

**THEA 4370: Contemporary Chicana/o Theatre  
Syllabus Fall 2022**

**Professor:** Dr. Gina Weber

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

**Office Hours:** After class, and by appointment.

**Class Meets:** Fridays, 11 am – 1:50 pm

**Class Location:** Lang 318

**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

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

*Roosters* by Milcha Sanchez-Scott

*La Gringa* by Carmen Rivera

*Blu* by Virginia Grise

*Eliot, A Soldiers Fugue* by Quiara Alegria Hudes

*Water by the Spoonful* by Quiara Alegria Hudes

*Anna in the Tropics* by Nilo Cruz

*Prodigal Kiss* by Caridad Svich

*Native Gardens* by Karen Zacharias

*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 after class, 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 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 a 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, classes MAY be held via Zoom. Please consult the syllabus or visit Canvas for announcements and links. I will also keep you informed via email.

### **Grading**

Class attendance and participation: 150 pts

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

Final Project: 250 pts

Total: **1000 pts**

### **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 short response for each play assigned. Due every Thursdays by 5 pm. Details can be found on Canvas under “Weekly Assignments.”

### **Final Project**

Final project will be determined 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](http://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**

### **Office of Disability Access**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable 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 reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

### **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](mailto: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>)

#### 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 is one 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>)

Other student support services offered by UNT include

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

**ALL PORTIONS OF THIS SYLLABUS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!**

## Course Calendar

<b>September 2, 2022</b> Review Syllabus & Introduction	<b>Homework:</b> Read <i>Zoot Suit</i> by Luis Valdez & pgs. 15 – 44 in <i>Chicano Drama</i>
<b>September 9</b> Discuss <i>Zoot Suit</i>	<b>Homework:</b> Read <i>The Hungry Woman (A Mexican Medea)</i> by Cherrie Moraga & pgs. 56 – 79 & 85 – 91 in <i>Chicano Drama</i>
<b>September 16</b> Discuss <i>The Hungry Woman</i>	<b>Homework:</b> Read <i>Roosters</i> by Milcha Sanchez-Scott & pgs. 107 – 122 in <i>Chicano Drama</i>
<b>September 23</b> Discuss <i>Roosters</i>	<b>Homework:</b> Read <i>Blu</i> by Virginia Grise
<b>September 30</b> Discuss <i>Blu</i> by Virginia Grise	<b>Homework:</b> Catch up reading plays and text
<b>October 7</b> Review and discuss <i>The Hungry Woman</i> , <i>Roosters</i> , and <i>Blu</i>	<b>Homework:</b> Read <i>La Gringa</i> by Carmen Rivera & pgs.122-130 in <i>Chicano Drama</i>
<b>October 14</b> Discuss <i>La Gringa</i> Guest: Carmen Rivera	<b>Homework:</b> Read <i>Eliot, A Soldier's Fugue</i> by Quiara Alegria Hudes
<b>October 21</b> Discuss <i>Eliot, A Soldier's Fugue</i>	<b>Homework:</b> Read <i>Water by the Spoonful</i> by Quiara Alegria Hudes
<b>October 28</b> Discuss <i>Water by the Spoonful</i>	<b>Homework:</b> Read <i>Anna in the Tropics</i> by Nilo Cruz
<b>November 4</b> Discuss <i>Anna in the Tropics</i>	<b>Homework:</b> Read <i>Native Gardens</i> by Karen Zacarias & pgs. 140-182 in <i>Chicano Drama</i>
<b>November 11</b> Discuss <i>Native Gardens</i>	<b>Homework:</b> Read <i>Prodigal Kiss</i> by Caridad Svich

<b>November 18</b>  Discuss <i>Prodigal Kiss</i>	<b>Homework:</b>  Read <i>Swimming While Drowning</i> by Emilio Rodriguez
<b>November 25</b>  No Class! Work on your final projects, and complete missed assignments.	Happy Thanksgiving!
<b>December 2</b>  Discuss <i>Swimming</i>  Guest: Emilio Rodriguez	<b>Homework:</b>  Work on Final Projects!
<b>December 9</b> No class Reading Day!	Work on your final projects, and complete missed assignments!
<b>December 16</b>	<b>Final Project due by 12 noon!</b>