

The University of Texas at El Paso

Chicanx Identity Formation: Race, Class, and Gender

CHIC 3305 CRN 28235

Women's Studies: Special Topics

WS 3390 CRN 26447

Spring 2018 TR 10:30-11:50am EDUC 313

Dr. Irma V. Montelongo

Office: Graham Hall 110B Phone: (915) 747-7612
Office Hours TR: 3:00-4:30pm (and by appointment)
Email: imontelo@utep.edu

Course Description:

This course is an interdisciplinary examination of the social, political, and economic forces that characterize Chicanx identities in the U.S. By comparing and contrasting historical and contemporary Chicanx experiences, students will better understand how issues such as race, class, gender, homophobia, nationalism, and globalization define Chicanx identities in the U.S. and how Chicanx identities and communities challenge and negotiate American norms.

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)
- Mona Ruiz, ***Two Badges: The Lives of Mona Ruiz***, (Arte Publico Press, 2005)
- J.D. Vance, ***Hillbilly Elegy***, (Harper Press, 2016)
- 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 **March 8, 2018.** The midterm will cover the first 8-weeks of the course calendar. **There are no make-ups for exams.**
 4. **Journal Entries (25% each):** 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 (30%):** The final exam will be on **May 10, 2018 from 10:00am-12:45pm** 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 **March 29, 2018.**
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) Jan. 16 – Introductions

Thursday (Th) Jan. 18 – What Is Critical Race Theory?

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

Week 2: (T) Jan. 23 – Black-White Paradigms

Read: Ian Haney López, "The Social Construction of Race," pgs. 191-203; and Dan Sinkin, "The Apocalyptic Baldwin," pgs. 15-19

(Th) Jan. 25 – **Screen: "I Am Not Your Negro"** (94 mins.) K
Assign Journal Entry #1

Week 3: (T) Jan. 30 – How is Race Made in America?

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

(Th) Feb. 1 – What is a White Man?

Read: Natalia Molina, *How Race is Made in America*, pgs. 43-90
Screen: "White Like Me" (69 min.) K

Week 4: (T) Feb. 6 – Suspended Mexicans
Read: Natalia Molina, *How Race is Made in America*, pgs. 91-111

(Th) Feb. 8 – Making Race in the 21st Century
Read: Natalia Molina, *How Race is Made in America*, pgs. 112-152
Screen: “Two Americans” (76 mins.) K

Part 2: Intersectionalities: Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality

Week 5: (T) Feb. 13 – What is Gender?
Read: Gregg Barak, et. al., “Understanding Gender and Male Privilege,” pgs. 127-146; and Sara Boboltz, “Traditional Definitions of Gender”

(Th) Feb. 15 – **Screen:** “The Mask You Live In” (91 min.)
Assign Journal Entry #2

Week 6: (T) Feb. 20 – Who is Mona Ruiz?
Read: Mona Ruiz, *Two Badges: The Lives of Mona Ruiz*, pgs. 1-58

(Th) Feb. 22 – Tortuous Paths
Read: Mona Ruiz, *Two Badges: The Lives of Mona Ruiz*, pgs. 59-117
Screen: “Generation M” (60 mins.) K

Week 7: (T) Feb. 27 – Surviving the Obstacles
Read: Mona Ruiz, *Two Badges: The Lives of Mona Ruiz*, pgs. 118-176

(Th) Mar. 1 – Drastic Changes
Read: Mona Ruiz, *Two Badges: The Lives of Mona Ruiz*, pgs. 177-235
Screen: “A Death in St. Augustine” (56 mins.) K

Week 8: (T) Mar. 6 – Study for Midterm Exam

(Th) Mar. 8 – **Midterm Exam**

Week 9: Spring Break – March 12, 2018 through March 16, 2018

Week 10: (T) Mar. 20 – **Screen:** “Crash”

(Th) Mar. 22 – Achieving One’s Dreams
Read: Mona Ruiz, *Two Badges: The Lives of Mona Ruiz*, pgs. 178-288

Part 3: Intersectionalities in the 21st Century

Week 11: (T) Mar. 27 – 8th Annual Women’s History Conference

(Th) Mar. 29 – **Screen:** “Southwest of Salem” (91 mins.) K

Last Day to Withdraw from Class With a “W” is Thursday, March 29, 2018

Week 12: (T) Apr. 3 – Color-Blind Racism

Read: Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, “The Central Frames of Color Blind Racism,” pgs. 53-76

(Th) Apr. 5 – **Screen:** “Beatriz at Dinner” (83 mins.)
Assign Journal Entry #3

Week 13: (T) Apr. 10 – Race Relations in the Trump Era

Read: J.D. Vance, *Hillbilly Elegy*, pgs. 1-55

(Th) Apr. 12 – What is the “Rust Belt?”

Read: J.D. Vance, *Hillbilly Elegy*, pgs. 56-111

Screen: “**The Epidemic**” (37 mins.) K

Week 14: (T) Apr. 17 – Working-class White America

Read: J.D. Vance, *Hillbilly Elegy*, pgs. 112-167

(Th) Apr. 19 – Greater Appalachia

Read: J.D. Vance, *Hillbilly Elegy*, pgs. 168-223

Screen: “**Constructing the Terrorist Threat**” (55 mins.) K

Assign Journal Entry #4

Week 15: (T) Apr. 24 – Forgotten Americans?

Read: J.D. Vance, *Hillbilly Elegy*, pgs. 224-273

(Th) Apr. 26 – **Screen:** “**Trump: My New President**” (57 mins.) K

Week 16: (T) May 1 – Study for Final Exam

(Th) May 3 – Study for Final Exam

Final Exam: May 10, 2018 from 10:00am – 12:45pm