

The University of Texas at El Paso

## La Chicana

**CHIC 3301: CRN 33723/WS 3301: CRN 32338**

**Summer I 2022**

**M-F 2:00pm-4:10pm CoBA 304**

**Dr. Irma V. Montelongo**

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

(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. 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 do space and time inform Chicana identity formation?***

**Required Text:**

- Estella Gonzalez, *Chola Salvation* (Arte Publico Press, 2021)
- Additional readings are 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 **June 30, 2022**. (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**

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**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 24, 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. **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. 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 6 – Introductions

Tuesday (T) June 7 – ***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 8 – ***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 9 – ***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"

**Video: Las Marthas**

Friday (F) June 10 – ***Racial and Gendered Stereotypes in the U.S.***

**Photo Journal Entry #1 due**

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

**Week 2:** (M) June 13 – ***American Conquest and Colonization***

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

**Podcast:** Teresa Urrea: The Mexican Joan of Arc

(T) June 14 – ***Becoming Mexican American***

**Read:** Vicki Ruiz, “Star Struck,” 109-129

**Video – Jovita Idar: Mexican American Journalist**

(W) June 15 – ***Las Pachucas***

**Read:** Elizabeth Escobedo, “Introduction,” 1-10

(Th) June 16 – ***The Chicana Generation***

**Read:** Justine Hernandez, “Chicana Loyalists and Feminists,” 136-148

**Video: Walkout**

(F) June 17 – ***Acknowledging Chicana “Herstory”***

**El Paso History Museum Visit**

**Photo Journal Entry #2 due**

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

**Week 3:** (M) June 20 – ***When Others Hate Our Bodies***

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

**Film: Southwest of Salem**

(T) June 21 – ***When Others Shame 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”

**Podcast: Big Butt Politics**

(W) June 22 – ***Reclaiming Our Bodies***

**Read:** Gonzalez, *Chola Salvation*, 1-47; and Sandra Cisneros, “Guadalupe the Sex Goddess,” 46-51

(Th) June 23 – ***Loving Our Bodies***

**Read:** Gonzalez, *Chola Salvation*, 49-98

**Film: Real Women Have Curves**

(F) June 24 – ***Bodily Images***

**Read:** Gonzalez, *Chola Salvation*, 99-136

**Photo Journal Entry #3 due**

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

**Week 4:** (M) June 27 – ***Bridging Cultural Gaps***

**Read:** Gonzalez, *Chola Salvation*, 137-172

**Film: Habla Women**

(T) June 28 – ***Surviving the System***

**Read:** Gonzalez, 173-206

**Podcast: The Race to Save Melissa Lucio**

(W) June 29 – Study for Final Exam

(Th) June 30 – **Final Exam: Will be in this classroom from 2:00 – 4:00pm**