

The University of Texas at El Paso

La Chicana

CHIC 3301: CRN 33690/WS 3301: CRN 32330

Summer I 2021

M-F 2:00pm-4:10pm Educ 203

Dr. Irma V. Montelongo

Office Hours M-Th: 1:00-1:45pm

(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 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. connect the past to the present in an effort to better understand the world around them.
2. better understand how gender dynamics and ethnic identity intersect and characterize the life experiences of Chicanas and Latinas in the United States.
3. discuss and critique Chicana and Latina feminist social and cultural theory.
4. better understand how theories of race, class, ethnicity, and gender shape both geo-political and metaphorical borders.
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 do space and time inform identity formation?

Required Text:

- Carla Trujillo, *What Night Brings* (2003)
- Additional 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: (30%): There will be quizzes throughout this summer session based on the readings, films, and podcasts. The quizzes are intended to gauge your ability to keep up with the course materials 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 six photos (three (3) journal entries with two photos each) taken by you. Each week you will submit a journal entry that consists of two (2) photos that symbolize both "La Chicana" and one or more themes of the class for that week. Each of the two photos must be accompanied by a detailed paragraph explaining the photo's connection to both "La Chicana" and the theme(s). I will provide a detailed assignment sheet for each journal entry.

Final Comprehensive Exam: (35%): There is a final comprehensive exam that covers the entire summer session scheduled for **July 1, 2021**. (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:

Grade: Score

A: 90-100 **B:** 80-89 **C:** 70-79 **D:** 60-6 **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 25, 2021**.
- 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. NO TEXT MESSAGING and/or social media 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 7 – Introductions

Tuesday (T) June 8 – Understanding Racial Formation

Read: Richard Dyer, “The Matter of White Privilege,” 9-14; and Peggy McIntosh, “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack,” 1-8

Video: I Am Not Your Negro

Wednesday (W) June 9 – Identity Formation

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

Podcast: Spanglish

Thursday (Th) June 10 – Understanding Gender and Class

Read: Robin Marantz Henig, “Rethinking Gender,” 1-12 and “9 Facts That Prove Traditional Definitions of Gender are Bullsh*t” and Aura Bogado, “Las Marthas Will Make You Think Twice About the Border, Latinas, and Class”

Film: Las Marthas

Friday (F) June 11 – Racial and Gendered Stereotypes in the U.S.

Photo Journal Entry #1 due

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

Week 2: (M) June 14 – American Conquest and Colonization

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

Video – Jovita Idar: Mexican American Journalist (12 mins.)

(T) June 15 – Becoming Mexican American

Read: Vicki Ruiz, “Star Struck,” 109-129; and Elizabeth Escobedo, “Introduction,” 1-10

(W) June 16 – Pachucas

Read: Trujillo, *What Night Brings*, 1-80

Guest Speaker: Georgina Pérez

(Th) June 17 – The Chicana Generation

Read: Trujillo, *What Night Brings*, 81-161

Film: Dolores

(F) June 18 – Chicana Feminism

Read: Trujillo, *What Night Brings*, 162-242

Podcast: The Endearing Wisdom of Cherrie Moraga

Photo Journal Entry #2 due

Part 3: Traversing Borders: Chicana Bodies and Social Control

Week 3: (M) June 21 – 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

(T) June 22 – When Others Hate Our Bodies

Read: Linda Heidenreich, “Learning From the Death of Gwen Araujo,”

Film: Southwest of Salem

(W) June 23 – TBA

(Th) June 24 – Reclaiming Our Bodies

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

Film: Real Women Have Curves

(F) June 25 – Loving Our Bodies

Podcast: Big Butt Politics

Photo Journal Entry #3 due

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

Week 4: (M) June 28 – Chicanas/Latinas in Power

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

(T) June 29 – TBA

(W) June 30 – Study for Final Exam

(Th) July 1 – **Final Exam: Will be in this classroom from 2:00 – 4:00pm**