

The University of Texas at El Paso

## La Chicana

**CHIC 3301 CRN 22217 Cross-Listed with WS 3301 CRN 22511**

**Spring 2016**

**TR 1:30-2:50 Psych 308**

**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, feminism, 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.

### **Student Learning Goals and Objectives:**

#### **In this course 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.** Identify and analyze differences and similarities among Mexican American experiences over time and space.
- 4.** Demonstrate their understanding of the concepts of gender, sexuality, race, and class by using them to identify experiences of privilege and inequality as well as collaboration and conflict, with in and between U.S. Latina/o communities.
- 5.** Use an interdisciplinary approach to connect the past to the present in an effort to better understand the world around them and themselves as global citizens.

### **Required Texts:**

Ana Castillo, *Massacre of the Dreamers: Essays on Xicanisma* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2014).

Carla Trujillo, *Faith and Fat Chances: A Novel* (Curbstone Books, 2015).

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 the course based on the readings, videos, and lectures. The quizzes are intended to gauge your attendance and ability to keep up with the readings. **There are no make-ups for quizzes.**

**Midterm Exam (25%):** There will be a midterm exam tentatively scheduled for **March 03, 2016**. The midterm will cover Parts I, II, and III of the course calendar. **There are no make-ups for exams.**

**Short Writing Assignments (30% 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 Paper (25%):** Students will develop a research paper that explores in-depth one or more facets of Chicana experience (i.e. spirituality, migration, education, sexuality, etc.). In addition to gathering traditional sources in your area of interest, students will find one person to interview whose personal experiences speak to the research topic (interviewee can be a family member, friend, associate, classmate, etc). The final project should include 1) a 10-12 page paper combining your analysis of the scholarly sources with analysis of your interview, 2) a works cited page.

**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:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Score</b>
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 **April 01, 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](mailto: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](http://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) Jan. 19 – Introductions  
 Thursday (Th) Jan. 21 – Understanding Racial Formation  
**Read:** Barak, et al, "Understanding Race and White Privilege," 105-125
- Week 2:** (T) Jan. 26 – Understanding Gender and Sexuality  
**Read:** Barak, et al, "Understanding Gender and Male Privilege," 127-146  
**Film: Miss Representation**  
 (Th) Jan. 28 – Gendered Stereotypes in American Media  
**Read:** Castillo, *Massacre of the Dreamers*, "Introduction," 1-16  
**Film: Miss Representation**

**Part 2: Conquering and Colonizing Bodies**

- Week 3:** (T) Feb. 2 – Conquest and Colonization  
**Read:** Castillo, *Massacre of the Dreamers*, "In the Beginning There Was Eva," 113-129

(Th) Feb. 4 – Engendering Power  
**Read:** Castillo, *Massacre of the Dreamers*, "The Ancient Roots of Machismo," 65-89

**Week 4:** (T) Feb. 9 – Spanish Colonial Control  
**Read:** Castañeda, "Sexual Violence in the Politics and Policies of Conquest," 15-33

**Writing Assignment #1: Conquest, Colonization, and Gender**

(Th) Feb. 11 – American Conquest and Colonization  
**Read:** González, "Women Under Siege," 39-78

**Week 5:** (T) Feb. 16 – Establishing and Maintaining Borders  
**Film: Strangers in their Own Land**

(Th) Feb. 18 – Guest Speaker - TBA

**Writing Assignment #1 due**

**Part 3: Creating Identity in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

**Week 6:** (T) Feb. 23 – Mexican Identity, Immigration, and Gender  
**Read:** Ruiz, "Star Struck," 109-129

(Th) Feb. 25 – Pachuca Identity and World War II  
**Read:** Escobedo, "The Pachuca Panic," 133-156

**Week 7:** (T) Mar. 1 – Women and Labor in the 50s  
**Film: Salt of the Earth**

(Th) Mar. 3 – **Midterm Exam**

**Week 8: Spring Break – March 07, 2016 through March 11, 2016**

**Part 4: Chicana Activism and Liberation**

**Week 9:** (T) Mar. 15 – 'El Movimiento' y las 'Femenistas'  
**Read:** Castillo, *Massacre of the Dreamers*, "A Countryless Woman," 17-37

(Th) Mar. 17 – What is Chicana Feminism?  
**Read:** Hernandez, "Chicana Feminists and Loyalists," 136-14

**Week 10:** (T) Mar. 22 – Labor Activism and Consciousness  
**Read:** Castillo, *Massacre of the Dreamers*, "The 1986 Watsonville Women's Strike," 39-63

(Th) Mar. 24 – Feminism and Religion  
**Read:** Castillo, *Massacre of the Dreamers*, "Saintly Mother and Soldier's Whore," 91-112

**Week 11:** (T) Mar. 29 – The Road to Self-Empowerment  
**Read:** Castillo, *Massacre of the Dreamers*, "Brujas and Curanderas," 153-172

(Th) Mar. 31 – Third World Feminism

**Screen the videos “Reinventing Feminism” by Courtney Martin and “We Should All be Feminists” By Chimimanda Adichie before class**

**Last Day to Withdraw From Class With a “W” is Friday, April 1, 2016**

**Week 12:** (T) Apr. 5 – Latina Bodies in Contemporary Cinema  
**Read:** Fregoso, “Homegirls, Cholas, and Pachucas,” 316-327  
**Film: Mi Vida Loca**

(Th) Apr. 7 – Latina Bodies in Contemporary Cinema  
**Film: Mi Vida Loca (con’t)**

**Writing Assign#2: Popular Representations of Chicanas/Latinas**

**Part 5: The Politics of Chicana/o Identity in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**Week 13:** (T) Apr. 12 – Breaking Boundaries: Toward an Erotic Whole Self  
**Read:** Castillo, *Massacre of the Dreamers*, “La Macha,” 131-152

(Th) Apr. 14 – The Politics of Inclusion/Exclusion  
**Read:** Castillo, *Massacre of the Dreamers*, “Resurrection of the Dreamers and Afterword,” 217-244

**Week 14:** (T) Apr. 19 – Women and Fiction  
**Read:** Trujillo, *Faith and Fat Chances*, 1-74

**Assignment Paper #2 due**

(Th) Apr. 21 – Redefining Community  
**Read:** Trujillo, *Faith and Fat Chances*, 75-149

**Week 15:** (T) Apr. 26 – Old Ways and New Times  
**Read:** Trujillo, *Faith and Fat Chances*, 150-224  
**Film: Paraiso for Sale**

(Th) Apr. 28 – Fighting the Powers That Be  
**Read:** Trujillo, *Faith and Fat Chances*, 225-296  
**Film: Paraiso for Sale**

**Week 16:** (T) May 3 – Work on Final Paper

(Th) May 5 – Work on Final Paper

**Final Paper Due May 10, 2016 by 4:00pm in my office mailbox located in Chicana/o Studies Office, Graham Hall #104.**