

The University of Texas at El Paso

## La Chicana

**CHIC 3301, CRN 35810, Summer I 2017**

**Cross-listed with WS 3301, CRN 33213**

**M-F 11:40am-1:50pm UGLC 342**

**Dr. Irma V. Montelongo**

Office Hours M-F: 10:30-11:30am

(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:**

Christine Granados, Fight Like a Man & Other Stories We Tell Our Children (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2017)

*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 films. The quizzes are intended to gauge your ability to keep up with the readings and to ensure that you are attending as class as required.

**Group Discussion Questions:** (35%): You will work in groups of 4-5 and together you will critically analyze the readings, book, and films screened in class. You will review and analyze the works and develop questions and critiques and present them in class, as a group, for further discussion.

**Final Comprehensive Exam:** (40%): There is a final comprehensive exam that covers the entire summer session scheduled for **July 7, 2017**. (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 30, 2017**.

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 12 – Introductions

Tuesday (T) June 13 – Understanding Racial Formation

**Read:** Richard Dyer, "The Matter of Whiteness," 9-14; and Neil Foley, "Becoming Hispanic: Mexican-Americans and Whiteness," 59-69

Wednesday (W) June 14 – Racial Stereotypes in the U.S.

**Film: Mickey Mouse Monopoly**

Thursday (Th) June 15 – Understanding Gender and Sexuality

**Read:** Rose Weitz, "A History of Women's Bodies," 3-12; and Siohban Sommerville "Scientific Racism and the Emergence of the Homosexual Body," 243-266

Friday (F) June 16 – Gendered Stereotypes in the U.S.

**Film: Miss Representation**

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

**Week 2:** (M) June 19 – American Conquest and Colonization

**Read:** David Weber, “Scarce More Than Apes,” 153-167; and Deena González, “Gertrudis Barceló: La Tules, 39-52

(T) June 20 – La Pachuca

**Read:** Catherine Ramírez, “Crimes of Fashion,” 1-35

(W) June 21 – The Chicana Generation

**Read:** Chávez, “Dolores Huerta and the UFW,” 240-254; and Gutierrez, “Rosie Castro,” 106-112

**Film: No Mas Bebés**

(Th) June 22 – Chicana Feminsim

**Read:** Anzaldua, “La Conciencia de la Mestiza,” 99-120

**Film: Why Everyone Should be a Feminist**

(F) June 23 – **Film: Real Women Have Curves**

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

**Week 3:** (M) June 26 – Negotiating Space on the U.S.-Mexico Border

**Read:** Granados, *Fight Like a Man*, 1-35

(T) June 27 – Race, Class, and Gender on the Border

**Read:** Granados, *Fight Like a Man*, 36-76

(W) June 28 – Border Identities

**Read:** Granados, *Fight Like a Man*, 77-111

**Film: Las Marthas**

(Th) June 29 – Short Stories From the Border

**Read:** Granados, *Fight Like a Man*, 115-147

(F) June 30 – Border Experiences

**Read:** Granados, *Fight Like a Man*, 148-180

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

**Week 4:** (M) July 3 – Latinas in Power

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

(T) July 4 – Holiday

(W) July 5 – Understanding Difference

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

**Film: A Girl Like Me: The Gwen Araujo Story**

(Th) July 6 – Review for Final Exam

(F) July 7 – **Final Exam: Will be in this classroom from 11:30 – 1:30pm.**