

**THEA 4370: Contemporary Chicana/o Theatre**  
**Syllabus Fall 2024**

**Professor:** Dr. Gina Weber

**Email:** Gina.Weber@unt.edu

**Office Hours:** Fridays after calls or by appointment.

**Class Meets:** Fridays 11am-1:50 pm

**Class Location:** LANG 313

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

*The Hungry Woman (A Mexican Medea)* by Cherrie Moraga

*La Gringa* by Carmen Rivera

*Anna in the Tropics* by Nilo Cruz

*Luchadora* by Alvaro Saar Rios

*Eliot, A Soldiers Fugue* by Quiara Alegria Hudes

*Water by the Spoonful* by Quiara Alegria Hudes

*Marisol* by Jose Rivera

*The Inheritance* by Matthew Lopez

*Native Gardens* by Karen Zacharias

*Two Kids in the Universe* by Gustavo Ott

*Ursula - or let yourself go with the wind* by Frida Espinosa Müller

*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.

### **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](mailto:gina.weber@unt.edu). Office hours are Wednesdays after class, or by appointment via Zoom or in person. Note that while I will check my email every day, I do not check before 8 am, and stop checking it after 8:00 p.m.

### **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: 700 pts (14 assignments @ 50 pts each)

Class Presentation: 100 pts

Final Project: 400 pts

Total: 1,500 pts

A: 1500 - 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.”

### **Class Presentations**

Each week a group of students will prepare a brief presentation on a Latinx theater topic such as a play, playwright, actor, director, theater company. Presentations can be on power point, posterboard, a monologue, etc. Be creative! Do not use plays we are discussing in class. I have included several additional plays on Canvas, and find plays at the UNT library, and at the Dance and Theater Department Library. I may have access to Latinx playwrights, actors, directors, and theater companies that you can contact for interviews and research. Details can be found on Canvas under “Weekly Assignments” and “Weekly Schedule.”

### **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](http://disability.unt.edu).

## ALL PORTIONS OF THIS SYLLABUS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

### Course Calendar

<b>August 21, 2024</b> Class Introduction	<b>Homework: <u>ALL homework due on Canvas Tuesdays no later than 12 midnight.</u></b>  Read <i>Zoot Suit</i> by Luis Valdez
<b>August 28</b> Discuss <i>Zoot Suit</i> by Luis Valdez	<b>Homework:</b>  Read <i>The Hungry Woman (A Mexican Medea)</i> by Cherrie Moraga
<b>September 4</b> Discuss <i>The Hungry Woman (A Mexican Medea)</i>	<b>Homework:</b>  Read <i>La Gringa</i> by Carmen Rivera
<b>September 11</b> Discuss <i>La Gringa</i> Guest: Carmen Rivera	<b>Homework:</b>  Read <i>Anna in the Tropics</i> by Nilo Cruz
<b>September 18</b> Discuss <i>Anna in the Tropics</i>	<b>Homework:</b>  Read <i>Luchadora</i> by Alvaro Saar Rios
<b>September 25</b> Discuss <i>Luchadora</i> Guest: Alvaro Saar Rios	<b>Homework:</b>  Read <i>Eliot, A Soldier's Fugue</i> by Quiara Alegria Hudes
<b>October 2</b> Discuss <i>Eliot, A Soldier's Fugue</i> by Quiara Alegria Hudes	<b>Homework:</b>  Read <i>Water by the Spoonful</i> by Quiara Alegria Hudes
<b>October 9</b> Discuss <i>Water by the Spoonful</i>	<b>Homework:</b>  Read <i>Marisol</i> by Jose Rivera
<b>October 16</b> Discuss <i>Marisol</i>	<b>Homework:</b>  Read <i>The Inheritance</i> by Matthew Lopez
<b>October 23</b> Discuss <i>The Inheritance</i>	<b>Homework:</b>  Read <i>Native Gardens</i> by Karen Zacarias

<b>October 30</b>  Discuss <i>Native Gardens</i>	<b>Homework:</b>  Read <i>Ursula - or let yourself go with the wind</i> by Frida Espinosa Müller
<b>November 6</b>  Discuss <i>Ursula - or let yourself go with the wind</i> Guest Frida Espinosa Müller	<b>Homework:</b>  Read <i>Lirica -Two Kids in the Universe</i> by Gustavo Ott
<b>November 13</b>  Discuss <i>Lirica -Two Kids in the Universe</i> Guest: Gustavo Ott	<b>Homework:</b>  Read <i>Swimming While Drowning</i> by Emilio Rodriguez
<b>November 20</b>  <i>Discuss Swimming While Drowning</i> Guest Emilio Rodriguez	<b>Homework:</b>  <b>Work on your final projects, extra credit, and complete missed assignments.</b>
<b>November 27</b>  <b>Happy Thanksgiving! No class!</b>	
<b>December 4</b>  Review and Final Project Discussion	
<b>December 7</b>  <b>Final Project DUE by 12 noon!</b>	