

The University of Texas at El Paso

## La Chicana

**CHIC 3301, CRN 32398, Summer II 2015**

**Cross-listed with WS 3301, CRN 33909**

**M-F 11:40-1:50 BUSN 302**

Dr. Irma V. Montelongo

Office Hours M-F: 2:00-3:00pm

(And by appointment)

Office: Graham Hall 110B

Ph: (915) 747-7612

Email: [imontelo@utep.edu](mailto:imontelo@utep.edu)

### **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, feminism, nationalism, and globalization re-define, incorporate, or neglect Chicana/o identities in the United States. This course pays close attention to 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 and Puerto Rican 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, gender, and sexuality in the shaping of both geopolitical 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:**

Vicki L. Ruiz and John R. Chavez, *Memories and Migrations: Mapping Boricua and Chicana Histories* (University of Illinois Press, 2008).

Lucha Corpi, *Eulogy For A Brown Angel: A Gloria Damasco Mystery* (Arte Publico Press, 1992).

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 (25%):** 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.

**Writing Assignments (35%):** There will be two writing assignments. I will provide a detailed assignment sheet to guide your writing. See Course Calendar for assignment deadlines and due dates.

**Final Comprehensive Exam (40%):** There is a final comprehensive exam that covers the entire summer session scheduled for **July 31, 2015**.

## **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><u>Grade</u></b>	<b><u>Score</u></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. **This is a short semester so there are no make-ups for quizzes and/or the final exam, and I will not accept late assignments.**
- 2. Dropping the Class:** Students may drop the class and receive a "W" any time prior to **July 24, 2015**.

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>.

***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 Class**

**Week 1:** Monday (M) July 6 – Introductions

Tuesday (T) July 7 – Understanding Racial Formation

**Read:** Barak, et al, “Understanding Race and White Privilege,” 105-125

Wednesday (W) July 8 – Understanding Gender and Sexuality

**Read:** Barak, et al, “Understanding Gender and Male Privilege,” 105-125

Thursday (Th) July 9 – Gendered Stereotypes in American Media

**Film: Miss Representation**

Friday (F) July 10 – The Making of Mestizaje

**Read:** Cypress, “Mother Malinche,” 14-27

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

**Week 2:** (M) July 13 – Modernization and Immigration

**Read:** *Memories and Migration*, Ruiz, “Introduction,” 1-9  
and Leyva, “Cruzando La Linea,” 71-92

(T) July 14 – The Creation of Mexican Chicago

**Read:** *Memories and Migration*, Arredondo, “Lived Regionalities,”  
93-120

(W) July 15 – Mexican Labor in Colorado

**Read:** *Memories and Migration*, Montoya, “Creating an American  
Home,” 13-43

**Assign Paper #1: “La Chicana”**

(Th) July 16 – Mexican Migrant Labor in the Pacific Northwest

**Read:** *Memories & Migration*, Salas, “The Floating Borderlands,”  
151-169

(F) July 17 – Mexican Hollywood

**Film: The Bronze Screen**

## **Part 3: Chicana/o Bodies and Social Control**

**Week 3:** (M) July 20 – The Chicana/o Generation

**Read:** *Eulogy For A Brown Angel*, 1-63

**Writing Assignment #1 Due**

(T) July 21 – Social Revolution in the Streets

**Read:** *Eulogy For A Brown Angel*, 64-131

(W) July 22 – The Emergence of Third-World Feminism

**Read:** *Eulogy For A Brown Angel*, 137-189

(Th) July 23 - Social Control and Chicana Bodies

**Film: Real Women Have Curves**

**Assign Paper #2: “Popular Representations of Chicanas”**

(F) July 24 – Community Formation, Resistance, and Survival

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

**Week 4:** (M) July 27 – Latinidad in the U.S.

**Film:** *The New Latinos*

**Writing Assignment #2 Due**

(T) July 28 – Puerto Rican Community Formation

**Read:** *Memories and Migration*, Whalen “The Day the Dresses Stopped,”  
121-147

(W) July 29 – The American Dream

**Read:** *Memories and Migration*, Sánchez-Korrol, “The Star in My Compass,”  
196-213

(Th) July 30 – No Class: Study for Final Exam

(F) July 31 – **Final Exam**