The University of Texas at El Paso

Chicana/o Studies 3301: La Chicana

Fall 2014

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Office Hours: MWF 815-915, 1030-1130 and Tuesday, Thursday by appointment

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Course Description:

• La Chicana course is an interdisciplinary examination of the socioeconomic, political, and cultural forces that affect the status of women of Mexican origin in American society. Special consideration will be given to the role of Chicanas in the Women’s and Chicano Movements, the role of Chicanas in labor and education as well as the Mexican/Chicana confluence in the U.S.-Mexico border region. Furthermore, this course will examine the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality in relation to the formation and study of Mexican American identities and its impact on society.

• La Chicana is a multidisciplinary approach of the analysis of the historical, political, cultural, and social forces that have led to the understanding and emergence of Mexican American women in the United States. Texts from a variety of fields and disciplines will be presented for review and discussion. This will be done in order to demonstrate different conceptions on and about Mexican American women/Chicanas through the review and analysis of categorical conceptualizations such as the social construction of gender, class, ethnicity, color, race, and sexual orientation as they influence Mexican American women and culture. Students will demonstrate an awareness of past and current issues in social and political arenas that influence the theoretical understanding of the Mexican American psyche and experience.

Format:

• This course will be taught by employing multiple modes of learning including lectures, student presentations, media and discussions.

• The subject matter that is categorized as a social science lends itself to learning through class discussions and student presentations (seminar format). These modes of teaching are strongly emphasized as they place a high importance and value on your narratives as individuals and actors in society. Your stories and perspectives on the issues covered are consequential to the learning process.
Theory:

- Historical concepts and issues will be explored; what is your place in history and what is the importance of knowing your history? How is this history relevant to you, the student and your environment? (Establishing cultural relevance)
- Critical Race Theory
- Gender Theory
- Identity Theories
- Sociopolitical Theory

Texts and Materials:

- *Chicana Studies: An Introduction (2010)* by Rosalia Solorzano and Francisca F. James
- Other readings as assigned will be provided to you online on Edmodo.com
- Access to Edmodo.com and an active UTEP email account is mandatory

Course Policies:

1. Be Present: Students are expected to attend class lectures. Attendance will be taken daily.

2. Be on Time: I will close the door a few minutes after starting class. If the doors are closed, you must ask permission to enter and be counted late.

3. May be the Course be With You: The assigned readings should be read prior to coming to class in order to have a fruitful discussion and adequate participation. Please bring all reading and note-taking materials to class. At my discretion, if I see that you are not taking notes, unengaged or not participating in the learning environment I will count you absent, even if you have signed in. It is not enough to show up to class-you must be engaged.

4. Treat Others the Way You Want to be Treated: with RESPECT: When discussing issues in class, you should be respectful of others. Personal attacks are not permitted. This applies whether the person is a student, a visitor, or the instructor. I look forward to hearing your opinions and ideas. Your voice and ideas are important to me and should be to others as well. Respect for one another is mandatory. A violation of this policy will result in the student being removed from class.

5. Be Responsible: Students are expected to take exams and submit assignments on the assigned dates.

6. Don’t Try to Escape at Halftime: Do not leave class early unless you have spoken to me. Otherwise, you will be noted absent.

7. NO EMAILED OR LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED UNLESS PERMISSION GRANTED BY PROFESSOR

8. Be Present, both Physically and Mentally: Do not carry a conversation, browse the internet, read the newspaper, or study materials for your other classes. Please silence your cell phones. I will not hesitate to point out that your behavior is unacceptable. If the disruptive behavior continues, you will be told to leave class and possibly dropped from the course. If you have a laptop or tablet open I will check that you are in fact using it for course purposes.
If you are having any difficulty in the class, please talk to me. I am here to help you. Please do not miss class for several days; the overwhelming majority of students who do this never catch-up. Instead it is better to communicate any difficulty you are having with the instructor.

Academic Dishonesty:

- Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and collision. **Cheating** may involve copying from or providing information to another student, processing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. **Plagiarism** occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person’s as ones’ own. **Collusion**, involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from the University for such actions.

Students with Disabilities

- I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally before or after class in the first two weeks or make an appointment, to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations you will need to contact the Disabled Students Services Office in the East Union Bldg., Room 106 within the first two weeks for classes. The Disabled Students Services Office can also be reached in the following ways:
  - **Web**: http://www.utep.edu/CASS; **Phone**: 747-5148; **Fax**: 747-8712; **Email**: CASS@utep.edu

Course Requirements and Grade Points:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>400 points total Work/Participation (quizzes, in class assignments, participation,)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Article Presentations</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interview/Reflection Assignment</td>
<td>50</td>
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**GRADUATE CREDIT FOR THIS COURSE**: In order to obtain graduate credit for this course, you must satisfactorily complete a graduate level project with a topic and parameters approved beforehand by the course instructor.