Chicana/Latina/Latin American Feminisms

In the forward to This Bridge Called My Back, a now canonical reference in the history of critique by feminist women of color, Cherrie Moraga envisions an alliance identified as “Third World Feminism.” She looks beyond the borders of our nation-state to engage the realities of women suffering from oppression in their home countries and who many times seek refuge here. She thus aims to include and engage feminists working and thinking abroad while drawing a direct connection between their struggle and our own local social conditions in the United States. A self-identified Chicana, Moraga draws from her own border knowledge a framework that thinks the complexity of intersecting differences (gender, sexuality, race, class, culture, and nationality) out of which a different feminism is possible. Despite Moraga’s critique and vision, this challenge to our local (and predominantly Anglophone) feminist thinkers remains unmet: the theoretical perspectives of local Chicana and Latina thinkers remain marginalized while those of Latin American feminist philosophers are quite literally missing from contemporary feminist dialogues in feminism.

The historical de-authorization of women’s perspectives in general and the marginality of Chicana and Latin American voices in particular limit our possibility of what Linda Alcoff calls “real knowing.” This course is designed to address this problem by doing otherwise. We will study feminist authors that self-identify as Chicana and/or Latina as well as some of the main figures in Latin America.

In doing this, we will address the question of the diversification of borders that both differentiate and bring together the significance of the “Chicana,” “Latina,” as well as “Latin American” identifications. This will entail understanding both the contexts in which these voices have become stronger and the traditions they have appropriated and/or rejected as they did so. By no means, however, are these general categories to reduce both the singularity of their perspectives or the universality of their philosophical thought.

The course is designed with the understanding that not everyone will have a background in feminist theory or philosophy. Whenever necessary, but especially in the beginning of the semester, we will map out the general field in order to then be able to situate the particular authors we study within it.

Authors include: that will be covered include: Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Norma Alarcón, Gloria Anzaldúa, Cherrie Moraga, María Lugones, Linda Alcoff, Mariana Ortega, Aída Hurtado.
Grading Policies
Grades will be assigned as follows: A 100-90, B 89.99-80, C 79.99-70, D 69.99-60, F 59.99-0.

The following items will make up the final grade:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Response Papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
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<td>Project Presentation (TBA)</td>
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<td>Final Essay</td>
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UTRGV Calendar of Activities
The UTRGV Academic Calendar can be found at [http://www.utrgv.edu/_files/documents/admissions/utrgv-academic-calendar.pdf](http://www.utrgv.edu/_files/documents/admissions/utrgv-academic-calendar.pdf)

The UTRGV Finals Schedule can be found at [http://www.utrgv.edu/ucentral/_files/documents/registrar/final-exams-schedule.pdf](http://www.utrgv.edu/ucentral/_files/documents/registrar/final-exams-schedule.pdf)

Links to a list of UTRGV calendars can be found at [https://my.utrgv.edu/home](https://my.utrgv.edu/home) at the bottom of the screen, prior to login.

Office Hours
Office hours will be held in person and online. Normal in person office hours will be held Thursdays 3:30-5:00pm. In addition, I will be available online by appointment, or by announcement. You can click on the link on your Blackboard course page, ‘Online txt Office Hours’ for text/chat based help during this time. We may also meet via Skype.

Attendance
Students are allowed three absences. Each absence beyond three will result in the loss of 10% of the final grade. Tardiness, at the instructor’s judgement, can be counted as absences. Normally, the only absences that will be excused are these: officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in

Textbook and/or Resource Material

a. All readings will be available online through Blackboard for you to print and bring the hardcopy to class. You are required to have the hardcopies of the readings covered on a given day in class. No exceptions.

b. Access to a computer with reliable internet service connection and all updates and plug-ins required to run Blackboard apps.

c. Films (TBA) available for rent and/or purchase for online streaming, through services like amazon, hulu, netflix. The possibility of streaming films assumes access to a computer or tablet connected to the internet.

d. Blue/Green Books and scantron sheets (I will announce in advance when you will need these)
advance of the excused absence for approval. Students should contact the professor if they believe
their case merits special consideration (e.g. long term hospitalization). Otherwise, students should plan
wisely with the three absences they are granted for sickness, family emergencies, and car problems.

Electronic Devices
No electronic devices will be permitted in this class. This includes not only the use of electronic
devices but also the visible, audible, or implied existence of them. Any evidence (including audible or
visible) of electronic devices will result in a marked absence from the course. Remember that any
absence over 3 will result in the loss of 10% of the final grade.

UTRGV POLICY STATEMENTS

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which
affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact
Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate
services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive.
Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible
for temporary services. Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall
Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.
Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be
contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your
UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions.
Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:
As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that
those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the
possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes
but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for
credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an
examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt
to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of
the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and
Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be
reported to the Dean of Students.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting
purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time
in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about
which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure.
More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on
campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living
environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual
misconduct and discrimination.