

# MAS 337F • Latinx Feminism & Health

## Fall 2021 • TTH 9.30-11am • GAR 2.128

**Instructor:** Minich, J.  
**Unique #:** 40875  
**Semester:** Spring 2021

**Cross-lists:** WGS 340 (46265)  
**Flags:** CD  
**Course Website:** Canvas

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the intersection between Latinx feminism and health justice activism. The course begins with an overview of key concepts in public health and Latinx feminisms, emphasizing how questions of wellbeing, care and healing have been central to the development of Latinx feminist theory and activism, and continues with an analysis of Latinx expressive culture (film, music, visual art and literature) that contain feminist engagements with the idea of health.

### REQUIRED TEXTS:

Cornejo Villavicencio, Karla. *The Undocumented Americans*. New York: One World, 2020.  
Grise, Virginia. *Your Healing Is Killing Me*. Pittsburgh: Plays Inverse Press, 2017. ISBN 978-0991418398  
Levins Morales, Aurora. *Kindling: Writings on the Body*. Palabrera Press, 2013. ISBN: 9781617758416  
Méndez, Jasminne. *Night-Blooming Jasmin(n)e: Personal Essays and Poetry*. Arte Público Press, 2018. ISBN: 9781558858619  
silva, ire'ne lara. *Blood Sugar Canto*. Hilo, Hawai'i: Saddle Road Press, 2016.  
\* Additional readings posted to Canvas as .pdf files.

### REQUIREMENTS:

#### Introduction

The introduction is an opportunity for you to provide information about yourself and your learning needs to me, as well as to set some learning goals for the semester. See the assignment portal on Canvas for more information.

**Due:** Thursday, September 9

**Point Value:** 5 points

**Evaluation Method:** Complete/Incomplete (if you answer all questions completely, you will receive full credit; if not, you will have the opportunity to resubmit the assignment or will forfeit credit)

#### Midterm and Final Self-Assessments

Twice during the course of the semester, you will evaluate your own work for the class and grade the major course requirements completed during that evaluation period. See the assignment portal on Canvas for more information.

**Due:** Thursday, October 21 (Midterm) and Thursday, December 2 (Final)

**Point Value:** 7.5 points each (15 points total)

**Evaluation Method:** Complete/Incomplete (if you answer all questions completely, you will receive full credit; if not, you will have the opportunity to resubmit the assignment or will forfeit credit)

#### Preparedness and Engagement

In general, I expect that you attend every class meeting that you are able to (with exceptions for health and family emergencies; I respect your definitions of "health," "family," and "emergency") and that you engage in a substantive way (via a Canvas discussion post, Zoom chat post, or comment in class) for each class meeting. I will open weekly Canvas discussion threads for people who prefer not to speak in class or are unable to attend a particular class meeting so that you have multiple opportunities to participate.

**Due:** No formal due date; will be evaluated twice during the semester on your self-assessments (October 21 and December 2).

**Point Value:** 15 points for each evaluation period (30 points total)

**Evaluation Method:** Letter grade assigned by self-assessment.

#### Meme I & II

Twice during the semester, you will create a brief, catchy response to course material in the form of a meme/social media post. You will have the opportunity (but will not be required) to present your work to the class.

**Point Value:** 5 points each (10 points total)

**Due:** Thursday, September 23 **OR** Thursday, October 7 (Meme I) and Thursday, November 4 **OR** Thursday, November 18 (Meme II)

**Evaluation Method:** Letter grade assigned by self-assessment.

**Critical Analysis I & II**

**Target length:** 3-4 pages (double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font, 1-inch margins). Prompts can be found on the Canvas assignment portal.

**Point Value:** 20 points each (40 points total)

**Due:** Thursday, September 23 **OR** Thursday, October 7 (Critical Analysis I) and Thursday, November 4 **OR** Thursday, November 18 (Critical Analysis II)

**Evaluation Method:** Letter grade assigned by self-assessment.

**GRADING SCALE:**

The requirements outlined above add up to a total of 100 points. The point totals below indicate the final grade that corresponds to your total point value.

Letter Grade	Point Range	Letter Grade	Point Range	Letter Grade	Point Range	Letter Grade	Point Range	Letter Grade	Point Range
		B+	88.00-89.99	C+	77.00-79.99	D+	68.00-69.99	F	1.00-59.99
A	94.00-100	B	84.00-87.99	C	73.00-76.99	D	64.00-67.99		
A-	90.00-93.99	B-	80.00-83.99	C-	70.00-72.99	D-	60.00-63.99		

**GRADING POLICY:**

**You will be grading your own work for this course.** For this reason, your midterm and final self-assessments are particularly crucial: this is where you will be evaluating your work! There are a couple of caveats here: 1) I reserve the right to change grades if the grade you assign yourself does not reflect the criteria outlined in the self-assessments; 2) if you do not turn in the self-assessments, I will be forced to assign a grade on your behalf since I am required by the University to give you a grade.

**COURSE VALUES:**

**Academic Integrity:** Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. For additional information on Academic Integrity, see <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acadint.php>.

**Disability Statement:** If you are a student with a disability, or think you may have a disability, and need accommodations please contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). You may refer to SSD's website for contact and more information: <http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>. If you are already registered with SSD, please deliver your Accommodation Letter to me as early as possible in the semester so we can discuss your approved accommodations.

**Honor Code:** The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

**Religious Holy Days:** By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of a pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

**SCHEDULE:**

*Schedule subject to change; changes will be communicated in writing via Canvas.*

**Week One: August 25-27 | Introductions**

Th Introductions

**Week Two: Aug 30-September 3 | Key Concepts: Intersectionality, Structural Violence, Medical Racism**

- T Edna Viruell-Fuentes, Patricia Y. Miranda, and Sawsan Abdulrahmin, "More Than Culture: Structural Racism, Intersectionality Theory, and Immigrant Health" (Canvas)
- Paul Farmer, Bruce Nizeye, Sara Stulac, and Salmaan Keshavjee, "Structural Violence and Clinical Medicine" (Canvas)
- Th Alexandra Minna Stern, "Quarantine and Eugenic Gatekeeping on the US-Mexican Border" (Canvas)

**Week Three: September 6-10 | Key Concepts: Chicana Feminism**

- T Gloria Anzaldúa, "La herencia de Coatlicue/The Coatlicue State" and "La conciencia de la mestiza/Towards a New Consciousness" (Canvas)
- Th Cherríe Moraga, "A Long Line of Vendidas" (Canvas)

**WORK DUE: Introduction**

**Week Four: September 13-17 | Latina Health Activism**

- T **FILM (watch before class):** *No más bebés*
- Th **FILM (watch before class):** *¡Palante, siempre palante!*  
Iris Morales, "Women Organizing Women" (Canvas)  
Klemesrud, Judy, "Young Women Find a Place in High Command of Young Lords" (Canvas)

**Week Five: September 20-24 | Latina Health Activism**

- T Virgie Tovar, *The Self-Love Revolution: Radical Body Positivity for Girls of Color* (Introduction and Chapters 3, 4, 6, 10 & 13) (UT Library e-book)
- Th Jaime Cortez, *Sexile/Sexilio*

**WORK DUE: Critical/creative analysis I OR Meme I**

**Week Six: September 27-October 1 | Artist Highlight: Jasminne Méndez**

- T Jasminne Méndez, *Night-Blooming Jasmin(n)e* (pp 1-106)
- Th Jasminne Méndez, *Night-Blooming Jasmin(n)e* (pp 107-151)

**Week Seven: October 4-8 | Artist Highlight: Jasminne Méndez**

- T Jasminne Méndez, *Night-Blooming Jasmin(n)e* (pp 152-222)
- Th **GUEST: Jasminne Méndez**

**WORK DUE: Critical/creative analysis I OR Meme I**

**Week Eight: October 11-15 | Diabetes**

- T ire'ne lara silva, *Blood Sugar Canto*
- Th Gloria Anzaldúa, "now let us shift" (Canvas)

**Week Nine: October 18-22 | Environmental Health**

- T Cherríe Moraga, *Heroes and Saints* (pp -126) (Canvas)
- Th Cherríe Moraga, *Heroes and Saints* (pp 127-149) (Canvas)

**WORK DUE: Midterm self-assessment**

**Week Ten: October 25-29 | Artist Highlight: Aurora Levins-Morales**

- T Aurora Levins Morales, *Kindling* (pp 1-92)
- Th Aurora Levins Morales, *Kindling* (pp 95-168)

**Week Eleven: November 1-5 | Immigration and Health**

- T Karla Cornejo Villavicencio, *The Undocumented Americans*, Introduction and Chapters 1-2
- Th Karla Cornejo Villavicencio, *The Undocumented Americans*, Chapter 3

**WORK DUE: Critical/creative analysis II OR Meme II**

**Week Twelve: November 8-12 | Immigration and Health**

- T Karla Cornejo Villavicencio, *The Undocumented Americans*, Chapters 4-5
- Th Karla Cornejo Villavicencio, *The Undocumented Americans*, Chapter 6

**Week Thirteen: November 15-19 | Intimate Partner Violence**

- T Sandra Cisneros, "Woman Hollering Creek" (Canvas)

Th Manuel Muñoz, “The Heart Finds Its Own Conclusion” and “The Comeuppance of Lupe Rivera” (Canvas)  
**WORK DUE: Critical/creative analysis II OR Meme II**

**Week Fourteen: November 22-26 | THANKSGIVING**

T Meme Assignment Presentations

Th **THANKSGIVING; NO CLASS**

**WORK DUE: Peer Review**

**Week Fifteen: November 29-December 3 | Health Justice**

T Virginia Grise, *Your Healing Is Killing Me*

Th Course Conclusions

**WORK DUE: Revised Creative/Critical Analysis; Final Self-Assessment**