

**ENGLISH 3343 SYLLABUS:
CHICANA/O LITERATURE
FALL 2015**

Meets MWF 2:00-2:50 in Preston Hall (PH) 103

Professor: Dr. Erin Murrah-Mandril
<https://www.uta.edu/profiles/erin-murrah-mandril>
e-mail: erin.murrahmandril@uta.edu
phone: 817-272-2692

Office: Carlisle Hall, Room 612

Office hours: T-Th 1:30-2:30 in The Center for Mexican American Studies
in the SWIFT Center on the corner of UTA Blvd and Summit St.

TEXTBOOKS:

The bookstore does not yet have our novels in stock. They should arrive before the assignment dates for each book. You are responsible for purchasing books in time to read them before the assigned reading date and for bringing the appropriate book to class on the days we discuss it. This is true regardless of whether or not the bookstore has our book in stock. If the bookstore is out of stock, check Amazon.com, Arte Público Press online, local books stores, online stores, etc. E-books are acceptable when available, but you must bring the text to class on your e-reader. Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Paredes, Américo. George Washington Gómez. Houston: Arte Público, 1990.
ISBN: 9781558850125

Rivera, Tomás. ... y no se lo trago la tierra / ...And the Earth Did Not Devour Him. Houston: Arte Público, 1995 (originally 1971 in Spanish by Quinto Sol).
ISBN: 9781558850835

Arias, Ron. *The Road to Tamazunchale*. 3rd ed. Tempe, AZ: Bilingual Press, 1997. (originally 1975).
ISBN: 0916950700

Morales, Alejandro. *The Rag Doll Plagues*. Houston: Arte Público, 1992.
ISBN: 9781558851047

Viramontes, Helena María. *Under the Feet of Jesus*. New York: Penguin, 1996 (originally 1994).
ISBN: 9780452273870

Ruiz de Burton, María Amparo. *The Squatter and the Don*. Ed. Rosaura Sánchez and Beatrice Pita. Houston: Arte Público, 1992 (originally 1885).
ISBN: 9781558851856

COURSE CONTENT: This introductory class will cover Chicana/o literary genres—poetry, memoir, novel, drama, and short story—and the ways the genres intersect, overlap, and blend identities. The course will include selections from the 19th century to the present, with special attention paid to the Chicano Movement, the Latina literary boom, and historical literary recovery. We will be exploring what shapes Chicana/o literature and the ways that this literature works to shape a Chicana/o readership.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Students will demonstrate strong analytical skills and an understanding of key concepts in Mexican American literary production.
- Students will demonstrate critical reading skills.
- Students will be able to write analytical essays, developing effective thesis statements and using appropriate evidence to support arguments.
- Students will develop strong oral communication skills, learning how to present analytical arguments in a professional manner.

WEB CONTENT AND ASSIGNMENTS

Technology and the internet are an important part of Chicana/o literary production and recovery. Many important authors publish web content and the internet is an important source for innovative forms of literary and cultural production. Consequently, we will be exploring some multimedia “texts” online including visual art and film. While we may watch some film clips in class, I will also ask you to view some video clips as homework.

Reading Material outside of our textbook will be posted on our Blackboard page. Try to read a work in its entirety before we discuss it, keeping in mind that there is much more time to read a text over the weekend for a Tuesday class than in the brief interim between Tuesday and Thursday. We will discuss texts in their entirety because you cannot fully understand the beginning of a text without knowing its end-point. I strongly recommend printing out short essays, articles and poetry so that you can highlight, underline and write in the margins. Please also write in your books! If you don’t like to write in books, take notes in a notebook as you read and be sure to write down the page numbers as you go. Don’t be a passive receiver of knowledge. Question, reflect, and comment as you go. If you are reading the text on a tablet or laptop please bring that equipment to class.

RESPONSE PAPERS

You will need to write 4 papers throughout the semester. They will all be posted to our class UNM Learn page (not turned in on paper). They should be 1000-1200 words (3-4 pages) typed in 12pt Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins and a proper MLA heading.

At this point in your academic life, you should be using proper grammatical construction with clear sentences and logical organization. Responses should be academic-style, thesis-driven short essays (ie. make a point in your paper and then prove that point through analysis of the text). These essays should not be stream-of-consciousness writing. I will respond to your ideas in the response papers. If grammar issues are a distracting and persistent problem in your response, I will send you a note instructing you to fix the grammar problems before I will give you a grade.

Papers will be due online by the beginning of class on the last day we discuss the text you are writing about. I will take one point off for each DAY a paper is late. I will not accept paper copies. You must complete at least two papers before the midterm. Papers are worth 10 points each. The grading rubric for these papers can be seen on our Blackboard page.

The essay assignment requires you to be self-directed and personally responsible. You chose what to write about and when. There is no assignment prompt or essay question. Instead, I have linked the UVA Writing Center's homepage in our Blackboard page. UVA has a number of helpful handouts about academic writing, including writing a thesis-driven essay. I strongly recommend visiting the Student Writing Center on the fourth floor of Central Library, whatever your writing skill level is. They provide high quality advice for writers from freshman English through graduate school. I strongly recommend visiting the UTA Student Writing Center on the fourth floor of Central Library, whatever your writing skill level is. They provide high quality advice for writers from freshman English through graduate school. I am also willing to look at a rough draft if you give me the draft one week before the final draft is due.

EXAMS

You will have a midterm and a final, each worth 10 points. They will be essay question tests that you will take in-class. You will need to demonstrate a clear understanding of the texts and make a cohesive argument using evidence from our course readings. If you are unable to take an exam on the day that it is administered, please contact me *ahead of time* to schedule a make-up exam.

QUIZZES

I will give random pop-quizzes throughout the semester to insure that everyone is reading the material for class. These quizzes will not be difficult in that if you have read the material you will easily pass the quiz. These quizzes will total 15 points by the end of the semester. You cannot make up a missed quiz.

GRADING:

The final grade for this course will be based on a 100-point scale 90-100 equals an A, 80-90 equals a B, 70-80 equals a C, 60-70 equals a D, 60 and below equals an F. Borderline grades may be assigned a + or -. Participation and attendance will factor strongly in the determination of + and - grades.

Response Papers	(4 x 10 pts. each) 40 pts.
Mid-Term	10 pts.
Final	10 pts.
Reading Quizzes	15 pts.
Attendance and participation	25 pts.
Total	100 pts.

ATTENDANCE:

At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop her or his own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I **DO** require regular attendance. Much of our course is based on content from class discussions. You are an active participant in this course, not a passive receptor of knowledge. If you have four absences (that's two whole weeks' worth of instruction!), you will lose 10 attendance points, which is one full letter grade for the course. Additional missed courses will place you in danger of failing the course. Furthermore, exam questions will be based on class discussions. Reading quizzes missed due to absence cannot be made up. If you are experiencing an ongoing issue that interferes with your attendance, please contact me so we can discuss your options.

Expectations for out-of-class study: A general rule of thumb is that for every credit hour earned, a student should spend 3 hours per week working outside of class. Hence, a 3-credit course might have a minimum expectation of 9 hours of reading, study, etc. Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 6 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities (and sometimes more!), including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

DROP POLICY

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period

through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364.

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671.

Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND VIOLENCE (TITLE IX)

The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here:

UTA's Title IX Coordinator is:
Jean Hood, Vice President for Human Resources
1225 W. Mitchell Street, Ste. 212
Arlington, Texas 76019-0132
Telephone: 817-272-7091
jmhood@uta.edu

For information regarding Title IX at UTA, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.

For help from outside the university with filing a complaint, and for survivors resources, visit <http://endrapeoncampus.org/>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Plagiarism, is presenting someone else's writing as if it were your own work, and it will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is intellectual theft. If you do it, the result will be failure of the assignment and possible failure of the course. I will report all incidences of plagiarism to the University. Students who plagiarize repeatedly face expulsion from UTA. When in doubt, cite your resource! Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are also expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY

At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

FINAL REVIEW WEEK

A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

The Final for This Class is Monday Dec. 14 from 2:00-4:30 pm

EMERGENCY EXIT PROCEDURES

Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located in the back of the room. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

COURTEOUSNESS:

You will be working closely with your class members to develop and share ideas and to critique each other’s work. Some of the material we analyze and discuss in class covers sensitive issues that are politically charged. Please be considerate.

It is the joint responsibility of instructors and students to foster and maintain a positive environment.

CAMPUS CURTESY ESCORT

UTA offers a free service to escort you to your car, dorm, or another class room on campus after 7 pm to help students feel safe walking on campus after dark. The number to request and escort is 817-272-5252.

SCHEDULE

This schedule is subject to change upon notification by instructor.

Fri Aug 28 Welcome!

Mon Aug 31 Chicano! Documentary

Wed Sept 2 Mario Suarez short stories

Fri Sept 4 Paredes excerpt *With His Pistol in His Hand* and Maria Christina Mena short stories

Mon Sept 7 **No Class** Labor Day

Wed Sept 9 Paredes *George Washington Gómez*

Fri Sept 11 Paredes *George Washington Gómez*

Mon Sept 14 Paredes *George Washington Gómez*

Wed Sept 16 Rodolfo "Corky" González "Yo Soy Joaquín"

Fri Sept 18 Writing Aztlán read collection of excerpts on Blackboard

Mon Sept 21 Valdez "Los Vendidos"

Wed Sept 23 Rivera, ...*And the Earth Did Not Devour Him*

Fri Sept 25 Rivera, ...*And the Earth Did Not Devour Him*

Mon Sept 28 Rivera, ...*And the Earth Did Not Devour Him*

Wed Sept 30 Arias, *The Road to Tomazunchale*

Fri Oct 2 Arias, *The Road to Tomazunchale*

Mon Oct 5 Arias, *The Road to Tomazunchale*

Wed Oct 7 Review

Fri Oct 9 Midterm

Mon Oct 12 **No Class** (Celebrate Indigenous People's Day!)

Wed Oct 14 Read Fregosa article on Blackboard, watch *Born in East L.A.* in class

Fri Oct 16 Time Magazine and "The Decade of the Haspanic" readings on Blackboard

Mon Oct 19 Gloria Anzaldúa, excerpts from *Borderlands/ La Frontera*

Wed Oct 21 Gloria Anzaldúa, excerpts from *Borderlands/ La Frontera*

Fri Oct 23 *La Malinche* poem by Carmen Tafolla and other readings on

Blackboard

Mon Oct 26 Morales, *The Rag Doll Plagues*

Wed Oct 28 Morales, *The Rag Doll Plagues*

Fri Oct 30 Morales, *The Rag Doll Plagues*

Mon Nov 2 Viramontes, *Under the Feet of Jesus*

Wed Nov 4 Viramontes, *Under the Feet of Jesus*

Fri Nov 6 Viramontes, *Under the Feet of Jesus*

Mon Nov 9 Cherrie Moraga, *Heroes and Saints*

Wed Nov 11 Cherrie Moraga, *Heroes and Saints*

Fri Nov 13 Norma Cantú, *Canícula*

Mon Nov 16 Ruiz de Burton *The Squatter and the Don*

Wed Nov 18 Ruiz de Burton *The Squatter and the Don*

Fri Nov 20 Ruiz de Burton *The Squatter and the Don*

Mon Nov 23 Ruiz de Burton *The Squatter and the Don*

Wed 25 **No Class** (Start being thankful early.)

Fri Nov 26 **No Class** Thanksgiving break

Mon Nov 30 Jovita Gonzáles short stories

Wed Dec 2 TBA

Fri Dec 4 TBA

Mon Dec 7 *Come and Take it Day*

Wed Dec 9 *Come and Take it Day*

Fri Dec 11 Final Review

Mon Dec 14 **Final Exam 2:00-4:30 pm**