

Syllabus
Fall Quarter 2009
Dr. Graciela Limón

CHICANA/O STUDIES 184-A
Chicana/Latina Writers

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Graciela Limón
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CLASS SESSIONS: Thursday, 3:30-6:20, HSSB 1173

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

The class consists of the study of essays, a play and novels written by Chicanas/Latinas. The required readings represent writers with a focus on themes of identity, ethnicity, gender and cross-border experience. The class will be expected to critically read and analyze the works, searching for strengths and flaws, and be especially prepared to point out the unique contribution of each work to the greater body of U.S. Literature. This critical analysis will be submitted by each student in writing and in discussion.

EVALUATION:

Participation	25 %
One-page Reviews	50 %
Final Exam	25 %

THE FOLLOWING WILL BE THE CLASS THEME:

“I am visible. I exist, we exist. They’d like to think I have melted in the pot. But I haven’t, we haven’t. ... I seek our woman’s face, our true features, the positive and the negative seen clearly, free of the tainted biases of male dominance. I seek new images of identity, new beliefs about ourselves, our humanity and worth no longer in question.” -- Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera*.

PLEASE – CELLS, LAPTOPS AND ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES MUST BE SHUT DOWN AND STOWED DURING LECTURE PERIODS.

READINGS:

Nepantla

Pat Mora

Confessions of a Berlitz-Tape Chicana

Demetria Martínez

Real Women Have Curves

Josefina López

So Far From God

Ana Castillo

Desert Blood

Alicia Gaspar de Alba

In the Time of the Butterflies

Julia Alvarez

Dreaming in Cuban

Cristina García

Sweet Diamond Dust

Rosario Ferré

CLASS FORMAT:

The class will be conducted on an approach of textual analysis in the form of student/professor discussions. Because the class takes place over a three-hour period, it will be broken up into two sessions: the longer (first) will consist of a general discussion/analysis of the assigned work. There will be a short break followed by the final (shorter) session during which student panels will provide the forum for each student to present his/her personal review of the same assigned work.

I. PARTICIPATION: (25 %)

Active Participation on the part of every student is expected. *Active Participation* means oral expression of opinions, evaluations, and inquiries, relevant to the assigned reading.

(a) **The First Session** will provide students the forum in which to orally express any opinion or question that may arise in context. This session should, above all, be an opportunity of spontaneous exchange between students and professor. At the end of this session, the professor will outline her own evaluation/analysis of the reading.

- (b) **Active Participation** will continue to take place during the Second Session by way of panels in which students will individually present their position regarding the assigned reading. These panels will be evaluated by the professor on a basis of quality of content and delivery.
- (c) **Absences**: One absence is allowed. Beyond that, the student's grade will diminish.

II. **REVIEWS: (50%)**

The **Review** is meant to provide an opportunity for the student to evaluate (in writing), free of outside sources, **each** assigned reading. The Review should not exceed one-page double-spaced in which a position regarding the reading must be taken. The Review should express one of the following positions regarding the reading:

- (a) Recommended, or
- (b) Recommended With Reservations, or
- (c) Not Recommended.

The Review's position should be stated in clear and direct terms so that the quality of its content reads convincingly. This position, of course, can be positive or negative, so long as it is convincingly stated. The Review will then be edited, graded and returned each session.

The Review will be due at class time each week. If, for compelling reasons, the Review cannot be submitted at due time, an extension will be given by the professor if/when requested by the student. **Reviews considered late will be automatically graded C as a beginning grade.**

III. **FINAL EXAMINATION (25%)**

The Final Examination will be in Essay Form. It will cover the material/readings completed during the Quarter.

Final Exam -- 11 December 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

SORRY! No Early or Make-ups for Final Examination.

V. READING SCHEDULE

24 Sept	INTRODUCTION/EXPECTATIONS	
01 Oct	<i>Nepantla</i> (Essays)	Pat Mora
08 Oct	<i>Confessions of a Berlitz- Tape Chicana</i> (Essays)	Demetria Martínez
15 Oct	<i>Real Women Have Curves</i> (Play)	Josefina López
22 Oct	<i>So Far From God</i> (Novel)	Ana Castillo

29 Oct **CLASS WILL MEET IN CORWIN PAVILION @4:00 p.m.**
(Luis Leal Literary Award Presentation)
(PRESENCE REQUIRED)

	<i>In the Time of the Butterflies</i> (Novel) Part I (pages 3 – 168, Inclusive)	Julia Alvarez
05 Nov	<i>In the Time of the Butterflies</i> (Novel) Part II (pages 171 – 323, Inclusive)	Julia Alvarez
12 Nov	<i>Dreaming in Cuban</i> (Novel)	Cristina García
19 Nov	<i>Desert Blood</i> (Novel)	Alicia Gaspar de Alba

26 Nov **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

03 Dec	<i>Sweet Diamond Dust</i>	Rosario Ferré
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