

The University of Texas at El Paso

La Chicana

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)

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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:

Elizabeth R. Escobedo, *From Coveralls to Zoot Suits: The Lives of Mexican American Women on the World War II Home Front* (Chapel Hill: University of Carolina Press, 2013).

Luis Alberto Urrea, *Into the Beautiful North* (New York: Little Brown and Company, 2009).

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:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Score</u>
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 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 Aztlán

(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

Read: Castañeda, “Sexual Violence in the Politics and Policies of Conquest,” 15-33

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

Part 4: The Politics of Chicana/o Identity in the 21st Century

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**