Latina Feminist Thought and Practice  
LAS 4935/6938 – Sections 22085/22591  
WST 4930 – Section 22146

Instructor: Prof. Elizabeth Garcia  
Class Time: Fridays 9:35 a.m.-12:35 p.m.  
Class Location: Grinter 376  
Ofc. Hours: F. 1:30-2:30 p.m. and by appt.  
Ofc. Location: Grinter  
Email: egarcia1@ufl.edu

Course Description:
Feminist movement(s) and identities have historically been attributed to white women in the United States. Intersectional feminism has made interventions into the mainstream image of feminism problematizing and expanding the definitions and identities of feminist activism and activists. This course aims to situate Latina women within feminism by looking at their histories, discourses, and practices through a feminist lens. Through interdisciplinary readings we will explore how Latinas theorize about feminism through their lived experiences; have practiced feminist activism and advocated for feminist issues; and articulate Latina feminist identities.

Class Assignments and Grading:

Grading will be based on the following assignments:

Undergraduates:
Class Participation: 10%
Introductory Paper Part I: 10%
Journals: 25%
Mid-Term Paper: 20%
Final Paper: 35%

Graduates:
Class Participation: 10%
Introductory Paper Part I: 10%
Oral Presentation: 25%
Introductory Paper Part II: 10%
Paper Proposal: 10%
Final Paper: 35%

Grading Rubric:

A= 100-93  
A- = 92-90  
B+= 89-87  
B= 86-83  
C(S)= 76-73  
C-(U)= 72-70  
D+= 69-67  
D= 66-63
B-= 82-80  
C+= 79-77  
D-= 62-60  
E= 59-0

Undergraduate Assignment Descriptions:

Class Participation & In-Class Assignments: Participating in class is a very important part of your final grade. Participation in this course is defined as a) coming to class having read the assigned material, b) actively engaging in class conversation and, c) bringing to each class a question for discussion and a quote you want to discuss from the reading. Lack of preparedness in any of the above manners will impact your final grade.

Participation requires that you be consistently present in class. Each class that is missed without an adequate excuse will lower your participation grade. More than two unexcused absences may result in failing the class.

Please also note that tardiness will count against your participation grade.

Introductory Paper:

Part I: This paper is meant to situate yourself and your current understanding of feminism, which we will return to at the end of the semester.

Write a 2-page paper, double spaced, 12 point font responding to the following:

Prompt: What does feminism mean to you? Do you call yourself a feminist? Why or why not?

This paper is due in class on August 31st.

Part II: Revisit your response to part I of this paper completed at the beginning of the semester and answer the following in a 2-page paper:

Prompt: Based on your experience in this course, how has your definition of feminism changed? Has your identity as a “feminist” changed?

Part II should be included with your Journal assignment (see below), which will be due on the last day of class November 26th.

Journal: Throughout the semester there will be in-class writing activities where I will give you a prompt based on that day’s discussion. For your journal you will be asked to choose 5 of these assignments, edit them, and turn them in as a journal. Each final journal entry should be 1-2 pages. In addition to these 5 pieces, you should include Part II of your introductory paper, described above.

Completed Journals will be due via email on Monday, November 26th.
Mid-Term and Final paper:
You will be given a series of writing options and prompts from which you will choose one and write a 5-7 page paper. Further detailed instructions will be provided in class at least a week before the assignment is due. The assignments will be due on Midterm: Monday October 1st by 5 p.m. via email and Final: Monday, December 10th by 5 p.m. via email.

Graduate Assignment Descriptions:

Class Participation: See undergraduate section above.

Introductory Paper Parts I & II: See undergraduate section above. Due dates will be the same as undergraduates.

Oral Presentation: All graduate students will do an in class 30 minute presentation based on the assigned readings for the day. Students will sign up for presentations during the 3rd week of class. Students should schedule a meeting prior to their presentation date with me to go over your plans and receive feedback.

Your presentation should include the following:

- A slide show presentation that highlights the key points of the reading, has interesting visuals, and incorporates multi-media (i.e. images, clips, audio, music, etc.)
- Presentations should focus on 3-5 key points that you have chosen to discuss. These should be identified clearly at the beginning of the presentation.
- Presentation should end with 3-5 discussion questions to engage and lead the class in discussion.
- Presentations should last at least 30 minutes.
- You should bring a hard copy of your presentation for me to grade on the day of your presentation.

Final Paper: A 15-page research paper will be your final project for this course. The paper should delve deeper into one of the many themes discussed in the course. An abstract of your final paper delineating your paper topic, argument, and method will be due in class on November 16th. The Final paper will be due on:

Technology in the Classroom: Cell phones should be silenced. No texting is allowed in class. No laptops are permitted either. Notebooks and pens/pencils should be used for note taking in class. If you have a disability for which using a laptop computer is necessary please let me know and provide the adequate documentation through the Disability Service Office.
**Late Work & Incompletes:** Late assignments require prior permission from the instructor and will be deducted 1/3 of a letter grade for each day they are late (ex: A- becomes a B+). Assignments over 5 days late will not be accepted.

In accordance with UF policies, an incomplete may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor as an interim grade for a course in which:

1) the student has completed a major portion of the course with a passing grade, AND

2) been unable to complete course requirements before the end of the term because of extenuating circumstances, AND

3) obtained written agreement from the instructor and arranged for resolution of the incomplete grade.

**Academic Integrity:**
UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

**Students Requiring Accommodations**
Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**Required Texts:**

All books are available for purchase at the college bookstore.

The Latina Feminist Group, *Telling to Live: Latina Feminist Testimonios*
Vicki Ruiz & Virginia Sanchez Korrol, *Latina Legacies: Identity, Biography, & Community*
Aida Hurtado, *Voicing Chicana Feminisms*

All other readings will be found online.
Bring All Reading Assignments to Class!

**Week 1: Introduction**

8/24 Syllabus and Class Structure/Organization.

**Week 2: Feminism (Re)defined**

8/31 No Turning Back Ch. 1 and 4
Dicker, Ch. 1
Anzaldua, “New Mestiza Consciousness”
Telling to Live, Introduction

**Intro Paper Part I Due in Class**

**Week 3: Latina Feminist Thought**

9/7 From Telling to Live:
“Certified Organic Intellectual”, Aurora Levins Morales
“The House that Mamá Biela Built”, Daisy Cocco De Filippis
“My Name is This Story”, Aurora Levins Morales
“Esta Risa No Es de Loca”, Caridad Souza
“I Can Fly: Of Dreams and Other Nonfictions,” Eliana Rivero
“Point of Departure,” Mirtha N. Quintanales

**Week 4: Latina Feminist Thought**

9/14 From Telling to Live:
“El Beso,” Ruth Behar
“Speaking Among Friends: Whose Empowerment, Whose Resistance?,”
Luz De Alba Acevedo
“Missing Body,” Caridad Souza
“Telling to Live: Devoro La Mentira, Resucitando Mi Ser,” Ines Hernandez Avila

Cherrie Moraga, “La Guera”
Gloria Anzaldua, “La Prieta”

**Week 5: Early Feminist Practices**

9/21 Latina Legacies, Ch.4, 7-9
Week 6: Feminist Labor Practices

9/28 Latina Legacies, Ch. 11, 13,15
Carmen Whalen, “‘The Day the Dresses Stopped’: Puerto Rican Women, the International Ladies Garment Workers’ Union, and the 1958 Dressmakers Strike”

Mid-term Paper Due Monday, October 1st by 5 p.m. via email

Week 7: Latina Feminist Activism

V. Ruiz, “La Nueva Chicana” (?)
Anna Nieto Gomez, “Chicana Feminism”
Sonia Lopez, “The Role of The Chicana within the Student Movement”
Evey Chapa, “Mujeres Por La Raza Unida”
Carla Trujillo, “Chicana Lesbians: Fear and Loathing in the Chicano Community”
Beatriz Pesquera and Denise Segura, “There is no Going Back: Chicanas and Feminism”

Week 8: Latina Feminist Activism

10/12 Through the Eyes of Rebel Women: The Young Lords, 1969-1976, Parts 1 and 2

Week 9: Politics of Reproduction

10/19 Fertile Matters, Ch. 1-4

Week 10: Politics of Reproduction

10/26 In Class Film “No Mas Bebes” (?) (PRSA Conference)

Week 11: Homecoming

11/2 No Class

Week 12: Politics of Reproduction

11/9 Fertile Matters, Ch. 5-7

Week 13: Feminist Identities

11/16 Voicing Chicana Feminisms, Ch. 2-6

Graduate Students Final Paper Abstracts Due
Week 14: Thanksgiving Week

11/23   NO CLASS

   Journals will be due via email on Monday, November 26\textsuperscript{th}.

Week 15: Feminist Identities

11/30   \textit{Voicing Chicana Feminisms}, Ch. 7-10

   Final Paper Due Monday, December 10\textsuperscript{th} by 5 p.m. via email