

The University of Texas at El Paso

## La Chicana

**CHIC 3301 CRN 21099 and WS 3301 CRN 26032**

Spring 2023: January 17 – May 4, 2023

TR 3:00-4:20pm EDUC 114

**Dr. Irma V. Montelongo**

Office Hours TR: 12:00-1:30pm (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 identity formation in the United States. By comparing historical and contemporary Chicana/x experiences, students will better understand how such issues as colonialism, masculinity, whiteness, homophobia, nationalism, and globalization re-define, incorporate, or neglect Chicana/x identities in the U.S. This course pays close attention to "La Chicana," third world feminism, and the categories of race, class, gender, and sexuality to better understand how Chicana/xs specifically and Latina/xs in general challenge and negotiate U.S. norms. We will interrogate identity formation keeping in mind that there is no single definition that encompasses all Chicana/x experiences. Nevertheless, through texts, films, podcasts, and class discussion this course ventures to learn about the warriors, laborers, activists, artists, and others that make up the complex, varied, and incredible story of "La Chicana."

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

**By the end of the class, students will:**

1. better understand how gender dynamics and ethnic identity intersect and characterize the life experiences of Chicana/xs and Latinas in the United States.
2. discuss and critique Chicana/x and Latina/x feminist social and cultural theory.
3. better understand how theories of race, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality shape both geopolitical and metaphorical borders.
4. discuss the historical and contemporary experiences of Chicana/xs and Latina/xs 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/x identity? What are the historical events that define Chicana/x identity? How does space and time inform Chicana/x identity formation?

### **Required Texts:**

- Kali Fajardo-Anstine, *Woman of Light* (2022)
- Julissa Arce, *You Sound Like a White Girl* (2022)
- 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](mailto: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](http://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 **March 9, 2023**. The midterm will cover Learning Modules 1, 2, 3, and 4. **There are no make-ups for exams.**
- 4. Reaction Paper (25%):** You will submit four (4) Reaction Papers throughout the semester (see Course Calendar for due dates). The assignment will consist of 2-3-pages, double-spaced, 12pt. font that analyzes themes and sources from the specific Learning Module under discussion. I will provide a detailed writing prompt for each Reaction Paper. **The deadline to submit the Reaction Papers will be 11:59pm on the due date. See Course Calendar.**
- 5. Final Exam (25%):** You will have a comprehensive final exam at the end of the course that will cover Learning Modules 5, 6, and 7. The Final Exam will be proctored in our classroom on **May 11, 2023** (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 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 **March 30, 2023**.
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 as one’s 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](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). 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 Race, Ethnicity, and Class in the U.S.**

**Week 1:** Tuesday (T) Jan. 17 – Introductions

Thursday (Th) Jan. 19 – Understanding Racial Formation

**Read:** Prisca Mojica Rodríguez, “Colorism,” 29-46; Peggy McIntosh, “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack,” 1-8.

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

**Week 2:** (T) Jan. 24 – Understanding Ethnic Identity Formation and Class

**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.)

(Th) Jan. 26 – Mexican American Identity and Class Formation

**Screen:** *Las Marthas*

**Reaction Piece #1:** due January 29, 2023, at 11:59pm via Blackboard

### **Learning Module 2: Understanding Gender and Sexuality**

**Week 3:** (T) Jan. 31 – 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) Feb. 2 – “Be a Man, Act Like a Man”

**Read:** Prisca Mojica Rodríguez, “Toxic Masculinity,” 113-136

**Screen:** *The Mask You Live In*

**Week 4:** (T) Feb. 7 – When Others Hate Our Bodies

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

(Th) Feb. 9 – Policing Sexuality

**Screen:** *Southwest of Salem*

**Reaction Piece #2:** due February 12, 2023, at 11:59pm via Blackboard

### **Learning Module 3 – Indigenous Beginnings and Colonial Legacies**

**Week 5:** (T) Feb. 14 – The Virgin/Whore Binary

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

(Th) Feb. 16 – Spanish Conquest of Bodies and Minds

**Screen:** *La Otra Conquista*

**Week 6:** (T) Feb. 21 – American Conquest and Colonization

**Read:** David Romo, “The Bath Riots,” 223-244

(Th) Feb. 23 – Culture Clashes

**Read:** Fajardo-Anstine, “*Woman of Light*,” xvii-125

**Screen:** *Foreigners in Their Own Land*

### **Learning Module 4 – Becoming Mexican American and Midterm Exam**

**Week 7:** (T) Feb. 28 – Defining Our Homelands

**Read:** Fajardo-Anstine, “*Woman of Light*,” 126-260

(Th) Mar. 2 – Mexicanas at the Turn of the Twentieth Century

**Read:** Fajardo-Anstine, “*Woman of Light*,” 261-382

**Week 8:** (T) Mar. 7 – Study for Midterm exam

(Th) Mar. 9 – Midterm Exam

**Spring Break: March 13 - 17, 2023**

## **Learning Module 5 – The Chicana Movement**

**Week 9:** (T) Mar. 21 – Las Pachucas

**Read:** Catherine Ramirez, “The Pachuca and Chicana Style Politics,” 1-35

(Th) Mar. 23 – The “Herstory” of the Movement

**Read:** Lisa Hernandez, “Chicana Loyalists and Feminists,” 136-148; “How Female Brown Berets Created Their Own Chicana Movement”

**Week 10:** (T) Mar. 28 – Fight Like a Chicana

**Screen:** *No Mas Bebés*

(Th) Mar. 30 – Chicana Day of Rest

## **Last Day to Withdraw with a “W” is March 30, 2023**

## **Learning Module 6 – Chicana Bodies and Social Control**

**Week 11:** (T) Apr. 4 – Finding Our Voices

**Read:** Julissa Arce, *You Sound Like a White Girl*,” 1-112

(Th) Apr. 6 – Owning Our Voices

**Read:** Julissa Arce, *You Sound Like a White Girl*,” 115-186

**Week 12:** (T) Apr. 11 – How Others See Our Bodies

**Read:** Daisy Hernandez, “Sexist Depictions of Latinas;” Tatiana Tenreyro, “Body Shaming of Latinas;”

**Podcast:** “Anything for Selena: Big Butt Politics” (45 mins.)

(Th) Apr. 13 – Loving Our Bodies

**Screen:** *Real Women Have Curves*

**Reaction Piece #3:** due April 16, 2023, at 11:59pm via Blackboard

## **Learning Module 7 – The Politics of Chicana Identity**

**Week 13:** (T) Apr. 18 – The Shoulders We Stand On

**Read:** Maylei Blackwell, “Many Roads, One Path: A Testimonio of Gloria E. Anzaldúa,” 110-119

(Th) Apr. 20 – Chicana Sheroes you probably never heard of and ask yourselves WHY?

**Week 14:** (T) Apr. 25 – Guest Speaker: Georgina Pérez

(Th) Apr. 27 – In-Class Review for Final Exam

**Reaction Piece #4:** due April 30, 2023, at 11:59pm via Blackboard

## **Learning Module 8 – Course Conclusion**

**Week 15:** (T) May 2 – Study for Final Exam

(Th) May 4 – Study for Final Exam

**Final Exam:** May 11, 2023, from 4:00pm – 6:45pm. Exam to be proctored in our classroom.