

The University of Texas at El Paso

La Chicana

CHIC 3301 CRN 11196 and WS 3301 CRN 11868

Fall 2022: August 23 – December 8, 2022

TR 3:00-4:20pm Education 313

Dr. Irma V. Montelongo

Office Hours TR: 11:30-1:00pm (and by appointment)

Office: Graham Hall 110B

Ph: (915) 747-7612

Email: imontelo@utep.edu

Course Description:

This course is an interdisciplinary examination of the social, political, and economic forces that characterize Chicana/o/x or ethnic Mexican identities in the United States. Through an examination of historical and contemporary ethnic Mexican experiences, students will better understand how issues of colonialism, nationalism, whiteness, masculinity, homophobia, and globalization re-define, incorporate, or neglect Chicana/o identities in the U.S. This course plays close attention to “La Chicana” and third world feminism and the categories of race, class, gender, and sexuality to better understand how Chicana specifically and Latinas in general challenge and negotiate U.S. norms. Through texts, films, podcasts, and discussion this class explores how the term “Chicana” is situated in the historical context of the 1960s-70s civil rights activism. There is no single definition that encompasses all Chicana experiences; nevertheless, this course introduces the warriors, laborers, activists, artists, and all the rest that make up the complex, varied, and important story of “La Chicana.”

Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will:

1. better understand how gender dynamics and ethnic identity intersect and characterize the life experiences of Chicanas and Latinas in the United States.
2. discuss and critique Chicana and Latina feminist social and cultural theory.
3. better understand how theories of race, class, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality shape both geo-political and metaphorical borders.
4. discuss the historical and contemporary experiences of Chicanas and Latinas with respect to immigration, politics, education, religion, family dynamics, labor, the media, and the arts.
5. view themselves as global citizens as they interact and collaborate with people of diverse backgrounds in open and respectful ways

The guiding questions for this course are the following: *What is Chicana identity? What are the historical events that define Chicana identity? How does space and time inform Chicana identity formation?*

Required Texts:

- Yasmin Ramirez, *Ándale Prieta! A Love Letter to My Family* (2022)
- Prisca Dorcas Mojica Rodriguez, *For Brown Girls with Sharp Edges and Tender Hearts* (2021)
- Additional readings located in **Blackboard**. Students are responsible for all readings.

COVID-19 PRECAUTION STATEMENT

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org.

Course Requirements:

- 1. 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 treat each other, and each other's contributions to class discussions, with respect.***
- 2. Quizzes (25%):** There will be quizzes throughout the semester based on the readings, videos, and podcasts. The quizzes are intended to gauge your ability to keep up with the materials and to ensure that you are attending class as required. **There are no make-ups for quizzes.**
- 3. Midterm Exam (25%):** There is a midterm exam scheduled for **October 13, 2022**. The midterm will cover Learning Modules 1, 2, 3, and 4. **There are no make-ups for exams.**
- 4. Journal Entries (25%):** You will submit six (6) journal entries throughout the semester (see Course Calendar for due dates). The assignment will consist of a 200-word paper (1-page double-spaced) that analyzes what you learned from the specific Learning Module under discussion. I will provide a guiding question for each journal entry. **Deadline to submit the journal entries will be 11:59pm on the due date.**
- 5. Final Exam (25%):** You will have a final exam at the end of the course that will cover Learning Modules 5, 6, 7, and 8. I will provide a review sheet located in Learning Module 9. The Final Exam will be proctored in our classroom on **December 8, 2022**.

Grading Scale: Final grades will be given according to the student's demonstrated level of mastery of the subject matter as determined by 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 contact 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 **October 28, 2022**.
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. **Student Support Services:** If you have a documented special needs 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. I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to special needs, including all learning special needs. 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.
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, Snapchatting, Tweeting, etc. during class!!!

Course Calendar:

Learning Module 1: Understanding Ethnicity, Class, and Race in the U.S.

Week 1: Tuesday (T) Aug. 23 – Introductions

Thursday (Th) Aug. 25 – Understanding Ethnic Identity Formation

Read: “You Say Latino:” A Mini Comic; Neil Foley, “Becoming Hispanic: Mexican Americans and Whiteness,” 59-69; “I Am Not Ashamed of Being a Mexican Anymore”

Podcast(s): “Anything for Selena: Spanglish” (44 mins.)

“Will More Latinos Eventually Identify as White?” (11 mins.)

Week 2: (T) Aug. 30 – Understanding Racial Formation

Read: (FBG) Mojica Rodriguez, “Introduction,” ix-8; and “Colorism,” 29-46 and “White Fragility,” 183-200; and Peggy McIntosh, “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack,” 1-8.

Podcast: “Too Black, Too Latino” (53 mins.)

(Th) Sept. 1 – Creating Mexican American Identity

Video – *Las Marthas*

Journal Entry #1: due September 4, 2022, at 11:59pm

Learning Module 2: Understanding Gender and Sexuality

Week 3: (T) Sept. 6 – Gendering Bodies

Read: Rose Weitz, “A History of Women’s Bodies,” 3-12; and “9 Facts That Prove Traditional Definitions of Gender are Bullsh*t”

(TH) Sept. 8 – Toxic Masculinity

Read: (FBG) Mojica Rodriguez, “Toxic Masculinity,” 113-136

Video: *The Mask You Live In*

Week 4: (T) Sept. 13 – When Others Hate Our Bodies

Read: Linda Heidenreich, “Learning from the Death of Gwen Araujo,” 50-86

(Th) Sept. 15 – Policing Sexuality

Video: *Southwest of Salem*

Journal Entry #2: due September 18, 2022, at 11:59pm

Learning Module 3 – Indigenous Beginnings and Colonial Legacies

Week 5: (T) Sept. 20 – The Virgin/Whore Binary

Read: Adelaida del Castillo, “Malintzin Tenepal,” 122-126; Eric Wolf, “The Virgin of Guadalupe: A Mexican Symbol,” 34-39

Video: *La Otra Conquista*

(Th) Sept. 22 – Spanish Conquest of Minds and Bodies

Video: *La Otra Conquista* (cont’d)

Week 6: (T) Sept. 27 – American Conquest and Colonization

Read: David Weber, “Scarce More Than Apes,” 153-167; and David Romo, “The Bath Riots,” 223-244

(Th) Sept. 29 – Culture Clashes

Video: *Foreigners in Their Own Land*

Journal Entry #3: due October 2, 2022, at 11:59pm

Learning Module 4 – Hispanic Heritage Events and Midterm Exam

Week 7: (T) Oct. 4 – HHC Event: Book Presentation: Cynthia Orozco, “Agent of Change: Adela Sloss-Vento

Location: Blumberg Auditorium, 1st Floor University Library

(Th) Oct. 6 – HHC Event: Film Screening: “The Infiltrators.” A Film by Christina Ibarra and Alex Rivera

Week 8: (T) Oct. 11 – Study for Midterm Exam

(Th) Oct. 13 – Midterm Exam

Learning Module 5 – Becoming Mexican American

Week 9: (T) Oct. 18 – The Daughters of Mexican Immigrants

Read: Vicki Ruiz, “Star Struck,” 109-129; and Ramirez, *Andale Prieta*, 1-33

Video: *Jovita Idar* (11 mins.)

Podcast(s): “America’s Forgotten History of Mexican American Repatriation” (32 mins.)

(Th) Oct. 20 – La Pachuca

Read: Elizabeth Escobedo, “The Pachuca Panic,” 133-156; and Ramirez, *Andale Prieta*, 34-67

Journal Entry #4: due October 23, 2022, at 11:59pm

Learning Module 6 – Chicanas and the Movement

Week 10: (T) Oct. 25 – The “Herstory” of the Movement

Read: Lisa Hernandez, “Chicana Loyalists and Feminists,” 136-148; and Ramirez, *Andale Prieta*, 68-113

Video: *Walkout*

(Th) Oct. 27 – The Quest for Social Justice

Read: (FBG) Mojica Rodriguez, “Myth of Meritocracy,” 63-87

Video: *Walkout* (cont’d)

Last Day to Withdraw with a “W” is October 28, 2022

Learning Module 7 – Chicana Bodies and Social Control

Week 11: (T) Nov. 1 – Owning Our Voices

Read: Alicia Chavez, “Dolores Huerta and the United Farmworkers,” 240-252; and Ramirez, *Andale Prieta*, 116-167

Video: *Dolores*

(Th) Nov. 3 – **Video:** *Dolores* (cont’d)

Read: Ramirez, *Andale Prieta*, 168-208

Week 12: (T) Nov. 8 – Reproductive Injustice

Ramirez, *Andale Prieta*, 209-262

Video: *No Mas Bebés*

(Th) Nov. 10 – Loving Our Bodies

Video: *Real Women Have Curves*

Read: (FBG) Mojica Rodriguez, “Intersectionality,” 137-160

Journal Entry #5: due November 13, 2022, at 11:59pm

Learning Module 8 – The Politics of Chicana Identity in the 21st Century

Week 13: (T) Nov. 15 – Mija, Yes You Can

Read: (FBG) Mojica Rodriguez, “Imposter Syndrome,” 47-61

Podcast: Fronteras: Maria Hinojosa – “We Have the Capacity to Do Anything” (28 mins.)

(Th) Nov. 17 – Adelante!!

Read: (FBG) Mojica Rodriguez, “Decoloniality,” 201-219

Video: *The Culture is Latina* (MSNBC)

Journal Entry #6: due November 20, 2022, at 11:59pm

Week 14: (T) Nov. 22 – Thanksgiving Holiday No Class

(Th) Nov. 24 – Thanksgiving Holiday No Class

Learning Module 9 – Final Exam Prep

Week 15: (T) Nov. 29 – Study for Final Exam

(Th) Dec. 1 – Study for Final Exam

Final Exam: December 8, 2022, from 4:00pm – 6:45pm. Exam to be proctored in our classroom.