Course Description:
In this course, students will examine the shifting ideas about gender order and sexuality within continuously changing social, economic, and political landscapes. Focusing specifically on Mexican women and Chicanas who have challenged societal gender ideals and roles, this course examines the transgression of gender boundaries during different historical periods in Mexico and the United States. Labeled as living ‘la mala vida’ or the ‘bad life’, women who challenged the limitations of gender often found themselves cast out of ‘proper’ society and stigmatized as ‘bad women.’ Looking at figures such as prostitutes, feminists, lesbians, Sor Juana, Malinztin Tenepal, La Tules, and others ‘bad women,’ this class utilizes a Chicana feminist approach to deconstruct misogynist narratives and reconceptualize these women’s roles in Chicano society and history.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Students who successfully complete this course will

1) Gain an understanding of gender theory and the construction of Chicana/Latina
gender and sexuality

2) Critically examine the social construction of gender and sexuality during different
historical periods including the pre-Spanish conquest of Meso-America, Spanish colonial
period, Mexican period, and American period.

3) Demonstrate factual and chronologically accurate knowledge of key events, issues, trends,
and people of the relevant time period and geographic region.

4) Demonstrate the ability to interpret historical information by applying analytical skills used
by historians—such as synthesizing evidence from both primary and secondary sources,
comparing and contrasting multiple perspectives, contextualizing information, and/or
identifying causes and effects of change and continuity.

5) Appraise the value of historical knowledge for understanding more recent and/or comparable
issues, events, and trends.

Required Texts:
Deena González, Refusing the Favor: The Spanish-Mexican Women of Santa Fe, 1820-1880
Emma Perez, Forgetting the Alamo, Or, Blood Memory: A Novel
Elizabeth Escobedo, Coveralls to Zoot Suits: The Lives of Mexican American Women on the
World War II Home Front
“Articles” – will be posted on course webpage (students are required to have the articles with them, electronically or paper copy)

Evaluation:
- Class Participation…………………………10%
- Papers…………………………………………………25%
- Midterm Exam………………………………………30%
- Final Essay……………………………………………35%

Course Requirements:
Students are to actively participate in class discussions as well as complete 2 in class papers that provide critical analysis of readings. Additionally, students are responsible for 1 midterm exam, and a final essay 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.

Papers:
Students are required to submit two in class papers. Detailed instructions for this assignment will be reviewed in class and provided via the course website.

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

Final Essay:
You are required to write a final essay about a historical figure of your choice- relevant to Chicano/a History and the course topic. Students may choose a figure that we did not review in the class so long as I approve the topic. The purpose of this essay is to help you better understand your historical figure and their place in the larger historiography of Chicano/a history. We will review the directions for this assignment in more detail in the course.

The Final Essay is due on December 11th. Students must turn in final paper at my office in Bunche Hall, 7339. Between 10 and 11AM. 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.

**Week 1  Introductions / Gender and Societal Order**

9/30  Introduction and Review of Syllabus

10/2  Lorber, “Believing in Seeing: Biology as Ideology,” article
      Brown, “Foucault, Femininity, and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power,” article

**Week 2  Creating Gender and Patriarchal Control**

10/7  E. Perry, Gender and Disorder- Intro-2, article

10/9  M. Gutman, “Machismo,” article
      A. Castillo, “Ancient Roots of Machismo,” article

**Week 3**

10/14 G. Anzaldúa- Chapter 2- Movimiento de rebeldía y las culturas que tracionan, article
      E. Pérez, “Sexuality and Discourse: Notes from a Chicana Survivor,” article

10/16  Castañeda, “History and the Politics of Violence Against Women,” article
      **Paper 1 due in class**

**Week 4  La Malinche**

10/21 Del Castillo, “Malinztin Tenepal,” article

10/23  Gaspar de Alba, “Malinche’s Revenge,” article

**Week 5 Nuns**

10/28  Nuns and the transgression of gender norms

10/30  **Mid Term Exam- In Class**

**Week 6 Consequences of transgression: the Inquisition in the New World**

11/4  “Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz”
      Gaspar de Alba, “Politics of 10th Muse: An Interview with Sor Juana,” article
      “Catalina de Erauso”
      E. Perry, Ch. 6- Sexual Rebels, article

11/6  Holler- “More Sins than the Queen of England,” article
      Curcio- Nagy- “Rosa de Escalante’s Private Party,” article

**Week 7**

11/11  Veteran’s Day- No Class

11/13  Gonzalez, Refusing the Favor, entire book
Week 8  Transcending Gender
11/18  Pérez, Forgetting the Alamo
11/20  Pérez, Forgetting the Alamo  (Will review entire book today)
          Paper 2 Due in Class

Week 9  20th Century- Changing Gender Norms
11/25  Escobedo, From Coveralls to Zoot Suits, Intro – Ch. 3

11/27  Escobedo, From Coveralls to Zoot Suits, Ch. 4 – Epilogue

Week 10  Chicana Feminism and Contemporary Identity
12/2    Alarcon, “Chicana Feminism,” article
        Saavedra, “Chicana Schism,” article

12/4    Trujillo, “Chicana Lesbians, Fear and Loathing in the Chicano Community,” article

Final Exam Week
12/11   Final 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.