

La Chicana

CHIC 3301 CRN 11324 and WS 3301 CRN 12104

Fall 2019

TR 3:00-4:20 PSYCH 308

Dr. Irma V. Montelongo

Office Hours TR: 11:30-1:00pm (and by appointment)

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Course Description:

This course is an interdisciplinary examination of literature and film that underscores the socioeconomic, political, and cultural forces that affect the status of Chicanas in the U.S. Special consideration will be given to the role of Chicanas in the Women's and Chicano Movements, as well as the Mexicana/Chicana confluence in the U.S.-Mexico border region. Additionally, this course pays close attention to the categories of gender and sexuality as well as feminist theory to better understand how Chicana identities challenge and negotiate American norms.

Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the class, students will:

1. Develop the critical thinking and analytical skills necessary for effective communication both orally and written.
2. Identify, analyze, and articulate the central themes in Chicana identity and community formation.
3. Understand theories of race, class, ethnicity, and gender in the shaping of both geo-political and metaphorical borders.
4. Connect the past to the present in an effort to better understand the world around them.
5. Interact and collaborate with people of diverse backgrounds in open and respectful ways.

The guiding questions for this course are the following: What is Chicana identity? What are the historical events that define Chicana identity? How do space and time inform identity formation?

Required Texts:

- Carla Trujillo, ***What Night Brings***, (Connecticut: Curbstone Press, 2003).
- Erika L. Sánchez, ***I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter***, (New York: Knopf, 2017).
- Additional required readings located on **Blackboard**.

Students are responsible for all readings and must bring a copy to class, either digital or print.

Course Requirements:

1. **Attendance and Discussion:** You are expected to attend class and **be there on time**; Completion of the course depends on your attendance. If you miss a class period, it is your responsibility to obtain handouts (from the instructor) and notes (from a fellow student). There are a few ground rules for discussion. Whether you are discussing in a group or as a class, please remember that the appeal of higher learning is that we can think and talk, maturely and responsibly about topics like race, class, gender, and sexuality. ***Please treat each other, and each other's contributions to class discussions, with respect.***

2. **Quizzes (20%):** There will be quizzes throughout the semester based on the readings and videos. The quizzes are intended to gauge your ability to keep up with the readings and videos and to ensure that you are attending class as required. **There are no make-ups for quizzes.**
3. **Midterm Exam (25%):** There is a midterm exam scheduled for **October 24, 2019**. The midterm will cover the first 8-weeks of the course calendar. **There are no make-ups for exams.**
4. **Photo Blogs (25%):** Throughout the semester each student will keep a journal in Blackboard that consists of photo blogs. In this journal, students will provide individual journal entries that consist of a photo taken by the student and accompanied by a short blog. I will provide detailed instructions for each photo blog throughout the semester. See Course Calendar for due dates. **Deadline to submit the journal entries will be 11:59pm of the due date.**
5. **Photo Essay (30%):** For the final project, students will be placed into groups of four and together will create a photo essay made up of the photos used in the photo blog journal entries. The Group Photo Essay is due on **December 5, 2019 by 11:59pm** and will be submitted in Blackboard. The Group Photo Essay needs to reflect and explain the role of “La Chicana” in the United States. This essay will consist of *the two most unique* photos submitted by each group member for the journal entries. I will provide a detailed assignment sheet and grading rubric.

Grading Scale: Final grades will be given according to the student’s demonstrated level of mastery of the subject matter as determined by assignments, class discussion, and attendance. The assignments for this course are based on a scale of 100 points. Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

(A): 90-100 (B): 80-89 (C): 70-79 (D): 60-69 (F): 0-59

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.

Class Policies:

1. **Attendance:** Attendance and participation in class are required. Should you miss a class, you are still responsible for everything that is covered in that class. Missing class or being late is no excuse for missing a due date or misunderstanding an assignment. Therefore, you will want to contact a classmate, not the instructor, to find out what you missed.
2. **Dropping the Class:** Students may drop the class and receive a “W” any time prior to **November 1, 2019**.
3. **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 collusion. **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.
4. **Student Support Services:** If you have a documented special needs and require specific accommodations you will need to contact the **Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS)** at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106 within the first two weeks for classes. For additional information please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. I will make any reasonable

accommodations for students with limitations due to special needs, including all learning special needs. 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.

5. **Student Conduct:** [From the Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs]: Each student is responsible for notice of and compliance with the provisions of the Regents Rules and Regulations, which are available for inspection electronically at <http://www.utsystem.edu/bor/rules/homepage.htm>.

We will have frequent discussions and students are expected to tolerate and respect the opinions of others. All students are expected to behave as responsible adults.

Please SILENCE cell phones before class and NO TEXT MESSAGING and/or FACEBOOKING during class!!!

Course Calendar:

Reading Key: (A) refers to an academic article
(O) refers to an online magazine, newspaper, or website article
(B) refers to a book

Part 1: Understanding Race, Ethnicity, and Gender

Week 1: Tuesday (T) Aug. 27 – Introductions

Thursday (Th) Aug. 29 – Indigenous Spirituality and Gender

Read: (A) del Castillo, “Malintzin Tenepal,” 122-126

(O) “The Virgin-Whore Dichotomy and Why Women Cannot Destroy It”

Week 2: (T) Sept. 3 – The Religious and Racial Conquest

Read: (A) Dyer, “Matter of White Privilege,” 10-14

(O) “What is Whiteness?”

(Th) Sept. 5 – Racism, Identity, and Hate

Read: (O) “White Supremacy- The Haters and the Hated’ and “White Supremacy and the Alt Right: A New Relationship” and “The Ideology of the Alt Right” and “The Subculture of the Alt Right”

Assign Photo Blog #1

Week 3: (T) Sept. 10 – **Guest Speaker: Dave Jones**

(TH) Sept. 12 – Creating the Mexican-American

(A) Foley, “Becoming Hispanic: Mexican Americans and Whiteness,” pgs. 59-69

(O) “I Am Not Ashamed of Being A Mexican Anymore”

Photo Blog #1 due by 11:59pm

Week 4: (T) Sept. 17 – Understanding Gender

(A) Barak, et al, “Understanding Gender and Male Privilege,” 127-146

(O) “9 Facts that Prove Traditional Definitions of Gender are Bullsh*t”

(Th) Sept. 19 – Toxic Masculinity

Screen “Tough Guise 2”

Part 2: Creating Identity in the 20th Century

Week 5: (T) Sept. 24 – What Is Identity Formation?

(A) Anzaldua, “La Conciencia de la Mestiza, 99-113

(O) “You Say Latino” A Mini Comic

(O) “Latino/a/x”

Assign Photo Blog #2

(Th) Sept. 26 – Pachuca Identity
(A) Escobedo, "Introduction" in *From Coveralls to Zoot Suits*, 1-15
(O) "La Pachuca: Mexican Subculture in 1940s L.A."

Week 6: (T) Oct. 1 – The Chicana Generation
(B) Trujillo, *What Night Brings*, 1-60
Photo Blog #2 due by 11:59pm

(Th) Oct. 3 – Hispanic Heritage Celebration
Screen: "Birth on the Border"

Week 7: (T) Oct. 8 – Chicana Bodies and Social Control
(B) Trujillo, *What Night Brings*, 61-122

(Th) Oct. 10 – Chicanas and Religion
(B) Trujillo, *What Night Brings*, 123-182
Assign Photo Blog #3

Week 8: (T) Oct. 15 – **Guest Speaker: Georgina Cecilia Perez**

(Th) Oct. 17 – The Unacceptable Chicana
(B) Trujillo, *What Night Brings*, 183-242
Screen: "Southwest of Salem"
Photo Blog #3 due by 11:59pm

Week 9: (T) Oct. 22 – Study for Midterm exam

(Th) Oct. 24 – **Midterm Exam**

Part 3: The Politics of Chicana Identity in the 21st Century

Week 10: (T) Oct. 29 – Growing Up Chicana
Read: (B) Sánchez, *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*, 1-47
Assign Photo Blog #4

(Th) Oct. 31 – Negotiating Two Cultures
Read: (B) Sánchez, *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*, 48-97

Last Day to Withdraw from Class With a "W" is Friday, November 1, 2019

Week 11: (T) Nov. 6 – Chicanas and Social Stigmas
Read: (B) Sánchez, *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*, 98-152
Photo Blog #4 due by 11:59pm

(Th) Nov. 8 – Chicana Mothers and Daughters
Read: (B) Sánchez, *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*, 153-206
(O) "13 Things You're Probably Saying to Slut Shame"
(O) "Body Shaming of Latinas"
Screen: "Real Women Have Curves"

Week 12: (T) Nov. 13 – Chicana Secrets
Read: (B) Sánchez, *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*, 207-264
Assign Photo Blog #5

(Th) Nov. 15 – Chicana Mania
Read: (B) Sánchez, *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*, 265-298
(O) "Las Marthas Will Make you think Twice About the Border," and "Las Marthas: Debutantes in Laredo"
Screen: "Las Marthas"

Week 13: (T) Nov. 20 – Negotiating Chicana Existence

Read: (B) Sánchez, *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*, 299-340

Photo Blog #5 due by 11:59pm

(Th) Work on Photo Essay

Week 14: (T) Nov. 27 – Work on Photo Essay

(Th) Nov. 28 – **Thanksgiving Day!! No Class**

Week 15: (T) Dec. 3 – Work on Photo Essay

(Th) Dec. 5 – **Photo Essay Due at 11:59pm (To be submitted in Blackboard)**