

La Llorona y Más: Latinx Legend Tripping

Fall 2021

MWF 1:00-2:00pm

MAS S374: 40930 WGS S340: 46220, AMS S321: 31840, ES370W: 36395

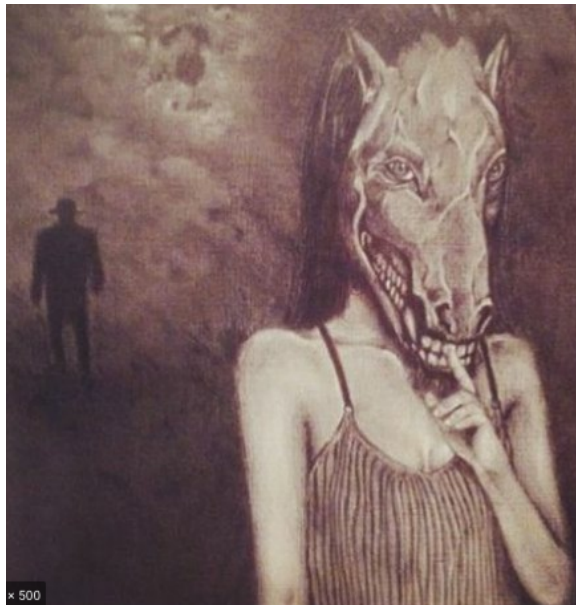
Instructor: Dr. Rachel González-Martin

Associate Professor, Department of Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

Office Hours: ZOOM Wednesdays 10:00am-12pm

Course Description:

Legend tripping is the process by which individuals and groups visit and/or recreate legendary contexts, with the hopes of facilitating an encounter with the strange. This course will focus on narrative folklore and practice from diverse traditions across the U.S. based Latinx diaspora. Legends, or folk narratives told as true share interpretations of the strange in everyday social life of tellers and audiences alike. Shared amongst peers and across generations, legends within Latinx communities have been used to influence the behaviors and beliefs of young women.



Through reading, collecting, and analyzing legend texts such as *La Llorona*, *Dancing with the Devil*, and personal stories of La Lechuza among other tales of supernatural encounters, we will interrogate key archetypes of powerful women such as brujas, curanderas, and hechiceras. Students will engage with these texts the instrumentalization of a community logic of supernatural belief that impact the development of gender and sexuality identities across US Latinx communities. We will draw on materials from the fields of Folklore, Anthropology, Latina/o/x Studies, Cultural Studies and American Studies.

This course will feature Latinx *legends* and *testimonio* narrative genres to discuss how supernatural tales impact community socialization. Focusing on female protagonists, narrators, and tellers, students will construct their own “legend” texts in reverse, recasting the female/femme victim/villain in a new light, for a new generation. Students will theorize the “best” form their narrative will take—literary, visual, auditory etc.—to best reach the audience of their choosing.

By the end of the course students will be able to:

1. Identify major recurring themes illustrated in folk narrative texts from U.S. Latino communities.
2. Evaluate folk narrative texts as community historiography.
3. Critically read/listen to story texts and identify how form of texts impacts how narratives circulate and socialize gendered norms.

This course carries 2-flags:

Cultural Diversity in the United States: Cultural Diversity courses are designed to increase your familiarity with the variety and richness of the American cultural experience. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one U.S. cultural group that has experienced persistent marginalization.

Writing: Writing Flag courses are designed to give students experience with writing in an academic discipline. In this class, you can expect to write regularly during the semester, complete substantial writing projects, and receive feedback from your instructor to help you improve your writing. Students should therefore expect a substantial portion of his/her grade to come from your written work.

Required Reading:

Readings be accessible via UT Lib, Internet link, Podcasts, or Canvas posting.

Podcast information

The Night Owl Podcast: <https://www.thenightowlpodcast.com/>

LatinoUSA: <https://www.npr.org/programs/latino-usa/453210838/ghost-stories>

Monstras Podcast: <https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/podbean-113/monstras>

Hybrid Course Policies

Attendance: Attendance is required for 2 classes per week for **synchronous instruction, Monday and, Wednesday**. Attendance is worth 10% of your course grade. **Friday course work will be done asynchronously—except for the FINAL Friday class (December 3rd) where we will have our final lecture.**

Participation: Participation is worth 20% of your course grade. This will be calculated through 1) completion of modules, 2) small group participation, 3) general in-session questions/comments, 4) Project workshops, and 5) office hours.

Accommodations: If you need help managing this course, please speak to me one on one in office hours and we can discuss your needs, if you have official paperwork or not.

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, go to: <http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/accommodations-and-services/>.

Academic Integrity: All students are responsible for reviewing and understanding the University's guidelines on academic dishonesty. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/ or dismissal from the University. For further information about what constitutes academic dishonesty on the UT campus visit:

<https://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/academicintegrity.php>

Student Safety: Starting January 1, 2020 **all employees** who witness or receive information about sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking that involve a current student or employee must promptly report the incident to the University's Title IX Coordinator or a Deputy Title IX Coordinator. **I AM A MANDATORY REPORTER.**

FAQ about Title IX and the new SB 212 see:

https://titleix.utexas.edu/faqs?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=FAQ&utm_campaign=sb212-december-update

**Covid-19: Ways to Protect Yourself and Others on
Campus**

<https://protect.utexas.edu/>

Assignments:

Weekly Writing Assignments (WWAs): Students will have a written assignments listed on Fridays and due by the following SUNDAY on Canvas by 12noon.

Online: Friday instruction will be asynchronous, ie. we will not meet together in class. Students will have an assignment, writing, responding, listening, etc. that can be done at home. WWAs (see above) are due Sundays, but Response Notes are to be submitted Friday (the day they are assigned) by 5pm on Canvas.

Project Workshops: Students will be asked to prepare notes about ideas to share about their possible topics and methods. These will be informal notes, but I will ask that they be submitted through canvas by the end of class on the given presentation days.

Class Project:

Students will choose supernatural legend text circulated in Latinx communities (from class, or one they know from their own experience) as inspiration. Each student will create a Women-of -Color- Feminist “retelling” of the text from their own perspective, but will modify the details to create a *different* message about social expectations of gender—one that affirms women in positions of social power and leadership. This creative piece of writing will be contextualized by an introduction and conclusion intellectualizes the changes to the story that each author makes, as well as a discussion of the impact on the intended audience. MLA formal writing guidelines apply to the contextualizing information. The creative story piece can take myriad forms: written, oral/audio, podcast, visual, digital video, material (submitted in photographs). See handout for complete details.

Course Evaluation:

Grades will be determined by completion and quality of all assignments, and one final project as determined by the professor. Late work will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Attendance: 10% (suspended temporarily during Covid)

Participation: 20%

Assignments (submitted items) 30%:

Writing Assignments

Responses

Exams x2 20%

Final Project 20%

A 94-100

B 84-89

C 74-79

D 64-69

Class Schedule

Week 1:	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
August 23-27	-----	Introduction & Course Overview (Pod 1)	Introduction & Course Overview (pod 2)

Week 2:	Monday	Wednesday	Friday (Blue= ASYNCHRONOUS)
August 30-September 3 Living Folklore	What is “Legend Tripping”? (Pod 1)	What is “Legend Tripping”? (Pod 2)	<p>Response Notes: How do supernatural beliefs circulate in Latinx communities?</p> <p>Listening: Latino USA: https://www.latinousa.org/2015/10/30/growing-up-latino-and-scared/</p> <p>https://www.latinousa.org/2015/10/30/josefina-lopez-is-not-afraid-of-spirits/</p> <p>https://www.latinousa.org/2015/10/30/sandra-cisneros-dreams-of-ghosts/</p>

Week3:	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
September 6-10 Contexts and Practice: Legend Texts	Labor Day Holiday -----	Introduction to Course Project	The Night Owl Podcast, https://www.thenightowlpodcast.com/ep-24-origins-part-i Origins Part 1 and 2

Week 4:	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
September 13-17 “Latinx” Monsters/ The Monstrous Other	“Latina/o Monsters Theory” (Calvo-Quirós) in The Routledge Companion to Latina/o Popular Culture, digital copy UT Lib.	“Monstrous Femininity...” (Calafell)	WWA#1: “The Vagina Dentata...” (Raitt) https://www.vice.com/en/article/pa-yq79/pussy-bites-back-vagina-dentata-myths-from-around-the-world

Week 5:	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
September 20-24 Gender and Colonialism	“Essays, Interludes, and Encounters, La Llorona Redux” (Perez) “Haunting and Futurity” (Gordon)	“Virgin of Guadalupe” (CLF) “Latina Feminism and Folklore in the United States” (CLF)	Response Notes: How do these two stories reveal how gender ideals might be constructed in Latinx (In this case Mexican American) communities? LatinoUSA: “La Llorona as Feminist Icon” Monstras Podcast: La Virgen de Guadalupe March 21, 2021

Week 6:	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
September 27-October 1 Introduction to Monstrous Mothers: COATLICUE & LA MALINCHE	From llorona to Gritona...” (Carbonell) “Coatlicue” (CLF) “Malinche” (CLF)	“Coatlicue or How to Write the Dismembered Body” (de Leon)	WWA#2 (choose 1 + M or C) Pre-Hispanic Female/Femme “Monsters” Acuecuéyotl (Nahua) Chicchán (Maya) Itzpapalotl (Nahua) Mayahuel (Maya) Xtabay (Maya Lacandon) In <i>Stavans A Pre-Columbian Beastiary</i>

Week 7:	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
October 4-8	Review	MIDTERM EXAM	No online assignment.

Week 8:	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
October 11-15 Memoir/Life-Writing/Testimonio	“Chicana and Black Feminisms: Testimonios...” (Saavadera and Pérez) “Inventory” (Machado)	Project Workshop #1 Topic (“The Strange”)	Response Notes: What does it mean to be an “unruly” woman on our society? “Eight Bites” (Machado)

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Week 9:	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
October 18-22 Female Apparitions & Ghost Citizens	<p>“La Llorona in Southern Arizona” (Leddy)</p> <p>“La Llorona” (Perez, Oxford Encyclopedia of Latinos and Latinas in the US)</p> <p><i>Monstras</i> Podcast, Ep: 1, “La Llorona”</p>	<p>“La Llorona in Juvenile Hall” (Hawes)</p> <p>“La Llorona” (version)</p> <p>“The Wailing Woman” (version)</p> <p>https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/la-llorona-the-legend-continues-to-haunt-new-mexicans/article_ad8cf125-9c56-5ffe-bdc1-87572478b952.html</p>	<p>WWA#3</p> <p>La Llorona (version)</p>

Week 10:	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
October 25-29 Just Ghost Stories... Memorates/ Believability , and Pathological Femininity	<p>“Monstrous Femininity” (Calafell)</p> <p>Dancing with the Devil (versions)</p>	<p>Workshop #2</p> <p>Forms and Methods</p>	<p>Response Notes: What do “monsters” do for us, as a society? Ie. Why might we believe in “monsters”?</p> <p><i>Night Owl Podcast</i> Campfire 2: The Monsters Might be Real (Feb 11, 2019)</p>

Week 11:	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
November 1-5 Brujas/Hechiceras: La Huesera	<p>“La Huesera” (Blackie)</p> <p>“Folk Medicine” (CLF)</p> <p>“La Huesera” (Estes-audio)</p>	<p>Workshop 3: Issues/ Tensions</p>	<p>WWA#4</p> <p>La Huesera</p>

Week 12:	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
November 8-12 Brujas/Hechiceras: La Lechuza	“Brujeria” (Gonzalez-Wippler) “Brujeria” (Zavaleta) https://paranormal.lovetoknow.com/cryptid-types-history/lechuza-history-stories	“Magia” (Zavaleta) “Conjuro/Hechizo” (Zavaleta) “Curandera” (Cantú)	Response Notes: How do shares stories of the unknown and/or strange build community? La Lechuza https://www.caller.com/story/news/special-reports/building-our-future/throwback/2020/10/21/corpus-christi-ghost-stories-did-la-lechuza-terrorize-robstown-1975/6005182002/ https://www.npr.org/2015/10/30/453213510/beware-the-witch-owl-la-lechuza

Week 13:	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
November 15-18 Brujas/Hechiceras: La Ciguapa & La Siguanaba	“La Siguanaba” (CLF) “The Donkey Lady” (versions) https://dominicancult.blogspot.com/2013/09/la-ciguapa-dominican-succubus.html https://www.colonialzone-dr.com/ciguapa/ https://latinfolktales.wordpress.com/tag/la-ciguapa/ “People with their Feet Backward” (Rodriguez)	Workshop #3: Check in / Sharing	WWA#5 (Choose one) Listening: Monstras Podcast La Siguanaba April 19, 2021 & Monstras Podcast La Ciguapa June 21, 2021

Week 14:	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
November 22-25	Media!	-----	HOLIDAY

Week 15:	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
November 29-Dec 3 Wild Women	Reclaiming Monsters, Respecting Unruly Women	Review	Exam #2

Week 16:	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
Dec 6 th	Final Project: Q & A	-----	-----

Final Creative Project due 12/13/21, 5pm on Canvas