and beyond.

The Common Experience brings students together to read and engage with a powerful Common Reading book, explore related themes in University Seminar (US 1100) classes, write responses and reactions to the text in writing courses (ENG 1310 and 1320), and participate in related symposia with scholarly panels. Throughout the year, students hear renowned and respected speakers address the theme, see related films, explore the experience by way of the fine arts, and engage in informal discussions.

For entering students, the Common Experience starts before they even begin classes. The Common Reading book is distributed during New Student Orientation, and students are encouraged to start reading it and to become involved by way of social media and the websites for Common Experience and Common Reading. The Common Experience also casts a broader net, involving faculty, staff, the San Marcos community, and others interested in participating in the topic each year. These topics emerge from the competitive ideas of our own faculty, staff, and students, providing a dimension of ownership and increased involvement.

## Common Experience Affiliates

- » Common Reading Program
  - » University Seminar (US 1100)
  - » First-Year English (ENG 1310 and 1320)
  - » Annual Majors Fair
  - » LBJ Distinguished Lecture Series
  - » Philosophy Dialogue Series
  - » Diversity Film Series
  - » Business Leadership Week
  - » Mass Communication Week
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» [txstate.edu/commonexperience](http://txstate.edu/commonexperience)

» [txstate.edu/bobcatbook](http://txstate.edu/bobcatbook)

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2015-2016 Common Experience Theme

## Bridged Through Stories:

*Shared Heritage of the United States and Mexico,  
an Homage to Dr. Tomás Rivera*

2015-2016 Common Reading Book

### ***...y no se lo tragó la tierra*** ***...And the Earth Did Not Devour Him***

by **Tomás Rivera**

(Berkeley, CA: Quinto Sol, 1971; Houston: Arte Público Press, 2015)

Original Spanish, 1-71; English translation, 73-145

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LBJ Distinguished Lecture, Fall 2015

## Robert Rodriguez

*screenwriter / director / producer*

**Robert Rodriguez** is best known for his films *El Mariachi*, *Desperado*, *From Dusk Till Dawn*, *Once Upon a Time in Mexico*, *Frank Miller's Sin City*, *Grindhouse*, and *Machete*. Students are most familiar with his *Spy Kids* franchise and *The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl in 3D*. He is also the founder, chairman, and CEO of El Rey Network.

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## End-of-Course Evaluation Results, Fall 2015

Three of 38 questions on the US 1100 course evaluations were dedicated to the Common Experience theme and the Common Reading book for 2015-2016:

- » Did you read *...And the Earth Did Not Devour Him* by Tomás Rivera?  
**3,121 out of 3,673 respondents (84.97%) answered YES \***
- » Did you discuss the Common Experience themes with others on campus this fall?  
**2,706 out of 3,675 respondents (73.63%) answered YES**
- » Did you participate in a Common Experience activity this semester?  
**3,145 out of 3,658 respondents (85.98%) answered YES**

\* no data available regarding number of students who *finished* the book

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