

The University of Texas at El Paso

## La Chicana

**CHIC 3301 CRN 21994 and WS 3301 CRN 22257**

Spring 2018

TR 1:30-2:50 LART 106

**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 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 geo-political 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.
6. View themselves as global citizens.

***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:**

- Chris Pérez, ***To Selena, With Love***, (Celebra Press, 2013)
- Desiree Zamorano, ***The Amado Women***, (Cinco Puntos Press, 2014)
- Additional required readings located on **Blackboard**.

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 **March 8, 2018**. The midterm will cover the first 8-weeks of the course calendar. **There are no make-ups for exams.**

**Journal Entries (25% 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 will be 11:59pm of the due date.**

**Photo Essay (30%):** The photo essay is due on **May 4, 2018 by 11:59pm** and will be submitted in Blackboard. You will submit a Photo Essay that reflects and explains the role of "La Chicana" in U.S. History. This essay will consist of *unique* photos taken by you that symbolize "La Chicana." I will provide a detailed assignment sheet and grading rubric.

**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:

**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 **March 29, 2018**.
- 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. 16 – Introductions

Thursday (Th) Jan. 18 – **Screen “Miss-Representation”**

**Week 2:** (T) Jan. 23 – Understanding Race and Ethnicity

**Read:** Dyer, “The Matter of Whiteness,” pgs. 9-14; and Barak, et al, “Understanding Race and White Privilege,” pgs. 105-125; and Foley, “Becoming Hispanic: Mexican Americans and Whiteness,” pgs. 59-69

<O> [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/21/opinion/sunday/what-is-whiteness.html?\\_r=0](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](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kristi-soto/i-am-not-ashamed-of-being_b_8120582.html)

(Th) Jan. 25 – Understanding Gender

**Read:** Barak, et al, “Understanding Gender and Male Privilege,” 127-146

<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](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/04/16/gender-facts-traditional-roles_n_5115265.html)

**Week 3:** (T) Jan. 30 – **Screen “The Mask We Live In”**  
**Assign Journal #1**

(Th) Feb. 1 – What Is Identity Formation?

**Read:** Anzaldua, “La Conciencia de la Mestiza, 99-113

<O> <http://www.vox.com/2015/8/19/9173457/hispanic-latino-comic>

<O> <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2015/12/08/students-adopt-gender-nonspecific-term-latinx-be-more-inclusive>

**Week 4:** (T) Feb. 6 – Indigenous Spirituality and Gender  
**Read:** del Castillo, “Malintzin Tenepal,” 122-126; and  
<O> <http://www.livescience.com/34660-tenochtitlan.html>  
<O> <http://www.mexicolore.co.uk/aztecs/home/aztec-women>  
(Th) Feb. 8 – **Screen: “Señorita Extraviada”**

## **Part 2: Creating Identity in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

**Week 5:** (T) Feb. 13 – 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) Feb. 15 – **Screen: “Mi Vida Loca”**

**Week 6:** (T) Feb. 20 - The Chicana Generation: 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](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/28/us/supreme-court-texas-abortion.html?_r=0)  
(Th) Feb. 22 – **Screen: “No Mas Bebés”**  
**Assign Journal #2**

**Week 7:** (T) Feb. 27 – New Chicana Heroines  
**Read:** Chris Perez, *Selena, With Love*, pgs. 1-58  
(Th) Mar. 1 – Chicana Health Issues - Guest Speaker: Anita Gonzalez  
**Read:** Chris Perez, *Selena, With Love*, pgs. 59-117  
<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/latinat-risk-diabetes\\_n\\_4949198.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/12/latinat-risk-diabetes_n_4949198.html)  
<O> <http://www.newstaco.com/2016/03/01/among-latinos-hiv-awareness-starts-with-oneconversation/>

**Week 8:** (T) Mar. 6 – Study for Midterm exam  
(Th) Mar. 8 – **Midterm Exam**

**Week 9: Spring Break – March 12, 2018 through March 16, 2018**

### **Part 3: Chicana Identity: Politics, Labor, and Society**

**Week 10:** (T) Mar. 20 – **Screen: “Cristela: Lower Classy”**

**Read:** Chris Perez, *Selena, With Love*, pgs. 118-176

(Th) Mar. 22 – An Unfinished Life

**Read:** Chris Perez, *Selena, With Love*, pgs. 177-236

**Week 11:** (T) Mar. 27 – 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Women’s History Conference

(Th) Mar. 29 – **Screen: “Dolores”**

**Read:** Chris Perez, *Selena, With Love*, pgs. 237-291

***Last Day to Withdraw From Class With a “W” is Thursday, March 29, 2018***

**Week 12:** (T) Apr. 3 – Negotiating Two Cultures

**Read:** Desiree Zamorano, *The Amado Women*, pgs. 1-47

(Th) Apr. 5 – **Screen “Las Marthas”**

**Read:** Desiree Zamorano, *The Amado Women*, pgs. 48-95

<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>

**Assign Journal #3**

**Week 13:** (T) Apr. 10 – Loving Your Body

**Read:** Desiree Zamorano, *The Amado Women*, pgs. 96-143

<O> [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tatiana-k-tenreyro/body-shaming-of-latinas\\_b\\_7944254.html](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> [depictions-of-latinas-arent-just-a-hollywood-thing](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/body/eating-disorders-minorities.html)

(Th) Apr. 12 – **Screen: Real Women Have Curves**

**Assign Journal #4**

### **Part 4: The Politics of Chicana Identity in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**Week 14:** (T) Apr. 17 – Many Different Chicanas

**Read:** Desiree Zamorano, *The Amado Women*, pgs. 144-191

(Th) Apr. 19 – **Screen: Mosquita y Mari**

**Read:** Desiree Zamorano, *The Amado Women*, pgs. 192-234

**Week 15:** (T) Apr. 24 – The Unacceptable Chicana

**Read:** Heidenreich, “Learning From the Death of Gwen Araujo,” pgs. 118-135

(Th) Apr. 26 – **Screen: “A Girl Like Me”**

**Assign Journal #5**

**Week 16:** (T) May 1 – Work on Photo Essay

(Th) May 3 – Work on Photo Essay

**Photo Essay Due: May 4, 2018 at 11:59pm to be submitted in Blackboard**