UCLA Department of Chicana/o Studies

CSM158 Chicana Historiography
(Same as Gender Studies M157 and History M151D)
MW 9:00 -10:50 A.M,
DODD 167
Fall 2013
Instructor: Yvette J. Saavedra, Ph.D.
Office Hours: MW 8-8:50; 11AM-11:50 AM; M 2:00-3:00 PM; and by appointment
Office: Bunche Hall 7339
email:

Course Description
This course examines Chicana historiography, looking closely at how practice of writing of history has placed Chicanas into particular narratives. Using Chicana feminist approaches to study of history, revisiting of specific historical periods and moments such as Spanish Conquest, Mexican Period, American Conquest, Mexican Revolution, and Chicano Movement to excavate untold stories about women's participation in and contribution to making of Chicana and Chicano history.

Student Learning Outcomes
Students who successfully complete this course will

1) Students will gain comprehension of fundamental theories in Chicana/o History and how they affect Chicanas’ place in Chicana/o History.

2) This course will extend and refine students’ critical reading and writing skills by having them examine, interpret, and explain how theories of race, class, sexuality and gender shape the historical and contemporary experiences of the Chicanas in the U.S.

3) Students will be able to write a historiography and explain the significance of a monograph, its themes or ideas in the context of its historical significance.

4) Students will learn group historical information around the topics of race, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality and elucidate it clearly through a midterm exam, book synopsis, a book critique, and a historiographical essay.

Required Texts:
Catherine Ramírez, The Woman in the Zoot Suit
Maylei Blackwell, Chicana Power
Emma Pérez, The Decolonial Imaginary

Articles – will be posted on course webpage (students are required to have the articles with them, electronically or paper copy)

Evaluation:  
Class Participation…………………….10%
Synopsis……………………………….25%
Midterm Exam………………………….30%
Historiography………………………….35%
Course Requirements:
Students are to actively participate in class discussions as well as complete 2 synopsis packets that provide critical analysis of readings. Additionally, students are responsible for 1 midterm exam, and a historiographical essay.

Participation:
THIS IS AN UPPER DIVISION COURSE. Students are expected to attend every class and be fully prepared to discuss the reading assignments. Because the discussion of the readings is a major component of this course, you will be graded on your preparation for and involvement in class. I will evaluate your participation by how well you articulate your ideas, listen and respond to others’ ideas, and contribute to a productive class discussion. This class will be run as a seminar course in which students engage in discussions about the books at every class meeting. If class is reluctant to discuss the texts/readings I will prompt discussion by administering pop-quizzes.

The participation credit is comprised of the following:
- Quizzes (if any);
- Attendance;
- Discussion;
- In-class / group assignments

Calculation of attendance points:
At the end of the semester I will factor attendance as follows:
- No absences +1 point to final grade;
- 1 absence – Zero Points added to final grade
- 2 absences - -1 Point from final grade;
- Each additional absence - -1 for each absence

Three tardies are equivalent to ONE absence. Attendance taken at every meeting

Synopsis Packets:
Students are required to submit two synopsis packets. Detailed instructions for this assignment will be reviewed in class. A will provide a template for these synopsis on the course webpage.

Midterm Exam:
There will be one Midterm exam on October 30th.

Historiographical Essay:
You are required to write a historiographical essay about a topic of your choice-relevant to Chicana History. The purpose of this essay is to acquaint yourself with the historical debate related to your topic and track the writing of this particular topic. In other words, how has the topic you’ve chosen been written about. How did the historical debate about your topic develop? What is the state of knowledge about your topic to date? We will discuss this in detail in class.

The Historiographical Essay is due on December 11th. Students must turn in final paper at my office in Bunche Hall, 7339. Between 10 and11AM. I do not accept emailed papers.

These dates are tentative and can change at the instructor’s discretion. You will be made aware of any changes in a timely manner.

I. State of the Field

Week 1 Introductions and Historiography
9/30 Introduction and Review of Syllabus

10/2 Chicana/o Historiography
Reading: Gutierrez, “Chicano History: Paradigm Shifts and Shifting”
Boundaries (article)
Week 2  Historiography: Challenging History  
10/7  Peréz, Decolonial Imaginary, Introduction and Chapter 1  
10/9  Heidenreich, excerpt, “This Land Was Once Mexican” (article)  

II. Writing Chicanas into History  

Week 3  “La Malinche”, “La Virgen”, y “La Llorona”  
10/14  Malintzin Tenepal  
Reading: Del Castillo, Malintzin Tenepal (article)  
Alcalá, “From Chingada to Chingona” (article)  
Karttuner, “Rethinking Malinche” (article)  

10/16  La Llorona y La Virgen  
Reading: Límon, “La Llorona, The Third Legend of Greater Mexico: Cultural Symbols, Women and the Political Unconscious” (article)  
Rodriguez, excerpt, Our Lady of Guadalupe: Faith and Empowerment Among Mexican American Women (article)  
Trujillo, La Virgen de Guadalupe and her Reconstruction in Chicana Lesbian Desire (article)  

Week 4 Gender and the Politics of Conquest  
10/21  Reading: Gutirrez, Marriage and Seduction in Colonial New Mexico (article)  
Castañeda, “Sexual Violence in the Politics and Policies of Conquest” (article)  

10/23  Reading: Reyes, excerpt from Private Women Public Lives (article)  

Synopsis Packet #1 for readings from Week 1 through 4 due  

Week 5  
10/28  González, excerpt from Refusing the Favor (article)  
10/30  Mid Term Exam- In Class  

Week 6 Feministas in the Mexican Revolution  
Perez, Decolnial Imaginary, Chapter 2  

11/6  Perez, “A La Mujer;” A Critique of the Partido Liberal Mexicano’s Gender Ideology on Women” (reader)
Week 7  Zoot Suit Riots
11/11  Veteran’s Day- No Class

11/13  Pagán, Los Angeles Geopolitics and the Zoot Suit Riot, 1943
       Film: Zoot Suit Riots
       Historiography topic due

Week 8  The Pachuca in the Zoot Suit: Deconstructing Gender in the Zoot Suit Riots
11/18  Ramirez, The Woman in the Zoot Suit, Preface – chapter 2

11/20  Ramirez, The Woman in the Zoot Suit, Chapter 3 – Epilogue

Week 9  Chicana Feminists and Historical Representation
11/25  Chicanas in the Chicano Movement
       Reading: Saavedra, Chicana Schism, (article)
       Blackwell, Intro – Chapter 3

11/27  Chicanas in the Chicano Movement
       Reading: Blackwell, Chapter 4-6
       Synopsis Packet #2 for readings from Week 5 through 9 due

Week 10  Chicana History and the Future
12/2   Perez, Decolonial Imaginary, Chapter 5

12/4   Review of main concepts

Final Exam Week
12/11  Historiographical Essay Due
       Papers must be turned in at my office (NOT EMAILED) Bunche Hall 7339, between
       10AM and 11:00AM. Late papers will not be accepted.