

The University of Texas at El Paso

La Chicana

CHIC 3301: CRN 34265/WS 3301: CRN 32741

Summer I 2019

M-F 2:00pm-4:10pm LART 101

Dr. Irma V. Montelongo

Office Hours MWF: 12:30-1:30pm

(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 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 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 Text:

All readings are located in your Blackboard shell.

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 class as required.

Photo Journal Assignment: (35%): In this course you will create a short photo journal that consists of four photos taken by you. Each week you will submit a journal entry that consists of a photo that symbolizes both "La Chicana" and the theme of the class for that week. The photo must be accompanied by a detailed paragraph explaining the photo's connection to both "La Chicana" and the theme. I will provide a detailed assignment sheet for each journal entry.

Final Comprehensive Exam: (40%): There is a final comprehensive exam that covers the entire summer session scheduled for **July 3, 2019**. (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:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Score</u>
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 28, 2019**.

- 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, 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
- 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: Intersections of Race, Gender, and Class

Week 1: Monday (M) June 10 – Introductions

Tuesday (T) June 11 – Understanding Racial Formation

Read: Richard Dyer, "The Matter of White Privilege," 9-14; and Neil Foley, "Becoming Hispanic: Mexican-Americans and Whiteness," 59-69; and Kristi Soto, "I Am Not Ashamed of Being a Mexican-American Anymore"

Wednesday (W) June 12 – Racial Stereotypes in the U.S.

Read: Ramón Gutiérrez, "What's in a Name?" 19-53; and "You Say Latino: A Mini Comic"

Film: Latinos Beyond Reel – Challenging a Media Stereotype

Thursday (Th) June 13 – Understanding Gender and Sexuality

Read: Ana Castillo, "The Ancient Roots of Machismo," 65-89; and "The Virgin-Whore Dichotomy and Why Women Cannot Destroy It," and "9 Facts That Prove Traditional Definitions of Gender are Bullsh*t"

Friday (F) June 14 – Gendered Stereotypes in the U.S.

Film: Miss Representation

Photo Journal Entry #1 due

Part 2: Creating Mexican-American/Chicana Identities in the 19th and 20th Centuries

Week 2: (M) June 17 – American Conquest and Colonization

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

(T) June 18 – The Mexican-American Generation

Read: Vicki Ruiz, “Star Struck,” 1-35

(W) June 19 – The Chicana Generation

Read: Richard García, “Dolores Huerta: Woman, Organizer, and Symbol,” 57-71

Film: Dolores

(Th) June 20 – Chicana Feminsim

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

Film: Dolores (cont’d)

(F) June 21 – **Guest Speaker: Georgina Pérez**

Photo Journal Entry #2 due

Part 3: Traversing Borders: Chicana Bodies and Social Control

Week 3: (M) June 24 – Loving Our Bodies

Read: Daisy Hernandez, “Sexist Depictions of Latinas;” and Tatiana Tenreiro, “Body Shaming of Latinas;” and “13 Things You’re Probably Saying to Slut Shame”

Film: Real Women Have Curves

(T) June 25 – Negotiating Space on the U.S.-Mexico Border

Read: Aura Bogado, “Las Marthas Will Make You Think Twice About the Border, Latinas, and Class;” and Christopher Kelly, “Las Marthas: Debutantes in Laredo, Surprisingly Colonial”

Film: Las Marthas

(W) June 26 – El Paso Museum of Art: Antonio Castro – Visions of a Borderland

(Th) June 27 – Gender, Class, and Violence on the U.S.-Mexico Border

Read: Alicia Gaspar de Alba, “The Maquiladora Murders, 1993-2003,” 1-17; and “Mexico’s Epidemic of Missing and Murdered Women”

Film: Señorita Extraviada

(F) June 28 – **Guest Speaker**

Photo Journal Entry #3 due

Part 4: The Politics of Latina Identity in the 21st Century

Week 4: (M) July 1 – Chicanas/Latinas in Power

Read: Carmen Lugo-Lugo, “A Latina In Academia,” 40-49; and Gutierrez, “Guadalupe Valdez,” 254-260; and “Mary González, Texas State Representative Identifies as Pansexual” and Josh Logue, “Latina/o/x;” and Daniel Hernandez, “The Case Against Latinx”

(T) July 2 – Review for Final Exam

Photo Journal Entry #4 due

(W) July 3 – **Final Exam: Will be in this classroom from 2:00 – 4:00pm**