

The University of Texas at El Paso

## La Chicana

**CHIC 3301, CRN 32214, Summer I 2016**

**Cross-listed with WS 3301, CRN 33421**

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

Dr. Irma V. Montelongo

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

(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 or ethnic Mexican identities in the United States. By comparing and contrasting historical and contemporary ethnic Mexican experiences, students will better understand how issues of nationalism, whiteness, masculinity, homophobia, and globalization re-define, incorporate, or neglect Chicana/o identities in the United States. This course utilizes the categories of gender and sexuality to analyze these topics and pays close attention to Chicana and third world feminism to better understand how Chicana identities challenge and negotiate U.S. 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, within 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 Text:**

Roberta Fernandez, *Intaglio: A Novel in Six Stories* (Arte Publico Press, 1990). **English Version**  
*Fronterizas: Una Novela En Seis Cuentos*. **Spanish Version**

*Additional required readings located in 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 Assignment:** (35%): There will be one writing assignment. I will provide a detailed assignment sheet to guide your writing. (See Course Calendar for assignment deadline and due date)

**Final Comprehensive Exam:** (40%): There is a final comprehensive exam that covers the entire summer session scheduled for **July, 1 2016**. (See Course Calendar)

## **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 **June 24, 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>.

***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) June 6 – Introductions

Tuesday (T) June 7 – Understanding Racial Formation

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

Wednesday (W) June 8 – Understanding Gender, Sexuality, and Race

**Read:** Kimmel, "Masculinity as Homophobia," 80-92; and Barak, et al, "Understanding Gender and Male Privilege," 127-146; **and** Sommerville, "Scientific Racism and the Emergence of the Homosexual Body," 243-266

Thursday (Th) June 9 – Gendered and Racial Stereotypes in U.S. Media

**Film: Miss Representation**

**Assign Paper #1: “Ethnic Mexican Women in US History”**

Friday (F) June 10 – The Making of Mestizaje

**Read:** Cypress, “Mother Malinche,” 14-27; and Castañeda, “Engendering the History of Alta California,” 230-259

## **Part 2: Creating Mexican-American/Chicana Identities in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries**

**Week 2:** (M) June 13 – American Conquest and Colonization

**Read:** González, “La Tules” 39-58; and Fernández, “Andrea,” 1-34

(T) June 14 – Strangers (or Prostitutes?) in their Own Land

**Read:** Peña-Delgado, “Border Control and Sexual Policing,” 157-178; and Fernández, “Amanda,” 35-48

(W) June 15 – Not Deviant, Outspoken: La Pachuca

**Read:** Escobedo, “The Pachuca Panic,” 133-156; and Fernández, “Filomena,” 49-76

(Th) June 16 – Post-War Prosperity For Whom?

**Read:** Fernández, “Leonor,” 77-100

**Film: Salt of the Earth**

(F) June 17 – The Chicana Generation

**Read:** Hernandez, “Chicana Loyalists and Feminists,” 136-148 and Fernández, “Esmeralda,” 101-124

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

**Week 3:** (M) June 20 – Social Control: Confronting Masculinity and Patriarchy

**Read:** Anaya, “I’m the King: The Macho Image,” 57-73; and Fernández, “Zulema,” 125-148

(T) June 21 – A Response: The Emergence of Third-World Feminism

**Read:** Anzaldúa, “La Conciencia de la Mestiza,” 99-120; and Tong and Botts, “Women of Color Feminisms,” 211-231

(W) June 22 – Defining the Latina Body

**Read:** Weitz, “A History of Women’s Bodies,” 3-12; and Molina and Valdivia, “Brain, Brow, and Booty,” 155-162

**Film: Real Women Have Curves**

(Th) June 23 – Latina Bodies Negotiating Space

**Read:** Chávez, “Dolores Huerta and the UFW,” 240-254; and Gutiérrez, et al, “Alicia Chacón, 47-56

(F) June 24 – Latinas in Power

**Read:** Lugo-Lugo, “A Latina In Academia,” 40-49; and “Guadalupe Valdez,” 254-260

**Writing Assignment #1 Due**

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

**Week 4: (M) June 27 – Film: Gun Hill Road**

(T) June 28 – **Film: Luminarias**

(W) June 29 – Review for Final Exam

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

(F) July 1 – **Final Exam: Will be in this classroom from 1:00 to 3:45pm**