

The University of Texas at El Paso

Chicanx Identity Formation: Race, Class, and Gender

CHIC 3305/CRN 16987 and WS 3305/CRN 18322

Women's Studies: Special Topics

WS 3390/CRN 16589

Fall 2019

TR 1:30-2:50am

PSYCH 308

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Office Hours TR: 11:30-1:00pm (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 identities in the U.S. By comparing and contrasting historical and contemporary Chicana/o experiences, through readings and film, students will better understand how issues such as race, class, gender, homophobia, nationalism, and globalization define Chicana/o identities. Students will critically analyze how Chicana/o identities and communities challenge and negotiate American norms and where Chicana/os and other Latina/os fit into the social, political, and economic hierarchies within the U.S.

Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the class, students will:

1. Develop the critical thinking and analytical skills necessary for effective communication both orally and written.
2. Identify, analyze, and articulate the central themes, both historical and contemporary, in Chicanx identity and community formation.
3. Understand theories of race, class, ethnicity, and gender in the shaping of both geo-political and metaphorical borders.
4. Connect the past to the present in an effort to better understand the world around them.
5. Interact and collaborate with people of diverse backgrounds in open and respectful ways.
6. View themselves as global citizens.

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 Texts:

- Natalia Molina, ***How Race is Made in America***, (University of California Press, 2014)
- Jonathan M. Metzger, ***Dying of Whiteness***, (Basic Books Press, 2019)
- Additional required readings located on **Blackboard**.

Students are responsible for all readings and must bring a copy to class, either digital or print.

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 (located in Blackboard) 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.**
2. **Quizzes (20%):** There will be quizzes throughout this summer session based on the readings and videos. The quizzes are intended to gauge your ability to keep up with the readings and videos and to ensure that you are attending class as required. **There are no make-ups for quizzes.**
 3. **Midterm Exam (25%):** There will be a midterm exam tentatively scheduled for **October 24, 2019**. The midterm will cover the first 8-weeks of the course calendar. **There are no make-ups for exams.**
 4. **Journal Entries (30%):** Throughout the semester each student will keep a journal in Blackboard. The journal will consist of short blogs and other short assignments. I will provide detailed instructions for each journal entry throughout the semester. See Course Calendar for journal entry due dates. **Deadline to submit the journal entries will be 11:59pm of the due date. There are no make-ups for Journal Entries**
 5. **Final Comprehensive Exam (25%):** The final exam will be on **December 12, 2019 from 1:00am-3:45pm** in this classroom. **There are no make-ups for exams.**

Grading Scale: Final grades will be given according to the student's demonstrated level of mastery of the subject matter as determined by his/her 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.

Course Policies and Procedures:

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.
2. **Dropping the Class:** Students may drop the class and receive a "W" any time prior to **November 1, 2019**.
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>. 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 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: Critical Race Theory and the Racial Construction of the Mexican American

Week 1: Tuesday (T) Aug. 27 – Introductions

Thursday (Th) Aug. 29 – What Is Critical Race Theory?

Read: Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic, "What is Critical Race Theory," 1-13

Week 2: (T) Sept. 3 – Racism, Identity, and Hate

Read: "White Supremacy- The Haters and the Hated" and "White Supremacy and the Alt Right: A New Relationship" and "The Ideology of the Alt Right" and "The Subculture of the Alt Right"

(Th) Sept. 5 – **Guest Speaker: Dave Jones**

Week 3: (T) Sept. 10 – Breaking Down the Black-White Binary

Read: Dan Sinkin, "The Apocalyptic Baldwin," 15-19

Screen: "I Am Not Your Negro" (94 min.) K

Assign Journal Entry #1

(Th) Sept. 12 – Mexicans, Immigration, and Race

Read: Natalia Molina, *How Race is Made in America*, 1-42

Week 4: (T) Sept. 17 – Birthright Citizenship

Read: Natalia Molina, *How Race is Made in America*, 43-90

(Th) Sept. 19 – Deportable Mexicans

Read: Natalia Molina, *How Race is Made in America*, 91-111

Screen: "Stolen Education" (67 mins.) K

Week 5: (T) Sept. 24 – “Wetbacks” in the Urban Landscape
Read: Natalia Molina, *How Race is Made in America*, 112-152
Assign Journal Entry #2

(Th) Sept. 26 – **Guest Speaker: TBA**

Part 2: Intersections: Gender at the Forefront

Week 6: (T) Oct. 1 – What is Gender?
Read: Sara Boboltz, “Traditional Definitions of Gender”
(Th) Oct. 3 – Toxic Masculinity
Read: Gregg Barak, et. al., “Understanding Gender and Male Privilege,” 127-146
Screen: “**Tough Guise 2**” (81 min.) K
Assign Journal Entry #3

Week 7: (T) Oct. 8 – Gender, Race, and Class
Read: Linda Heidenreich, “Learning From the Death of Gwen Araujo,”
(Th) Oct. 10 – Marginalized Chicanas
Screen: “**A Girl Like Me: The Gwen Araujo Story**” (min.)
Assign Journal Entry #4

Week 8: (T) Oct. 15 – **Guest Speaker: Georgina Cecilia Pérez**
(Th) Oct. 17 – Who Is Killing the Women?
Screen: **Señorita Extraviada** (77 mins.) K

Week 9: (T) Oct. 22 – Study for Midterm Exam
(Th) Oct. 24 – **Midterm Exam**

Part 3: Race and Class in the 21st Century

Week 10: (T) Oct. 29 – Defining Race in the 21st Century
Read: Jonathen Metzel, *Dying of Whiteness*, 1-59
(Th) Oct. 31 – The Politics of Racial Resentment
Read: Jonathen Metzel, *Dying of Whiteness*, 61-109
Screen: “**The Great White Hoax**”
Assign Journal Entry #5

Last Day to Withdraw from Class With a “W” is Friday, November 1, 2019

Week 11: (T) Nov. 5 – Working-class White America
Read: Jonathen Metzel, *Dying of Whiteness*, 111- 155
(Th) Nov. 7 – Upper-Middle class White America
Screen: “**Constructing the Terrorist Threat**” (55 mins.) K
Read: Jonathen Metzel, *Dying of Whiteness*, 157- 206
Assign Journal Entry #6

Week 12: (T) Nov. 12 – Forgotten Americans?
Read: Jonathen Metzel, *Dying of Whiteness*, 207-239
(Th) Nov. 14 – Race Relations in the Trump Era
Read: Jonathen Metzel, *Dying of Whiteness*, 241- 288
Screen: “**Meeting the Enemy**” (56 mins.) K

Week 13: (T) Nov. 19 – Mass Incarceration
Read: Michelle Alexander, 178-200
Assign Journal Entry #7

(Th) Nov. 21 – The New Jim Crow
Read: Michelle Alexander, 200-220

Week 14: (T) Nov. 26 – The U.S. Prison System
Screen: “13th”

(Th) Nov. 28 – **Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class**

Week 15: (T) Dec. 3 – Study for Final Exam

(Th) Dec. 5 – Study for Final Exam

Final Exam: Thursday December 12, 2019 from 1:00 to 3:45 pm.