

The University of Texas at El Paso

La Chicana

CHIC 3301, CRN 11480 and WS 3301, CRN 15748

Fall 2017 TR 1:30-2:50pm 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 race, class, 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.

Student Learning Objectives and Outcomes:

By the end of the class, students will

1. Summarize how ethnic identity formation characterizes the life experiences of Mexican-American women in the United States with respect to family dynamics, religion, education, politics, health issues, mass media, and the arts.
2. Describe how race, class, gender, and sexuality influence a Chicana/o cultural experience.
3. Understand the manner in which ethnic Mexican women resist and negotiate social, political, and economic inequality.
4. Appraise the choices, actions, and consequences of ethical decision making by Chicana/os in both a historical and contemporary context.
5. Develop the critical thinking and analytical skills necessary for effective communication both orally and written.

Required Texts:

Christine Granados, *Brides and Sinners in El Chuco*, (2006)

Rigoberto González, *Butterfly Boy: Memories of a Chicano Mariposa*, (2006)

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 19, 2017**. The midterm will cover the first 8-weeks of the course calendar. **There are no make-ups for exams.**

Journal (30%): 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 7, 2017**.

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:

Grade	Score
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 **November 3, 2017**.

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. 28 – Introductions

Thursday (Th) Aug. 30 – Understanding Race

Read: Foley, "Becoming Hispanic: Mexican Americans," 59-69; and "What is Whiteness;" and "I'm Not Ashamed of Being Mexican American Anymore"

Week 2: (T) Sept. 5 - Understanding Gender

Read: Kimmel, "Masculinity as Homophobia," 80-92; and "Gender Wage Gap Costs Minority Women;" and "Traditional Definitions of Gender"

(Th) Sept. 7 – **Screen: Miss-Representation**
Assign Journal #1

Week 3: (T) Sept. 12 – Ancestral Madres
Read: del Castillo, Malintzin Tenepal, 122-126; and Rodriguez, “India,” 17-24;
And Cisneros, “Guadalupe the Sex Goddess,” 46-51
(Th) Sept. 14 – **Screen: “La Otra Conquista”**

Week 4: (T) Sept. 19 – Tools of Conquest and Colonization
Screen: “La Otra Conquista”
Read: Castañeda, “Sexual Violence and Conquest,” 15-33
Assign Journal #2
(Th) Sept. 21 – **TBA**

Part 2: Creating Identity in the 20th Century

Week 5: (T) Sept. 26 – Becoming Mexican-American
Read: Ruiz, “Star Struck,” 109-129
(Th) Sept. 28 – **Screen: Zoot Suit**

Week 6: (T) Oct. 3 - The Chicana Generation
Read: Chávez, “Dolores Huerta and the UFW,” 240-254
(Th) Oct. 5 - **Screen: “No Mas Bebés”**
Assign Journal #3

Week 7: (T) Oct. 10 – **Hispanic Heritage Event: “SB4-Know Your Rights” Educ. Bldg. 302**
(Th) Oct. 12 – **Screen: “Rape in the Fields”**

Week 8: (T) Oct. 17 - Study for Midterm Exam
(Th) Oct. 19 – **Midterm Exam**

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

Week 9: (T) Oct. 24 – Hard Truths and Taboos
Read: Granados, *Brides and Sinners*, 3- 33
(Th) Oct. 26 – **Georgina Cecilia Pérez**

Week 10: (T) Oct. 30 – Loving Your Body
Read: Granados, *Brides and Sinners*, 34-74
(Th) Nov. 2 – **Screen: “Real Women Have Curves”**
Assign Journal #4

Last Day to Withdraw with a “W” is Friday, November 3, 2017

Week 11: (T) Nov. 7 – Negotiating Two Cultures
Read: Granados, *Brides and Sinners*, 75-118
(Th) Nov. 9 – **Screen: “Las Marthas”**

Part 4: Chicana/o Genders and Sexualities

Week 12: (T) Nov. 14 – Making Sense of Difference
Read: González, *Butterfly Boy*, 3-39

(Th) Nov. 16 – **Screen: “Mosquita y Mari”**

Week 13: (T) Nov. 21 – A Journey Through Life
Read: González, *Butterfly Boy*, 43-111
Assign Journal #5

(Th) Nov. 23 – **Thanksgiving Holiday: No Class!**

Week 14: (T) Nov. 28 – Toxic Masculinity
Read: González, *Butterfly Boy*, 115-161

(Th) Nov. 30 - **Screen: “La Mission”**

Week 15: (T) Nov. 28 – Chicana
Read: González, *Butterfly Boy*, 165-207

(Th) Nov. 30 – **Screen: “A Girl Like Me: The Gwen Araujo Story”**

Week 16: (T) Dec. 2 – Study for Final Exam

(TH) Dec. 7 – **Final Exam**