

UC Irvine Chicano/Latino Studies Program

Chicana Feminisms

ChcLat 158 / *Womn St 155*  
Winter 2006

W'06

Chc/Lat  
158

Professor Deborah Vargas  
Office: SST 387

Time: T/TH 12:30-1:50P  
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Place: SSL 105  
Office Hours:  
Tues. 5:00P-6:30P  
Thurs. 5:00A-6:30P

Course Description:

The course surveys the development of Chicana feminist thought and practice. We will focus on historical and contemporary writings by and about Chicana feminists. The course draws from interdisciplinary scholarship in order to provide an introduction to the historical and intellectual landscape of Chicana feminisms. The plurality of the term "feminisms" is intended to emphasize the multiplicity of what is considered feminist thought and praxis based on the interlocking systems of gender, race, sexuality, and class. Although we will draw primarily from Chicana feminist scholarship the course is intended to encourage connections and differences among other women of color feminisms.

Required Texts:

*Chicana Feminist Thought: The Basic Historical Writings* by Alma M. García.  
Routledge  
(1997) = CFT

*Borderlands: La Frontera/The New Mestiza*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (1999). Gloria Anzaldúa. Aunt Lute Books (1987)

*Erased Faces*. Graciela Limón. Arte Público Press (2001)

COURSE READER (Order Online: [www.mozenapublishing.com](http://www.mozenapublishing.com)) = CR

**COURSE TOPICS AND READINGS:**

**WEEK 1: HISTORICIZING CHICANA FEMINIST DISCOURSE**

**TU JAN. 10<sup>th</sup>**

- INTRODUCTION TO COURSE

**TH JAN. 12<sup>th</sup>**

- “Border Journeys” (V. Ruiz/CR)
- “Our Feminist Heritage” (M.Cotera/CFT)
- “Feminism: The Chicano and Anglo Versions—A Historical Analysis” (M.Cotera/CFT)

**WEEK 2: GENDER AND CULTURAL POLITICS OF LABOR**

**TU JAN. 17<sup>th</sup>**

- Guest Speaker: Professor Mary Ann Villarreal, University of Utah, Dept. of History  
“Raising the Bar: Cantinas and the Women Who Managed Them, 1940-1990”  
*[Report Directly to SSPB 2214]*
- “The Flapper and the Chaperone” (V. Ruiz/CR)

**22<sup>TH</sup> JAN. 19<sup>th</sup>**

- “With Pickets, Baskets, and Ballots” (V. Ruiz/CR)
- “Carolina Mungía and Emma Tenayuca” (G. González/CR)
- “Manuela Solis Sager and Emma B. Tenayuca: A Tribute” (R. Calderón and E. Zamora/CR)

**WEEK 3: FEMINIST REFLECTIONS ON EL MOVIMIENTO**

**TU JAN. 24th**

- "Introduction" (A. Garcia/CFT)
- "Roots and Resistance: The Emergent Writings of Twenty Years of Chicana Feminist Struggle" (Teresa Córdova/CR)

**TH JAN. 26th**

- "New Voice of La Raza: Chicanas Speak Out" (M. Vidal/CFT)
- "La Chicana" (E. Martínez/CFT)
- "Chicana Feminism" (A. NietoGomez/CFT)
- "La Mujer in the Chicano Movement" (E. Saragoza/CFT)
- "Sexism in the Movimiento" (A. NietoGomez/CFT)

**Screen:** *La Chicana* (Directed by: Sylvia Morales)

**WEEK 4: BORDERLANDS: THE THEORETICAL LEGACY OF GLORIA ANZALDÚA**

**TU JAN. 31<sup>st</sup>**

- "Introduction to the Second Edition" (S. Saldívar-Hull/*Borderlands*)
- "Interview with Gloria Anzaldúa" (K. Ika/*Borderlands*)
- Chapters Preface, Chapters 1-5, 7 (G. Anzaldúa/*Borderlands*)
- "To Live in the Borderlands Means You" (pgs. 216-217) (Anzaldúa/*Borderlands*)

**TH FEB. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

- "Chicana Feminism: In the Tracks of 'The' Native Woman" (N. Alarcon/CR)
- "And Yes... The Earth Did Part: On the Splitting of Chicana/o Subjectivity" (Chabram-Dernersesian/CR)

**WEEK 5: FAMILY AND NATION**

**TU FEB. 7<sup>th</sup>**

- "Reflections on Diversity Among Chicanas" (P. Zavella/CR)
- "The Chicano Familia Romance" (R.L. Fregoso /CR)

**TH FEB. 9<sup>th</sup>**

- Guest Speaker: Professor Patricia Zavella, UC Santa Cruz, Dept. of Latin American and Latino Studies  
"La Casa Divida: Migration and Family Disruption"  
*[Report Directly to Cross-Cultural Center]*

**WEEK 6: GENDERS AND SEXUALITIES**

**TU FEB. 14<sup>th</sup>**

- "Growing Up Female" (A. Hurtado/CR)
- "Playing with Fire: The Gendered Construction of Chicana/Mexicana Sexuality" (Zavella/CR)
- "Chicanas and Abortion" (Beverly Padilla/CFT)

**TH FEB. 16<sup>th</sup>**

- "La Quinceñera: Making Ethnic and Gender Identities" (Davalos/CR)
- "Talkin' Sex: Chicanas and Mexicanas Theorize about Silences and Sexual Pleasures" (P. Zavella/CR)

Screen: *Dirty Laundry* (Director: Cristina Ibarra)

DUE: Description of Final Project/Paper

**WEEK 7: JOTAS/OS, MARIMACHAS, TORTILLERAS**

**TU FEB. 21st**

- "Chicana Lesbians: Fear and Loathing in the Chicano Community" (C. Trujillo/CFT)
- "Listening to the Silences in Latina/Chicana Lesbian History (Yolanda Leyva/CR)
- "Sexuality and Chicana/o Studies: Toward a Theoretical Paradigm for the Twenty-First Century." (Y. Yarbrow-Bejarano/CR)

**TH FEB. 23rd**

- "Queer Aztlán: The Re-formation of Chicano Tribe" (C. Moraga/CR)

Guest Speaker: Karla Rosales (Chicana Queer Activist and Filmmaker)

DUE: REFERENCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR FINAL PROJECT/PAPER.

**WEEK 8: GLOBALIZATION**

**TU FEB. 28<sup>th</sup>**

Screen: *Señorita Extraviada* (Director: Lourdes Portillo)

**TH MAR. 2nd**

- "The Maquiladora Murders, 1993-2003" (Gaspar de Alba/CR)
- "Toward a Planetary Society" (Fregoso/CR)
- "Filming Señorita Extraviada" (Portillo/CR)

**WEEK 9: GLOBALIZATION**

**TU MAR. 7<sup>th</sup>**

- *Erased Faces* Chapters 1-18 (G. Limón)

**TH MAR. 9<sup>th</sup>**

- *Erased Faces* Chapters 9-32 (G. Limón)

**WEEK 10: CULTURAL PRODUCTION**

**TU MAR. 14<sup>th</sup>**

- "Of the House, the Halo, and the Whore's Mask: The Mirror of Malinchismo" (A. Gaspar de Alba/CR)
- The Semiotics of Contemporary Chicana Feminism and the Work of Alma Lopez (L. Calvo/CR)
- El desorden, Nationalism, and Chicana/o Aesthetics" (Laura Pérez/CR)
- Alma Lopez Website [[www.almalopez.net](http://www.almalopez.net)]

**TH MAR. 16<sup>th</sup>**

- *Final Course Evaluations*
- Discussion of Final Projects/Papers

## Some General "House Rules"

- Be on time to class
- Turn off all cell phones/pagers/computers/blueberries, etc.
- Papers/assignments will NOT be accepted over email.
- Assignments must be typed. Specific guidelines for each will be handed out.
- Email or voicemail is fine for letting me know you will be absent or for asking general questions. I prefer you see me in person for discussion of readings or to talk about your project.
- ABSOLUTELY NO DROPS/CHANGES TO P/NP WILL BE ALLOWED AFTER TUESDAY JAN. 17<sup>TH</sup>. NO EXCEPTIONS.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Attendance and Participation in Discussion 20

This is absolutely vital to the success of your experience since critical discussion is considered a key part of the overall learning process in this course.

Attendance will be taken daily.

2 Absences = -5 pts

3 Absences = -10 pts.

>3 Absences = No Credit

Please be respectful of others and arrive to class on time ☺

### Facilitate Discussion of Concepts 10

Each of you will sign up for a day to lead discussion on the assigned readings. Do not merely summarize the readings.

Come prepared to submit a typed handout for your classmates that includes:

- 3 key concepts in the readings
- 3 critical questions for discussion.
- You may try to relate questions to other readings in the course or to a current event or issue related to Chicana feminisms.
- *BRING ENOUGH COPIES TO HAND OUT IN CLASS.*
- *IF YOU EMAIL ME THE DOCUMENT NO LATER THAN 9AM THE DAY OF I WILL MAKE THE COPIES FOR YOU.*

**Current Feminist Event covered in Newspaper/Popular Press** 10

Submit a 1/2 page to 1 page summary/critical analysis/discussion of a current topic that has appeared in a daily newspaper, popular magazine, website, advertisement, etc. Please include a copy of the article, image or what ever it is you are referring to.

*Why did the story get your attention? Who is involved (any background you know of)? What is the context? How does it relate to a notion of feminism as we've been discussing in class? Why is this story important for us to know?*

**Final Project Description + List of References** 15

This assignment has 2 separate due dates:

Thursday Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>: Submit a one page description of the topic you are interested in pursuing for a final paper or collaborative project. I will provide guidelines for this in class.

Thursday Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>: Submit 3-5 academic sources (journal articles, books, anthologies, etc.) that you intend to utilize for your final paper/project. I will provide guidelines for this in class.

**Final Project** 45

2 Choices: Collaborative Project or Individual Paper

A Handout with further instructions (ideas for projects) will be given out during the first several weeks of the class.

Basic guidelines:

- Individual papers will be 8-10 pages
- Collaborative projects/paper 12-15 pages

**DUE DATE:** Tuesday March 21<sup>st</sup> @ 5PM

**(NO LATE PAPERS/NO EXCEPTIONS) ☹**

**GRADING SCALE:** (100 points Max) :

90-100 = A  
88-89 = B+  
80-82 = B-  
73-77 = C  
60-69 = D

83-87 = B  
78-79 = C+  
70-72 = C-  
59-below = F