

The University of Texas at El Paso

La Chicana

CHIC 3301: CRN 33343/WS 3301: CRN 32180

Summer I 2023

M-F 11:40pm-1:50pm Educ 112

Dr. Irma V. Montelongo

Office Hours M-Th: 10:30-1:15pm

(And by appointment)

Office: Graham Hall 107

Ph: (915) 747-5462

Email: imontelo@utep.edu

Course Description:

This course is an interdisciplinary examination of the social, political, and economic forces that characterize Chicana/x identity formation in the United States. By comparing historical and contemporary Chicana/x experiences, students will better understand how issues such 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. 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 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. better understand 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. better understand 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 who 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 do space and time inform Chicana/x identity formation?

Required Text:

- Yasmin Ramirez, *Ándale Prieta! A Love Letter to My Family* (Lee & Low Books, 2022)
- 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 try to treat each other and each other's contributions to class discussions with respect.***

Quizzes: (20%): 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.

Weekly Journal Assignments: (60%): Each week you will submit a one journal assignment that consists of one (1) film/podcast/reading analysis, one (1) primary source analysis: newspaper article, and one (1) photo entry analysis, **taken by you at one of our Friday outings**, that somehow symbolizes “La Chicana.” I will provide a detailed assignment sheet for each journal assignment.

Final Complete Journal Project: (20%): For this course you will create and complete a journal project that consists of three (3) film/podcast analyses, three (3) reading analyses, and 3 (three) photo entries, **taken by you**, that symbolize La Chicana/x. At the end of the course, you will submit your complete journal projects, which will consist of the journal assignments discussed above. Your final journal project is **due July 10, 2023, by 11:59 pm MST**.

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:** 60-69 **F:** 0-59

GRADUATE CREDIT FOR THIS COURSE: 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 during 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. **This is a short semester so there is no make-up for quizzes, 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 27, 2023**.

3. **Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures (HoP). The HoP includes 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 others 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 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 accommodation 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 12 – Introductions

Tuesday (T) June 13 – ***Understanding Racial Formation***

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

Video: *I Am Not Your Negro*

Wednesday (W) June 14 – ***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: *Anything for Selena - Spanglish*

Thursday (Th) June 15 – ***Understanding Gender and Class***

Read: “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 16 – ***Holocaust Museum Visit***

Journal Assignment #1 due Sunday, June 18, 2023, by 11:59 pm MST

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

Week 2: (M) June 19 – ***Holiday: No Class***

(T) June 20 – ***American Conquest and Colonization***

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

Podcast: Teresa Urrea: The Mexican Joan of Arc

(W) June 21 – ***Becoming Mexican American***

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

Video – Jovita Idar: Mexican American Journalist

(Th) June 22 – ***Las Pachucas***

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

(F) June 23 – ***Lincoln Park Mural Tour***

Journal Assignment #2 due Sunday, June 25, 2023, at 11:59 pm MST

Part 3: Chicana Bodies and Social Control

Week 3: (M) June 26 – ***The Chicana Generation***

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

Video: Walkout

(T) June 27 – ***When Others Hate Our Bodies***

Read: Linda Heidenreich, “Learning From the Death of Gwen Araujo,” 118-135

Video: Southwest of Salem

(W) June 28 – ***When Others Shame Our Bodies***

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

Podcast: Big Butt Politics

(Th) June 29 – ***Reclaiming Our Bodies***

Read: Yasmin Ramirez, “*Andale Prieta*,”

(F) June 30 – ***El Paso History Museum Visit***

Journal Assignment #3 due Sunday, July 2, 2023, at 11:59 pm MST

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

Week 4: (M) July 3 – ***Loving Our Bodies***

Read: Yasmin Ramirez, “*Andale Prieta*,”

Film: Real Women Have Curves

(T) July 4 – ***Holiday: No Class***

(W) July 5 – ***Loving Our Bodies***

Read: Yasmin Ramirez, “*Andale Prieta,*”

(Th) July 6 – ***El Paso Museum of Art Visit***

(F) July 7 – Work on Final Project

Final Summer Semester Project:

(M) July 10 – **Complete Journal Project Due by 11:59 pm MST.**