The University of Texas at El Paso

La Chicana

CHIC 3301 CRN 36260 and WS 3301 CRN 36261
Summer 2020: June 8 -July 31, 2020
100% Online

Dr. Irma V. Montelongo

Virtual Office Hours TR: 1:30-2:30pm (and by appointment)
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Course Description:

This course is an interdisciplinary examination of 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 geopolitical 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:

- All readings located in **Blackboard**. Students are responsible for all readings.

Required Materials:

- Access to computer and internet
- All other materials to include videos, podcasts, etc. for the class are located in your ***Blackboard*** shell and are embedded inside of the Learning Module for any particular week.

All course content will be delivered via the ***Blackboard***. To access Blackboard go to https://my.utep.edu and click on the "Blackboard" tab. Login using your UTEP login and password.

The Blackboard course shell contains **all** materials related to this course. You will also use Blackboard to communicate with your fellow classmates and me – always remember to include an appropriate subject line to prevent your email from going into the junk mail folder. **All correspondence for this class must be done through Blackboard email.**

*** IMPORTANT: You must get into the habit of checking Blackboard **EVERY DAY** to make sure you do not miss any important announcements.

Our Virtual Classroom:

Again, all communication must be conducted through Blackboard. Please do not send emails to my UTEP address. If you absolutely must email me, be sure to include as much information as possible to include your first and last name, title of class, and CRN number. I will respond to you within 24 hours.

NOTE: I will be checking Blackboard and my email regularly Monday- Friday between 8:00am – 5:00pm. I do not check email or Blackboard on Saturdays or Sundays.

Online learning is not a spectator sport. It is everyone's responsibility to participate fully so everyone can get the most from the experience. Here are some simple rules to follow to ensure participation and engagement in the learning process:

Ask Questions: I have created a Discussion Forum entitled **HELP BOARD**, located under the *General Discussion Forums* tab on the *Home Page*. The *Help Board* is for asking questions related to content OR any course issues. Clearly indicate the subject of your thread. **If you are having technical difficulties, you will be directed to UTEP tech support.**

Reach Out to Others: Offer a fact, an article, link or other items that can help others learn something you can share. I have created a separate class discussion forum called **La Pachuca Café**, also located under the *General Discussion Forum* tab on the *Home Page*. La Pachuca Café is for the entire class to share relevant information and to participate in leisure conversations as well. The only requirement is that you treat one another with respect.

Inappropriate behavior/comments online will not be tolerated. Inappropriate behavior WILL BE subject to disciplinary action. I reserve the right to drop you from this course if you use our class as a venue for insulting or insensitive comments or attacks toward other students or the instructor.

Required Software:

Please make sure that all of your computer hardware is working properly and please make sure that you have all of the required software and that the software is up to date. It is very important that your Java software and your Adobe software is up to date. Blackboard works best with Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome, but does not communicate well with Safari and especially Internet Explorer. **Stay away from Internet Explorer.**

Please access the Blackboard course shell. On the Home Page under the *Course Resources* section, you will find the link ***Are You Ready for Online Learning?*** Please access that link and then click on ***Check Your Technology.*** Read this section carefully to ensure that you have the necessary software. If you do not, you will find links on this page for downloading the necessary software and it is free. You must have *Adobe Acrobat Reader* to access the readings for the class and a media player plug-in to view the assigned videos (*Adobe Flash Player, Windows Media Player, QuickTime Player, VLC Player*, etc.). If you use Google Chrome as your browser, then the Adobe Flash Player is already built in. When creating documents, slide presentations, spreadsheets, etc., you must use *Microsoft Office* or a compatible program (see 10 Free MS Word Alternatives). Be sure you have the appropriate word processing software because if I cannot open your documents, they **WILL NOT** be graded.

Course Policies and Procedures and Grading Rubric:

I have provided a set of *Course Policies and Procedures,* and a *Grading Rubric* located under the *Course Resources* tab on the *Home Page*. Please access them as soon as possible and

familiarize yourself with the do's and don'ts of the course and the grading scales for all assignments. The information provided is extremely important and crucial for your success in this course.

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.

Students with Disabilities:

I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to special needs, including learning disabilities. Please inform me immediately of any special needs you might have. If you have a documented special need 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 week of class. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass

Attendance Policy:

This is an online class so there is no real attendance policy. Attendance is taken by measuring your work online. You are responsible for doing all the work and meeting all deadlines and due dates.

Deadline Policy:

Deadline for assignments and quizzes is 11:59 PM (MST) on the due date; **CHECK COURSE CALENDAR for all due dates and deadlines as late submissions will not be graded**. Please ensure that you carefully read the Course Calendar and all instructions. It is your responsibility to meet all class requirements.

Learning Modules:

The class consists of five (5) Learning Modules. An Introduction and Getting Started module, three (3) theme related modules, and a Final Exam module. **Learning Modules open at 8:00am (MST) on scheduled dates.** When you open a learning module you will see a table of contents on the left-hand side of the module. The table of contents contains all sections of the lecture as well as the quiz link (when visible) and the group discussion board link. All readings, videos, and podcast links, as well as assignment guidelines are embedded in the lectures. Theme-related learning modules, with the exception of modules 1 and 5, will last approximately 11-18 days.

1. Quizzes (20% of final grade): There will be four quizzes, one in each of the first four Learning Modules. There is no quiz during the week of the Final Exam. The quizzes will be embedded in the table of contents of the individual learning modules. **The quiz links will open and close according to scheduled dates and deadlines. See Course Calendar for all due dates and deadlines.** Remember: You will not see a Quiz link until the day that they are scheduled on the Course Calendar.

2. Critical Response Paper (20%): You will submit one (1) Critical Response Paper for Learning Module 2. The paper will be 2-3 pages in length, double-spaced, 12pt font. I will provide detailed guidelines to help you think critically of the question(s) I will ask. *See Course Calendar for due dates and deadline*.

3. Video Blog Assignment (20%): You will submit one (1) video blog for Learning Module 3. The blog will be a 3-5-minute long video where you share your critical analysis of the readings, films, and podcasts located Learning Module 3. For these assignments you will need to create a *YouTube* channel (if you don't already have one) where you will upload your video. I have provided instructions for creating a YouTube channel in Learning Module 1: Introduction and Getting Started. Please do this as soon as possible.

After you create and upload your video to your YouTube channel, you will post the URL link to your video blog a Blackboard Group Discussion board created for you and located in Learning Module 3. I will provide more information on the Group Discussion board later in the term.

For the video blogs, I will provide a detailed assignment sheet, embedded in Learning Module 3, that includes a written prompt to help you critically think about the learning module and the materials contained therein. For assignment, you will be graded on the quality of your critical analysis and the ideas you present in your video *as well as your participation in your group discussion board*. *See course calendar for due dates and deadline.*

4. Group Discussion Board for Learning Module 3 (20%): I will divide the class into groups of approximately six (6) students. Each student will belong to only one group. In this group discussion board, you are required upload your video blogs and then discuss each other's analysis, ideas, themes, etc. for approximately 4 days. You will find the link to you Group Discussion board in Learning Module 3. *See course calendar for group discussion board opening, due dates and deadlines.*

5. Final Exam (20% of final grade):

You will have a comprehensive final exam at the end of the course that will cover all three theme-related learning modules. I will provide a review sheet to be located in Learning Module 5. *See course calendar for scheduled exam date and deadline.*

See Grading Rubric for more information on assignments, discussions, and final exam.

Grading Scale:
A: 100-90   B: 89-80   C: 79-70   D: 69-60   F: 59 and less

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.

Course Calendar:

Learning Module 1: Introduction and Getting Started

June 8 – 12, 2020

The following information is very important!

The first five days of the course are your opportunity to study the syllabus, familiarize yourself with the Blackboard System, and set up your YouTube channel. Use these five days to ask me any questions you have regarding course content as well as the class policies and procedures.

You must also post an introduction to yourself in *La Pachuca Internet Café* by Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 11:59pm (MST). The Internet Café and Help Board are located under the *General Discussion Forums* located on the Home Page.

You are also required to take the Syllabus/Plagiarism Quiz, which will be available Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 5:00pm (MST) until Friday, June 12, 2020 at 11:59pm (MST). The quiz is based on your reading of the Course Syllabus, Course Policies and Procedures, Course Grading Rubric, and the Plagiarism video. The video and the quiz are located in the Learning Module entitled *"Introduction and Getting Started."*

NOTE: The instructor cannot provide technical support. For questions concerning the site and any technical questions or support you must the UTEP Help Desk. The following link provides the contact information for assistance: http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=74092

Learning Module 2 – Historical Notions of Race and Ethnic Identity Formation in the U.S.
June 13 – 25, 2020

Read – Greg Barak, et al. "Understanding Race and White Privilege," 105-125; "You Say Latino:" A Mini Comic;" Neil Foley. "Becoming Hispanic: Mexican Americans and Whiteness," 59-69; "I Am Not Ashamed of Being a Mexican Anymore"

Video – *Las Marthas*

Podcast – "Too Black, Too Latino" (53 mins.)

All readings, videos, and podcasts listed in this course calendar are required.

Reading Quiz: available from June 20 at 8:00am (MST) to June 21 at 11:59pm (MST).

Critical Response Paper: due June 25, 2020 at 11:59pm (MST).

Learning Module 3 – Understanding Gender and Becoming Mexican American
June 26 – July 13, 2020

Read – Greg Barak, et al. "Understanding Gender and Male Privilege," 124-146; "9 Facts That Prove Traditional Definitions of Gender are Bullsh*t;" Sandra Cisneros, "Guadalupe the Sex Goddess, 46-51; Gloria Anzaldua, "La Conciencia de la Mestiza, 99-113; Elizabeth Escobedo, "The Pachuca Panic," 133-156

Video – *Zoot Suit Riots*

Reading Quiz: available from July 4, 2020 at 8:00am (MST) to July 5, 2020 at 11:59pm (MST).

Individual Video Blog: due July 8, 2020 at 11:59pm (MST).

Group Discussion Boards are in effect from July 9 at 8:00am to July 13, at 11:59pm (MST).

Learning Module 4 – Chicanas and Mexicanas in the Borderlands
July 14 - July 24, 2020

Read – Lisa Hernandez, "Chicana Loyalists and Feminists," 136-148; Alicia Gaspar de Alba, "The Maquiladora Murders," 1-17; Molina and Valdivia, "Brain, Brow, and Booty," 155-162; Linda Heidenreich, "Learning From the Death of Gwen Araujo," 50-86

Podcast – "Of Mexican Weather Girls" (18 mins.)

Video – *Southwest of Salem*

Reading Quiz: available from July 22, 2020 at 8:00am (MST) to July 24, 2020 at 11:59pm (MST).

Learning Module 5 – Final Exam
July 25 - 31, 2020

Final Exam will be available on **July 28 2020 at 5:00pm (MST) and will be accessible through July 31, 2020 at 11:59pm (MST)**. Good Luck!