

The University of Texas at El Paso

## La Chicana

**CHIC 3301: CRN 31907/WS 3301: CRN 30908**

**Summer I 2024**

**M-F 11:40pm-1:50pm LART 101**

**Dr. Irma V. Montelongo**

Office Hours M-Th: 10:30-11:30pm

(And by appointment)

Office: Graham Hall 204

Ph: (915) 747-7612

Email: [imontelo@utep.edu](mailto: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:**

- All required readings are in your Course 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: newspaper article, and one (1) photo entry, **taken by you at one of your Friday outings**, that symbolizes "La Chicana." You will be responsible for four (4) journal assignments, one per week. I will provide a detailed assignment sheet for each journal assignment.

**Final Complete Journal Project:** (20%): Your final journal project will consist of your four (4) journal assignments combined into one final journal project. The deadline to submit your complete journal project is **July 8, 2024, 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 **July 01, 2024.**
3. **Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures (HoP). This 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. Violations will be taken seriously and referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

4. **Artificial Intelligence:** or **AI** technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, Co-Pilot, etc. ***is not allowed*** for assignments in this course. Each student is expected to use critical and creative thinking skills to complete tasks and *not rely on computer-generated ideas*. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).
5. **Differently Abled Students:** 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 days of this class. For additional information please visit the CASS website at <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/>.

***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 10 – Introductions

Tuesday (T) June 11 – ***Understanding Racial Formation***

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

**Podcast:** *Anything for Selena – Selena and Race* (45 mins.)

Wednesday (W) June 12 – ***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* (43 mins.)

Thursday (Th) June 13 – ***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* (55 mins.)

Friday (F) June 14 – ***Holocaust Museum Visit***

**Journal Entry #1 due Sunday, June 16, 2024, by 11:59 pm MST**

## **Part 2: Creating Mexican American Identities 1846-1950**

**Week 2:** (M) June 17 – *American Conquest and Colonization*

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

**Podcast:** *Teresa Urrea: The Mexican Joan of Arc* (49 mins.)

(T) June 18 – *Becoming Mexican American*

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

**Video:** *Jovita Idar: Mexican American Journalist* (11 mins.)

(W) June 19 – *Holiday: No Class*

(Th) June 20 – *Las Pachucas*

**Read:** Elizabeth Escobedo, “The Pachuca Panic,” 133-156

**Video:** *Zoot Suit Riots* (55 mins.)

(F) June 21 – *Lincoln Park Murals*

**Journal Entry #2 due Sunday, June 23, 2024, at 11:59 pm MST**

## **Part 3: Chicanas: Representation Matters**

**Week 3:** (M) June 24 – *The Chicana Generation*

**Read:** Alicia Chávez, “Dolores Huerta and the UFW,” 240-252; and Justine Hernandez, “Chicana Loyalists and Feminists,” 136-148

**Video:** *Dolores* (95 mins.)

(T) June 25 – *When Others Hate Our Bodies*

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

**Video:** *Southwest of Salem* (90 mins.)

(W) June 26 – *Body Loving Our Bodies*

**Video:** *Real Women Have Curves* (90 mins.)

(Th) June 27 – *Fetishizing the Latina/x*

**Read:** Brain, Brow, and Booty: Latina Iconicity in U.S. Popular Culture, 155-162

**Podcast:** *Anything for Selena - Big Butt Politics* (44 mins.)

(F) June 28 – *El Paso Museum of Art Visit*

**Journal Entry #3 due Sunday, June 30, 2024, at 11:59 pm MST**

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

**Week 4:** (M) July 1 – Breaking Down Professional Barriers

**Read:** Gutierrez, et al., “Alicia Chacón,” 47-56; and “Guadalupe Valdez,” 254-260; and Carmen Lugo Lugo, “A Latina In Academia,” 40-49

(T) July 2 – Latina Icons

**Video:** *Rita Moreno: Just a Girl Who Decided to Go for It* (90 mins.)

(W) July 3 – *El Paso History Museum Visit*

(Th) July 4 – ***Holiday: No Class***

(F) July 5 – Work on Final Project

**Final Summer Semester Project:**

(M) July 8 – **Complete Journal Project Due by 11:59 pm MST.**