

**Mexican/ Chicana Spirituality
Winter 2011
RS 110E**

Class: MWF 11-11:50am

Professor Inés Talamantez

Location: PHELPS 2524

Office: HSSB 3069

Office Hours: T/Th: 9-10 AM and by appointment

Course Description:

Mexican and Chicana Spiritualism will address the religious history of women in Mexico and Chicanas in the American Southwest. The course focuses on religious traditions and their relationship to particular environments, languages, religious narratives and ceremonies. The course emphasizes an integrative perspective in which Indigenous symbols, oral traditions, music, and dance reveal social kinship relationships as mutually informing systems in the lives of Mexican and Chicana women. The course is designed to facilitate the use of skills in critical thinking, persuasive writing, public speaking, field work, and graduate student mentoring.

Course Requirements:

Assignments will be carefully analyzed and discussed in class. One formal paper will be required as well as a midterm examination and a final oral presentation of the second research paper.

- **Midterm examination on February 4, 2011.
Two out of four essay questions (take home) including annotated bibliography and proposal for final research paper.**
- **Oral Presentation of the research paper at the end of the course.**

Grading:

Class participation (Serious Class Participation).....	10%
Take Home Midterm	30%
Research Paper (10 pages).....	30%
Oral presentation of Final Research Paper.....	30%

The final is an oral presentation of your research paper. Successful students will approach reading, research, and writing as an active critical exercise.

Required Texts:

Rudolfo Anaya: *Bless Me Ultima (BMU)*

Guillermo Bonfil Batalla: *México Profundo: Reclaiming a Civilization (MP)*

Elena Avilla with Jay Parker: *Woman Who Glows in the Dark (WGD)*

Calendar:

Jan 3: Course Introduction

Jan 5: Read: Bless Me Ultima (1-50)

Jan 7: Read: BMU (51-100)

Jan. 10: Read: BMU (101-150)

Jan 12: Read: BMU (150-200)

Jan 14: Read: BMU (201-262)

Jan 17: Holiday

Jan 19: Read: Woman Who Glows in the Dark (Intro & Chp 1)

Jan 21: Read: WGD (Chp 2)

Jan 24: Read: WGD (Chp 3)

Jan 26: Chicana/o Spirituality
Read: Espiritualist

Jan 28: Chicana/o Spirituality
Read: Ritual and healing in Mexico and southern California

Jan 31: Film

Feb. 2: Read: WGD (Chp 4)

Feb. 4: Midterm

Feb. 7: Read: WGD (Chp 5)

Feb. 9: Read: WGD (Chp 6)

Feb. 11: Read: WGD (Chp 7)

Feb. 14: Read: Intro and Part I (MP)

Feb. 17: Read: Part II (MP)

Feb. 19: **Film**

Feb. 22: Read: Part III (MP)

Feb. 24: Guidelines for Presentation

~~MARCH 5: Oral Presentations and discussion~~

March 5: Oral Presentations and discussion

March 8: Oral Presentations and discussion

March 10: Course Review

March 12: Class Ends