

**THEA 4370: Contemporary Chicana/o Theatre
Syllabus Fall 2021**

Professor: Dr. Gina Weber

Email: Gina.Weber@unt.edu

Office Hours: Fridays 12 noon to 2 pm, and by appointment.

Class Meets: Fridays 9:00am-11:50am

Class Location: Rtfp 127

Text

Jorge Huerta. Chicano Drama: Performance, Society, and Myth. New York, NY: Cambridge UP, 2000.

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

Plays

Zoot Suit by Luis Valdez

La Gringa by Carmen Rivera

blu by Virginia Grise

Roosters by Milcha Sanchez-Scott

Real Women Have Curves by Josefina Lopez

Marisol by Jose Rivera

Eliot, A Soldiers Fugue by Quiara Alegria Hudes

The Hungry Woman (A Mexican Medea) by Cherrie Moraga

Native Gardens by Karen Zacharias

Anna in the Tropics by Nilo Cruz

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 performance 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. In addition to the plays we will study the history of Chicano/a and Latinx theatre, the biographies of particular playwrights and the social and historical context of Chicano/a and Latinx theatre.

Course Goals

The goals of the course are:

- Introduce students to a variety of performance texts and styles

- Develop the ability to analyze and comprehend play scripts, with a focus on the work of Latinx playwrights
- Explore the history of Chicano/a and Latinx theatre in the United States
- Help students participate in and lead critical discussions of theatre texts
- Explore critical and academic writing on plays and theatre performances

Communication

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 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 Fridays from 12 noon- 2 pm, or by appointment. Please let me know in advance so that I can schedule a Zoom or in person meeting with you. Please note that while I will check my email every day, I do not check before 8 am, and stop checking after 8:00 p.m. If you send me an email late at night, I may not see it until the next morning. As a general rule, I will not check email over the weekend. If you have an emergency, and will not be able to attend class, please send me an email ASAP.

Attendance

It is important to participate and be present in every class. Absences from class will result in a loss of participation points. Missing the class is missing out on the course content. In brief, poor attendance, disruptive behavior and excessive tardiness will seriously affect your grade.

Rules of Engagement

Please note most classes will be held in person at the UNT Denton campus. However, a few classes will be held via Zoom. Please consult the syllabus or visit Canvas for announcements and links. I will also send emails to the class.

The following are the “Rules of engagement” for our Zoom (and in person) class. Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are the general rules of engagement to follow in this course:

- Students must attend preprogrammed classroom and Zoom on assigned days (see syllabus). They will always be held on Fridays, 9:00-11:50 a.m.
- Students must show their faces live during the Zoom class. Please, no avatars or phone only access.
- Students need to find a workspace appropriate to concentration and learning, with minimal extraneous distractions. Please keep pets, roommates, and family members away during Zoom classroom (unless it is an emergency, of course).
- Cultivate a professional presence. Wear appropriate in-classroom attire. Have paper and writing utensil ready to use in class.
- Mute yourself while others are speaking on Zoom.
- Always be polite and respectful towards classmates and the professor, in email or any other communication.
- Please no sidebar chatting or texting during the Zoom session and in class.

- Always use your professors' proper title: Dr. or Prof.
- Unless specifically invited, don't refer to your instructor by first name.
- Use clear and concise language.
- Remember that all college level communication should have correct spelling and grammar (this includes discussion boards).
- Use standard fonts such as Ariel, Calibri or Times New Roman and use a size 12-point font.
- Do not send confidential information via e-mail.

Grading

Class attendance: 100 pts

Weekly reading responses: 550 pts (total of 11 @ 50 pts each)

Panel discussion/Break out groups: 100 pts

Final Project: 250 pts

Total: 1000 pts

COURSE STRUCTURE AND ASSESSMENT MEASURES 8 Play Summaries 400 points (50 points each) 5 Written Reading Responses 150 points (30 points each) 2 Presentations of Reading Responses 100 points (50 points each) 1 Panel Discussion Group Presentation 100 points Monologue 50 points Participation 100 points Final Group Project 100 points Total: 1000 points

Your grade will be computed as follows:

1000 – 900 points: A

899 – 800 points: B

799 – 700 points: C

699 – 600 points: D

Below 600 points: F

Reading Responses

Students will write a response for each play assigned. These will be turned in the evening before every class and should also be a jumping off point for class discussions. Students will share three discussion questions to use in class. Due via email to gina.weber@unt.edu, every week Thursdays by 5 pm. Please see Canvas Module under “Weekly Assignments” for the weekly homework format.

Panel Discussions

Students will work in a small group to lead an investigation of a play read for class. Students should refer to the chapter reading to strengthen their argument. More information and guidelines will be provided.

Final Project

Final project will be determined at a later date. However, in general final project will most likely include one of the plays/topics or playwrights studied in class, or create a new scene drawing on themes from one of the previously discussed plays. Further details will be given at a later date.

Student Conduct

Students should be aware that “acts of dishonesty” include cheating, plagiarism, furnishing misleading information, forgery, as well as theft. The penalties for perpetrators as well as accessories (which includes advising, instigating, or encouraging) are extremely severe and we will uphold the policies and regulations of the University. If you use sources in a paper, you must properly cite them (using MLA format) and give the writer credit. Passing off someone else’s work as your own is plagiarism and will result in your receiving no credit for the assignment. The same penalty goes for collaboration with another person, including of course, another person in the class. If you receive no credit for an assignment for those assignments, there is no way to make them up.

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable, disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student’s conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university’s expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr

Written Work

All written assignments will be typed in a 12-point and Times New Roman font, and double spaced. MLA format must be followed for all bibliographic citations. Grammar, punctuation, and spelling (especially titles of plays and playwrights) will be graded!

Getting Help

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UIT Help Desk: UIT Student Help Desk site (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm

Telephone Availability:

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)
(<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>)

Student Support Services

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- [Student Health and Wellness Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center>)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- [UNT Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry>)
- [Individual Counseling](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling>)

Other student support services offered by UNT include

- [Registrar](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration) (<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration>)
- [Financial Aid](https://financialaid.unt.edu/) (<https://financialaid.unt.edu/>)
- [Student Legal Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services>)
- [Career Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center>)
- [Multicultural Center](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center) (<https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center>)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- [Pride Alliance](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance) (<https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance>)
- [UNT Food Pantry](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry) (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry>)

ALL PORTIONS OF THIS SYLLABUS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Course Calendar

August 27, 2020 ZOOM CLASS Class Introduction Review Syllabus	Homework: Read <i>Zoot Suit</i> by Luis Valdez & pgs. 15 – 44 in <i>Chicano Drama</i> Prepare 3 discussion questions
September 3 Discuss <i>Zoot Suit</i> Sept 3 -Turn in response & discussion questions	Homework: Read <i>La Gringa</i> by Carmen Rivera & pg. 56 – 79 & 85 – 91 in <i>Chicano Drama</i> Response to <i>La Gringa</i> Prepare 3 discussion questions
September 10 Discuss <i>La Gringa</i> Sept 9 - Turn in response & discussion questions	Homework: Read <i>Blu</i> by Virginia Grise Prepare 3 discussion questions
September 17 Discuss <i>Blu</i> by Virginia Grise Sept 16 - Turn in response & discussion questions	Homework: Read <i>Roosters</i> by Milcha Sanchez-Scott & pgs. 107 – 122 in <i>Chicano Drama</i> Prepare 3 discussion questions
September 24 No class! Work on turning in missing homework, reading missed plays, and start to explore topics and ideas for final project. I am Available on Zoom or phone if you need to discuss final projects or any other class concerns. Sept 23 - Turn in response & discussion questions	Homework: Read <i>Real Women Have Curves</i> by Josefina Lopez & pgs.122-130 in <i>Chicano Drama</i> . Response to <i>Real Women</i> Prepare 3 discussion questions

<p>October 1</p> <p>ZOOM CLASS Discuss <i>Roosters AND Real Women</i></p> <p>Sept 30 - Turn in response & discussion questions</p>	<p>Homework:</p> <p>Read <i>Marisol</i> by Jose Rivera</p> <p>Prepare 3 discussion questions</p> <p>Watch: https://danceandtheatre.unt.edu/events/2013/oct/marisol-jose-rivera (view the video at the bottom of page) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c03kpUo7uGI&feature=youtu.be</p>
<p>October 8</p> <p>Discuss <i>Marisol</i> by Jose Rivera</p> <p>Oct 7 - Turn in response & discussion questions</p>	<p>Homework:</p> <p>Read <i>Eliot, A Soldier's Fugue</i> by Quiara Alegria Hudes</p> <p>Prepare 3 discussion questions</p>
<p>October 15</p> <p>Discuss <i>Eliot, A Soldier's Fugue</i> by Quiara Alegria Hudes</p> <p>Oct 14 - Turn in response & discussion questions</p>	<p>Homework:</p> <p>Read <i>The Hungry Woman (A Mexican Medea)</i> by Cherrie Moraga</p> <p>Prepare 3 discussion questions</p>
<p>October 22</p> <p>Discuss <i>The Hungry Woman</i></p> <p>Oct 21 - Turn in response & discussion questions</p>	<p>Homework:</p> <p>Read <i>Native Gardens</i> by Karen Zacarias & Ch. 4 in <i>Chicano Drama</i></p> <p>Prepare 3 discussion questions</p>
<p>October 29</p> <p>Discuss <i>Read Native Gardens</i> by Karen Zacarias</p> <p>Oct 28 - Turn in response & discussion questions</p>	<p>Homework:</p> <p><i>Anna in the Tropics</i> by Nilo Cruz</p> <p>Prepare 3 discussion questions</p>
<p>November 5</p> <p>Discuss <i>Anna in the Tropics</i> by Nilo Cruz</p> <p>Nov 4 - Turn in response & discussion questions</p>	<p>Homework:</p> <p>Read <i>Swimming While Drowning</i> by Emilio Rodriguez</p> <p>Prepare 3 discussion questions</p>

Discussion of final project.	Send a synopsis of your final project.
November 12 Discuss <i>Swimming</i> Guest: Emilio Rodriguez Nov 11 - Turn in response & discussion questions	Homework: Continue to work on your final project.
November 19 No Class! Work on your final projects, and complete missed assignments.	Happy Thanksgiving! No class November 26
December 3 No class Reading Day! Work on your final projects, and complete missed assignments.	Work of Final Projects!
December 10 Final Project presentation! TIME TBD	Final Project!