

The University of Texas at El Paso

La Chicana

CHIC 3301 CRN 11657 and WS 3301 CRN 12644

Fall 2016

M-F 1:30-2:50 LART 323

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:

Graciela Limón, *Song of the Hummingbird*, (Arte Publico Press, 1996).

Carla Trujillo, *What Night Brings*, (Curbstone Books, 2003).

Michelle Serros, *How to be a Chicana Role Model*, (Riverhead Trade, 2000).

Additional required readings located on **Blackboard**.

The readings in the syllabus are designated as follows: Blackboard, <T> Text, <H> Handout or <O> Available On-line. Students are responsible for all readings and must bring a copy to class, either digital or print.

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 20, 2016**. The midterm will cover the first 8-weeks of the course calendar. **There are no make-ups for exams.**

Journal (30% each): Throughout the semester each student will keep a journal in Blackboard. The journal will consist of short blogs and other short assignments. I will provide detailed instructions for each journal entry throughout the semester. See Course Calendar for journal entry due dates. **Deadline to submit the journal entries is 11:59pm of the due date.**

Final Comprehensive Exam (25%): The final exam will be on **December 8, 2016 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 28, 2016**.

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. 23 – Introductions

Thursday (Th) Aug. 25 – Understanding Race

Read: Foley, "Becoming Hispanic: Mexican Americans and Whiteness," in *Whiteness: Power of the Past*, 59- 69

<O> http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/21/opinion/sunday/what-is-whiteness.html?_r=0

<O> http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kristi-soto/i-am-not-ashamed-of-being_b_8120582.html

<O> <http://www.pewhispanic.org/2012/04/04/when-labels-dont-fit-hispanics-and-their-views-of-identity/>

Week 2: (T) Aug. 30 - Understanding Gender

Read: Kimmel, "Masculinity as Homophobia," 80-92

<O> <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/16/gender-wage-gap-minority-women>

<O> http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/04/16/gender-facts-traditional-roles_n_5115265.html

(Th) Sept. 1 – **Blackboard Workshop – How to Create a Journal**

Week 3: (T) Sept. 6 - Making History: Getting Out the Vote: Claudia Ioli

Read: <O> <http://www.texasmonthly.com/burka-blog/donald-trump-turning-texas-purple/>

<O> <http://billmoyers.com/2015/03/06/power-vote-changing-demographics-can-shape-americas-future-better/>

<O> <https://youtu.be/U4XtZ-tlzlA>

<O> <https://youtu.be/cu3AZ1Hjw0c>

(Th) Sept. 8 - **Screen "Miss-Representation** **JE#1 due**

Week 4: (T) Sept. 13 - Contact and Conquest

Read: Limon, *Song of the Hummingbird*, 1-67

<O> <http://www.livescience.com/34660-tenochtitlan.html>

<O> <http://www.mexicolore.co.uk/aztecs/home/aztec-women>

<O> <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2016/09/maya-empire-snake-kings-dynasty-mesoamerica-b/>

Screen: "Exploring Borderlands"

(Th) Sept. 15 – Indigenous Spirituality and Gender

Read: Limon, *Song of the Hummingbird*, 69-138

<O> <http://www.mexconnect.com/articles/224-la-malinche-harlot-or-heroine>

<O> <http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Jehovahs-Witnesses-Destroy-Ancient-Indigenous-Temple-in-Mexico-20160628-0009.html%20>

Week 5: (T) Sept. 20 – Vanquished Culture?

Read: Limon, *Song of the Hummingbird*, 139-217

Screen: Frida

(Th) Sept. 22 – Representing **JE#2 due**

Screen: Frida

Part 2: Creating Identity in the 20th Century

Week 6: (T) Sept. 27 - Women Warriors

Read: Ruiz, "Introduction: in *Latina Legacies*, 3-18

<O> <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5176177>

<O> <http://www.iww.org/history/biography/LucyParsons/1>

(Th) Sept. 29 - Hispanic Heritage Event: "The State of Public Education in Texas and the Importance of the Vote" Georgina Cecilia Pérez, **Union Cinema**

Week 7: (T) Oct. 4 – Pachuca Identity

Read: Escobedo, "Introduction" in *From Coveralls to Zoot Suits*, 1-15

<O> <http://www.museumofthecity.org/project/la-pachuca-mexican-subculture-in-1940s-los-angeles/>

<O> <http://www.vice.com/read/the-history-of-the-chola-456>

(Th) Oct. 6 – The Chicana Generation

Read: <T> Trujillo, *What Night Brings*, 1-80

Week 8: (T) Oct. 11 - Xicanisma

Read: Ana Castillo, "La Macha: Toward an Erotic Whole Self," in *Massacre of the Dreamers: Essays on Xicanisma*, 131-152

<O> <http://bimagazine.org/ana-castillo-xicana-warrior/>

<O> <http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/entertainment/books/2016/05/18/interview-author-ana-castillo/84537632/>

(Th) Oct. 13 – Hispanic Heritage Event: "Reflections on Chicana Identity" Ana Castillo, **Undergraduate Learning Center (UGLC) 106**

Week 9: (T) Oct. 18 – Study for Midterm exam

(Th) Oct. 20 - **Midterm Exam**

Week 10: (T) Oct. 25 – Appropriate Desires? **JE#3 due**

Read: <T> Trujillo, *What Night Brings*, 81-161

<O> <http://www.biography.com/news/dolores-huerta-biography-facts>

(Th) Oct. 27 – Surviving Chicana Oppression

Read: <T> Trujillo, *What Night Brings*, 162-242

Last Day to Withdraw with a "W" is Friday, October 28, 2016

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

Week 11: (T) Nov. 1 – Reproductive Justice

Read: <O> <http://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2016/01/31/464596760/in-no-m-s-beb-s-a-perfect-storm-led-to-unwanted-sterilizations-for-many-latinas>

<O> <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2016/02/18/abortion-barriers-hit-latinas-the-hardest.html>

<O> <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03m9jrz>

<O> http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/28/us/supreme-court-texas-abortion.html?_r=0

Screen: No Mas Bebés

(Th) Nov. 3 – Negotiating Two Cultures

Read: <O> <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/16/us/las-marthas-debutantes-in-laredo-surprisingly-colonial.html>

<O> <http://www.colorlines.com/articles/las-marthas-will-make-you-think-twice-about-border-latinas-and-class>

Screen “Las Marthas”

Week 12: (T) Nov. 8 – Chicana Health Issues **JE#4 due**

Read: <O> <https://www.stjude.org/media-resources/news-releases/2012-medicine-science-news/inherited-risk-factors-for-childhood-leukemia-are-more-common-in-hispanic-patients.html>

<O> <http://www.cnn.com/2013/10/10/health/hispanic-breast-cancer-disparities/index.html>

<O> http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/12/latinas-at-risk-diabetes_n_4949198.html

<O> http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/risk_latino.pdf

(Th) Nov. 10 – Loving Your Body

Read: <O> http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tatiana-k-tenreyro/body-shaming-of-latinas_b_7944254.html

<O> <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/body/eating-disorders-minorities.html>

<O> <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/5/29/slut-shaming-study.html>

<O> <http://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2014/08/28/344019529/sexist-depictions-of-latinas-arent-just-a-hollywood-thing>

Screen: Real Women Have Curves

Week 13: (T) Nov. 15 – Ni de Aqui Ni De Alla

Read: <T> Serros, *How to be a Chicana Role Model*, 1-86

(Th) Nov. 17 – Chicana Struggles

Read: <T> Serros, *How to be a Chicana Role Model*, 87-168

<O> http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/01/28/ellen-choa-first-latina-in-space-makes-history_n_2566571.html

<O> http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/08/10/mary-gonzalez-texas-state-representative-pansexual-_n_1764824.html

Week 14: (T) Nov. 22 – A Journey Through Life

Read: <T> Serros, *How to be a Chicana Role Model*, 169-220

<O> <http://www.npr.org/2015/01/07/375640110/remembering-generation-mex-writer-and-proud-outsider-michele-serros>

(Th) Nov. 24 - **Thanksgiving Holiday: No Class!**

Week 15: (T) Nov. 29 – Chicanas and Latinas

Read: <O> [#1615- Who Run the World](http://www.npr.org/podcasts/510016/latino-usa)

<O> <http://www.npr.org/2014/01/13/262067546/as-a-latina-sonia-sotomayor-says-you-have-to-work-harder>

<O> <http://latinousa.org/2016/04/08/sylvia-rivera-forgotten-hero-stonewall/>

(Th) Dec. 1 – Study for Final Exam

Week 16: (Th) Dec. 8 - **Final Exam: 1:00-3:45pm in this classroom**