

**THEA 4370: Contemporary Chicana/o Theatre
Syllabus Fall 2025**

Professor: Dr. Gina Weber

Email: Gina.Weber@unt.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday after class or by appointment.

Class Meets: Wednesday 11am-1:50 pm

Class Location: LANG 317

Please note that I will provide ALL reading materials on Canvas. You do not need to purchase any texts or plays for this course.

Zoot Suit by Luis Valdez

Native Gardens by Karen Zacharias

La Gringa by Carmen Rivera

El Otro by Octavio Solis

Luchadora by Alvaro Saar Rios

Anna in the Tropics by Nilo Cruz

Elliot, A Soldiers Fugue by Quiara Alegria Hudes

Water by the Spoonsful by Quiara Alegria Hudes

Your Healing is Killing Me by Virginia Grise

Two Kids in the Universe by Gustavo Ott

The Inheritance by Matthew Lopez

Swimming While Drowning by Emilio Rodriguez

Course Description

This course examines contemporary works of drama by Latinx artists. The course is geared towards those interested in both production and criticism, focusing on script analysis and critical thought about plays and productions. Students will examine the plays through writing, group/class discussion and a final project. Rather than try to survey the whole of such an extensive body of work, we will focus on the advent of a professionally oriented Chicana/o and Latinx theatre, specifically examining significant plays, playwrights, and the theatre groups that produced those plays. Study of the history of Chicano/a and Latinx theatre, the biographies of playwrights and the social and historical context of Chicano/a and Latinx theatre will be crucial to the understanding and appreciation of the plays we will discuss in class. You will be required to attend one local Latinx play.

Course Goals

The goals of the course are:

- Introduce students to a variety of performance texts and styles found in the work of Latinx playwrights.
- Develop the ability to analyze and comprehend play scripts focusing on the work of Latinx playwrights.
- Explore the history of Chicano/a and Latinx theatre and communities in the United States.
- Assist students to participate in and lead critical discussions of theatre texts

UNT email will be the primary tool used to communicate directly with students. Please feel free to email me should a concern or question arise. I will try to respond to emails within 24 hours. Please use your @unt.edu. I prefer not to communicate with students via address external

to UNT. In the subject line, please include the class number (THEA 4370). My UNT e-mail address: gina.weber@unt.edu. Office hours are Wednesdays after class, or by appointment via Zoom or in person.

Attendance

It is important to participate and be present in every class. Two or more Absences from class will result in a loss of **one grade**. Missing a class is missing out on the course content. In brief, poor attendance, disruptive behavior, and excessive tardiness will seriously affect your grade. Please consult the syllabus or visit Canvas for announcements and links. I will also keep you informed via email.

Grading

Class attendance and participation: 300 (15 classes @ 20 pts each)

Weekly reading responses: 600 pts (12 assignments @ 50 pts each)

Final Project: 500 pts

Total: 1,400 pts

A: 1400 - 1200 pts

B: 1200 – 1000 pts

C: 1000 – 800 pts

D: 800 – 600 pts

F: Under 600 pts

Reading Responses

Students will write a short weekly response for each play assigned. Due **Tuesdays by 12 midnight**. Details can be found on Canvas under “Weekly Assignments.”

Final Project TBD

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. [Insert specific sanction or academic penalty for specific academic integrity violation]. 2.

ADA Accommodation Statement

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

ALL PORTIONS OF THIS SYLLABUS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Course Calendar

August 20, 2025 Class Introduction	Homework: <u>ALL homework due on Canvas Tuesdays no later than 12 midnight.</u> Read <i>Zoot Suit</i> by Luis Valdez
August 27 Discuss <i>Zoot Suit</i> by Luis Valdez	Homework: Read <i>Native Gardens</i> by Karen Zacharias
September 3 NO CLASS – <u>ALL ATTEND SEPTEMBER 6</u> <u><i>Native Gardens</i> at Theater Denton</u>	Homework: Read <i>La Gringa</i> by Carmen Rivera
September 10 Discuss <i>La Gringa</i>	Homework: Read <i>El Otro</i> by Octavio Solis
September 17 Discuss <i>El Otro</i> Guest: Octavio Solis	Homework: Read <i>Luchadora</i> by Alvaro Saar Rios
September 24 Discuss <i>Luchadora</i> Guest: Alvaro Saar Rios	Homework: Read <i>Ana in the Tropics</i> by Nilo Cruz
October 1 Discuss <i>Ana in the Tropics</i>	Homework: Read <i>Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue</i> by Quiara Alegria Hudes
October 8 Discuss <i>Elliot, A Soldier's</i>	Homework: Read <i>Water by the Spoonful</i> by Quiara Alegria Hudes
October 15 Discuss <i>Water by the Spoonful</i>	Homework: Read <i>Your Healing is Killing Me</i> by Virginia Grise
October 22 Discuss <i>Your Healing is Killing Me</i>	Homework: <i>Lirica: Two Kids in the Universe</i> by Gustavo Ott
October 29 Discuss <i>Lirica: Two Kids in the Universe</i>	Homework: Read <i>The Inheritance</i> by Matthew Lopez
November 5 Discuss <i>The Inheritance</i>	Homework: Read <i>Swimming While Drowning</i> by Emilio Rodriguez

November 12 Discuss <i>Swimming While Drowning</i> Guest: Emilio Rodriguez	Homework: Work on your final projects, extra credit, and complete missed assignments.
November 19 Presentations final project	
November 24-28 Happy Thanksgiving! No class	
December 3 Class Review Presentations final project	