

**TDHT 110/ETHN 132 – Fall 2013**

T/Th 11:00 – 12:20pm

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York 3000A

**Professor: Jade Power Sotomayor**

Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:45-2pm

**Teatro Chicana/o**

### **Course Description**

This course will examine the history of Chicana/o theater as a politically dynamic, multi-vocal, and generative site for the exploration of Chicana/o identity and experience. We will read a variety of plays that track the different themes and inquiries that have emerged out of the Chicano Movement and subsequent queer and feminist re-articulations of these artistic and activist projects. We will use an Ethnic Studies lens to ask questions about histories of power and the representation of race, gender, sexuality and class in combination with a Theatre and Performance Studies approach that foregrounds the artistry of these works both as texts and as live embodied performances.

### **Grading Breakdown**

Class Attendance and Participation 20%

Response Papers - 25%

Paper 1 - 20%

Performance Review – 10%

Final Research Project and Presentation- 25%

#### **Class Attendance and Participation - 20%**

Attendance is an important part of your course grade. More than one unexcused absence will result in lowering your entire grade by 2% in addition to losing participation points. Active class participation is paramount in this course, which includes engaging in class discussions and group work. Ask questions, be critical, and be respectful! If you are someone who is comfortable talking in class, create opportunities for others to talk. If you are not someone who usually talks, step up! Help each other, work *together*, listen, be open and be supportive. Our classroom is a community space and a safe space: we are anti-racist, feminist, queer-friendly and committed to honoring different modes of learning.

#### **Response Papers - 25% (Due Weekly on Thursdays)**

These are two-page response papers (approx. 600 words) that are due weekly at the beginning of lecture on Thursdays. Out of the nine response papers assigned (Weeks 1-5 & 7-10) **a total of 8** response papers will count toward your grade. You can miss one without it affecting your grade. For some weeks, specific instructions may be given the week before they are due. However, for the most part, they will consist of a *critical* response to the plays read for that week, in addition to generating two questions that will propel class discussion. These papers are *not summaries*, nor opinion papers, but rather they are meant as a place for inquiry and exploration. I invite you to use a creative voice in your writing, to make connections between the plays, current events, and your own life and identity.

**Paper 1 - 20% (Due Thursday, November 14 – Week 6)**

This will be a 5-7 page critical essay that requires you to engage class concepts and course readings. Prompt to be distributed in class Week 4.

**Performance Review – 10% (Due December 5 – Week 10)**

You will be required to attend a performance and write a three-page review in which you address your own impressions of the performance, the audience, the setting, the social and historical context, performance techniques and styles, as well as the central ideas put across by the performance as it pertains to this course. It is highly recommended that you attend one of the two following performances before October 13 and October 20 respectively.

*Logan Heights* by Josefina López will be playing at OnStage Playhouse in Chula Vista until October 13. *The Amish Project* (featuring a Latina actress as central character) will be playing at Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company downtown through Oct 20. These are unique opportunities to see Chicana/Latina performances.

**Final Research Project and Presentation- 25% (Due Wednesday, December 11)**

This will consist of an 8-10 page research paper that you will then present to the class in lieu of a final examination. You will be required to meet with the professor no later than Tuesday of Week 8 in order to discuss your topic of choice and receive feedback. You are also invited and encouraged to submit a creative project instead of a paper (write a play, solo performance, create a design, visual display etc.). However, keep in mind that this project should be critically engaged and is very unlikely to be “easier” than writing.

**Course Schedule:**

**\*\*Readings available as pdfs on TED**

**Week 0: Introduction – What is a Chicana/o? What is Chicana/o Theater?**

Thursday 9/26

**Week 1: El Teatro Campesino: A People's Theater for Social Change**

Tuesday 10/1

Read for Today: El Teatro Campesino Actos: *Las Dos Caras del Patroncito*, *Los Vendidos*, *Soldado Razo*, *No Saco Nada de la Escuela* \*\*

Watch at home: Parts 1 & 2 of “Chicano! History of Mexican-American Civil Rights Movement” available on youtube (approx. 50 min each)

Part 1 Quest for a Homeland: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHQ4XS-DrqM>

Part 2 The Struggle in the Fields <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FIgIaI5AVpY>

Thursday 10/3

Read for Today: Yolanda Broyles González “El Teatro Campesino and the Mexican Popular Performance Tradition” and “Theater of the Sphere: Towards a Formulation of Native Performance Practice”\*\*

Watch at home: Part 3 of “Chicano! History of Mexican-American Civil Rights Movement” available on youtube

Part 3 Taking Back the Schools <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NL4rQHKza9Y>

**Week 2: Racism and Resistance: Documenting Chicana/o History**

Tuesday 10/8

Read for Today: *Zoot Suit* by Luis Valdez

Thursday 10/10

Read for Today: *The Many Deaths of Danny Rosales* by Carlos Morton\*\***Week 3: Multicultural “Magic:” Chicana/o Theater on the Regional Circuit**

Tuesday 10/15

Read for Today: *Roosters* by Milcha Sánchez-Scott\*\*

Thursday 10/17

Read for Today: *My Visits With MGM* by Edit Villareal\*\***Week 4: Queering Aztlán: Towards an Intersectional *Chicanidad***

Tuesday 10/22

Read for Today: *Shadow of a Man* by Cherrie Moraga

Thursday 10/24

Read for Today: *Heroes and Saints* by Cherrie Moraga**Week 5: Mapping Chicano Masculinities**

Tuesday 10/29

Read for Today: *Sissy* by Ricardo Bracho\*\*

Thursday 10/31

Read for Today: *Blade to the Heat* by Oliver Mayer\*\***Week 6: Reconstituting and Reclaiming Chicana Bodies**

Tuesday 11/5

Read for Today: *Real Women Have Curves* by Josefina López

Thursday 11/7

Due: Paper 1Watch in Class: *Panza Monologues***Week 7: Labor, Class and Immigration**

Tuesday 11/12

Read for Today: *Latina* by Milcha Sánchez-Scott\*\*

Thursday 11/14

Read for Today: *Kita y Fernanda* by Tanya Saracho\*\***Week 8: Family, Memory and Trauma**

Tuesday 11/19

Read for Today: *blu* by Virginia Grise

Thursday 11/21

Read for Today: *Lydia* by Octavio Solis**Week 9: Family, Memory and Trauma: Mythical Proportions**

Tuesday 11/26

Read for Today: *Electricidad* by Luis Alfaro\*\*

Thursday 11/28 – NO CLASS Thanks(taking) Holiday

**Week 10: Performance Strategies: From Solo Performance to Troupes and *Teatros***

Tuesday 12/3

Read for Today: *Greetings From a Queer Señorita* by Monica Palacios\*\* and *Border Brujo* by Guillermo Gómez-Peña\*\*

Watch in Class: Clips from *The Barber of East LA* Butchialis de Panochtitlán

Thursday 12/5

Read for Today: Selections from *Culture Clash A Bowl of Beings* and Teatro Izcalli's *Chicano Rehab*\*\*

Due Today: Performance Review

**Final Exam Meeting: Wednesday, December 11 @ 11:30-2:30. Location TBA  
Presentation of Final Projects (and Class Potluck\*\*\*)**

ADA Statement – Any student with a disability or condition that compromises her ability to complete course requirements should notify the professor as soon as possible. The professor will take all reasonable efforts to accommodate those needs. If, as a result of a disability, you cannot accept the content or terms of this syllabus, notify the professor within one week of receiving syllabus.

\*\*\*\*\*A NOTE ON READING ASSIGNMENTS: The success of your performance in this class, and the overall success of the class as a whole, is contingent upon you completing the assigned readings. Class will be largely discussion based and will thus require that *everyone* do the reading. Please take responsibility for your role in this and do your best to come to class prepared and ready to discuss. Reading plays is fun!