La Chícana

CHIC 3301, CRN 12292, Fall 2015
M-F 1:30-2:50 BUSN 302

Dr. Irma V. Montelongo
Office Hours TR: 3:00-4:30pm
(And by appointment)
Office: Graham Hall 110B
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Course Description:
This course is an interdisciplinary examination of the social, political, and economic forces that characterize Chicana/o identities in American society. By comparing and contrasting historical and contemporary Chicana/o experiences, students will better understand how such issues as masculinity, whiteness, homophobia, nationalism, and globalization re-define, incorporate, or neglect Chicana/o identities in the United States. This course pays close attention to Chicana and third world feminism and the categories of gender and sexuality to better understand how Chicana/o identities challenge and negotiate American norms. Through texts, films, and discussion this class explores a variety of Chicana/o identities and how these identities are produced and conversely destabilized.

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 Mexican American community and identity formation.
3. Develop their technology skills and learn to use software available for teaching and learning.
4. Understand theories of race, class, ethnicity, and gender in the shaping of both geo-political and metaphorical borders.
5. Connect the past to the present in an effort to better understand the world around them.
6. View themselves as global citizens.

Required Texts:


Additional required readings located on Blackboard.
Course Requirements:

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 make an effort to treat each other, and each other's contributions to class discussions, with respect.

Quizzes (20%): There will be quizzes throughout this summer session 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 as class as required. There are no make-ups for quizzes.

Midterm Exam (25%): There will be a midterm exam tentatively scheduled for October 22, 2015. The midterm will cover Parts I and II of the course calendar. There are no make-ups for exams.

Short Writing Assignments (20% each): There will be two short writing assignments. I will provide a detailed assignment sheet to guide your writing. See Course Calendar for assignment deadlines and due dates.

Final Comprehensive Exam (35%): The final exam will be on December 10, 2015 from 1:00-3:45pm in this classroom.

Grading Scale: Final grades will be given according to the student’s demonstrated level of mastery of the subject matter as determined by his/her 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:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>80-89</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</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.

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 make contact with 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 **October 30, 2015**.

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. **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 **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

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**: The following is subject to change with reasonable notice to students. Any changes will be announced in class. If you miss a class meeting it is your responsibility to ask about any changes.

### Part 1: Understanding Gender, Race, and Ethnicity

**Week 1**: Tuesday (T) Aug. 25 – Introductions

Thursday (Th) Aug. 27 – Understanding Racial Formation  
**Read**: Barak, et al, “Understanding Race and White Privilege,” 105-125

**Week 2**: (T) Sept. 1 – Understanding Gender and Sexuality  
**Read**: Barak, et al, “Understanding Gender and Male Privilege,” 127-146

(Th) Sept. 3 – Gendered Stereotypes in American Media  
**Film**: Miss Representation
Week 3: (T) Sept. 8  –  Gendered Stereotypes in American Media (con’t)
   **Film: Miss Representation**

   (Th) Sept. 10  –  Contact and Conquest
   **Read: Cypress, “Mother Malinche,” 14-27**

Week 4: (T) Sept. 15  –  Indigenous Spirituality and Gender
   **Guest Speaker: Cemelli de Aztlan**

   (Th) Sept.17  –  Hispanic Heritage Month Lecture: *Famous Places in El Paso History*
   Blumberg Auditorium, University Library, 1st Floor

**Part 2: Creating Identity in the 20th Century**

Week 5: (T) Sept. 22  –  La Mestiza
   **Assign Paper #1: “La Chicana”**

   (Th) Sept. 24  –  Establishing and Maintaining Borders
   **Film: Strangers in their Own Land**

Week 6: (T) Sept. 29  –  Mexican Identity, Immigration, and Gender
   **Read: Arredondo, “Lived Regionalities,” 93-120**

   (Th) Oct. 1  –  Hispanic Heritage Month Performance: *Latina Feminism: Performing Gender and Questioning Identity*
   Blumberg Auditorium, University Library, 1st Floor

Week 7: (T) Oct. 6  –  Mexican-American Identity and World War II
   **Read: Escobedo, *From Coveralls to Zoot Suits*, 1-44**
   **Assignment Paper #1 due**

   (Th) Oct. 8  –  Pachuca/Pachuco Identity
   **Read: Escobedo, *From Coveralls to Zoot Suits*, 45-71**

Week 8: (T) Oct. 13  –  Rosa la Riveter
   **Read: Escobedo, *From Coveralls to Zoot Suits*, 73-123**

   (Th) Oct. 15  –  Mexican American Identity and the Cold War
   **Read: Escobedo, *From Coveralls to Zoot Suits*, 125-154**

**Part 3: Health, Bodies, and Social Control**

Week 9: (T) Oct. 20  –  Guest Speaker: TBA

   (Th) Oct. 22  –  Midterm Exam

Week 10: (T) Oct. 27  –  Chicana/o Health Issues

   (Th) Oct. 29  –  Early Chicana Activism
   **Film: Salt of the Earth**

   *Last Day to Withdraw with a “W” is Friday, October 30, 2015*
Week 11: (T) Nov. 3 – What is Chicana Feminism?
Read: Hernandez, “Chicana Feminists and Loyalists,” 136-14
Short Videos
(Th) Nov. 5 – Chicana/o Popular Culture
Read: Tatum, “Definitions and Theoretical Approaches to Popular Culture,” 3-13

Week 12: (T) Nov. 10 – Latina Bodies in Contemporary Cinema
Film: Real Women Have Curves
(Th) Nov. 12 – Latina Bodies in Contemporary Cinema
Film: Real Women Have Curves (con’t)
Assign Paper #2: Popular Representations of Chicanas/Latinas


Week 13: (T) Nov. 17 – The American Dream
Film: Between Two Worlds
Read: Urrea, Into the Beautiful North, 1-57
(Th) Nov. 19 – Immigrant Women
Read: Urrea, Into the Beautiful North, 58-127

Week 14: (T) Nov. 24 – Immigrant Men
Film: Rape In The Fields
Read: Urrea, Into the Beautiful North, 128-220
Assignment Paper #2 due
(Th) Nov. 26 – Thanksgiving Holiday: No Class!

Week 15: (T) Dec. 1 – Chicana Politics
Read: Urrea, Into the Beautiful North, 221-286
(Th) Dec. 3 – Read: Urrea, Into the Beautiful North, 287-338

Week 16: (Th) Dec. 10 – Final Exam: 1:00-3:45pm in this classroom