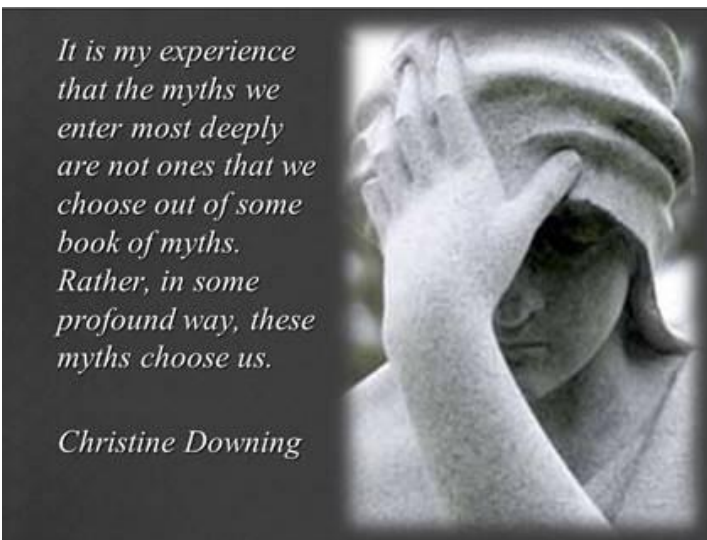


La Llorona: The Image, the Myth, The Archetype

This course is a special topic, 3 credit seminar featuring short stories, pop culture representations, and art featuring the Southwest legend of La Llorona, the weeping woman. We will also examine myths from other cultures of similar figures and examine whether this is an archetype, or particular to the Southwest Americas. We will read both fiction/pop culture texts and academic essays about the myth, examining it from a theoretically borderlands and feminist stance.



All papers will be written as conference style papers; it will be optional to propose and present the papers at an academic conference nearby. We will begin with short stories, read several novels, and explore drama/film adaptations of two the story.

Major themes we will explore will include the Virgin/Mother/Whore mythos, the concept of “toxic motherhood,” class and gender’s intersections with feminism, especially Chicano/a feminism, borderlands myths, liminality, gothic horror vs. folklore, the Southwest.

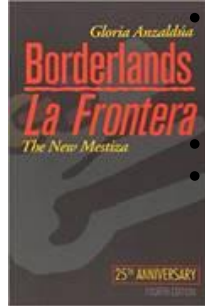
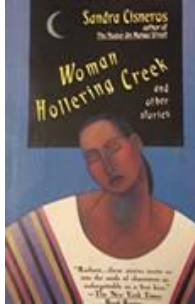
In the final weeks of the course, you will present your paper to the class as a conference-style presentation, with a visual aid as a requirement.

Grades:

10%:	Weekly Scholarly Student report. (Each week, a student will present a summary of a work of scholarly criticism about one of the authors, texts, or themes.
10%	Daily reading journal, due every two weeks
20%	Proposal & annotated bibliography
40%	Conference Style paper
20%	Participation & attendance

Required Reading/Watching:

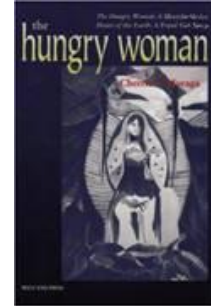
- “Woman Hollering Creek” <https://rebeccambender.wordpress.com/2014/05/23/llorona-latino-studies/teacherweb.com/IN/Burris/Comber/Cisneros-Woman-HC.pdf> and
- “Never Marry a Mexican” http://www-classic.uni-graz.at/bibwww/summerschool/reader/CSAS/texts/Mod2_Heide_170709_SandraCisnerosNeverMarry.pdf both by Sandra Cisneros.
- “Sons of La Malinche” by Octavio Paz available here: <http://public.csusm.edu/sclark/labyrinth.html>
- “The Red Virgin” a film directed by Sheila Pye, 2012, available here: <https://vimeo.com/62044318>
- Pop Culture: Selections from *Mulholland Drive*, *Supernatural*, *Grimm*.
- “La Llorona” and Related Themes. Bacil F. Kirtley. *Western Folklore*. Vol. 19, No. 3 (Jul., 1960), pp. 155-168.



Selections from: Anzaldúa, Gloria. *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*. San Francisco: Aunt Lute Books 1987.

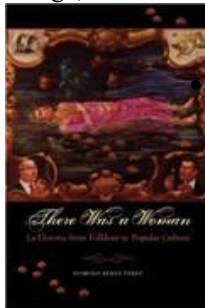
Selection from:

Cisneros, Sandra. "Guadalupe the Sex Goddess." *Goddess of the Americas: Writings on the Virgin of Guadalupe*. Ed. Ana Castillo. New York: Riverhead Books 1997. 46- 51.



- Doyle, Jacqueline. "Haunting the Borderlands: La Llorona in Sandra Cisneros's 'Woman Hollering Creek.'" *Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies* 16:1 (1996). 53-70. JSTOR. Swem Library, Williamsburg, VA. 20 Feb. 2008.

- Moraga, Cherríe L. *The Hungry Woman*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press 2001.



Selections from: *There Was a Woman La Llorona from Folklore to Popular Culture*. Perez, Domino Renee. University of Texas Press, 2013.

Understanding Contemporary Chicana Literature. Madsen, Deborah L, et al.

Reading Schedule:

Week One: read: Cisneros, "Woman Hollering Creek."

Week Two: read: *There Was a Woman*—Perez, part one.

Week Three: read: *There Was a Woman*—Perez, part two.

Week Four: view: selections from pop culture—movies & TV. read: Kirtley essay.

Week Five: read: Paz, "Sons of La Malinche," viewing

"The Red Virgin."

Week Six: read: *Borderlands, La Frontera: The New Mestiza*, first half.

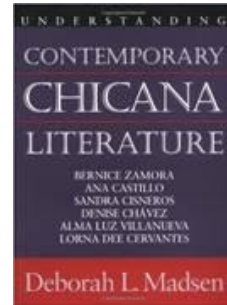
Week Seven: read: *Borderlands, La Frontera: The New Mestiza*, second half.

Week Eight: read: Moraga *The Hungry Woman*, and "Haunting the Borderlands"

Week Nine: read: "Never Marry a Mexican," Cisneros.

Week Ten: Preparing presentations.

Week Eleven: Presentations.



Bibliography of other useful texts:

- Alarcón, Norma. "Chicana's Feminist Literature: A Re-Vision Through Malintzin/or Malintzin: Putting the Flesh Back on the Object." *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*. Ed. Gloria Anzaldúa and Cherríe Moraga. New York: Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press 1983. 182-190.
- Candelaria, Cordelia. "Letting La Llorona Go, or, Re/reading History's 'Tender Mercies.'" *Literatura Chicana 1965-1995*. New York: Garland Publishing 1997. 93-7.
- Gaspar de Alba, Alicia editors. *Velvet Barrios: Popular Culture and Chicana/o Sexualities*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003.
- Hurtado, Aída. *Voicing Chicana Feminisms: Young Women Speak Out on Sexuality and Identity*. New York: New York University Press 2003
- Hyman, Rebecca. "Medea of Suburbia: Andrea Yates, Maternal Infanticide, and the Insanity Defense." *Women's Studies Quarterly* 32.3/4 (2004): 192-210.
- Lanyon, Anna. *Malinche's Conquest*. Crow's Nest, Australia: Allen & Unwin 1999.
- Leal, Luis. "The Malinche-Llorona Dichotomy: The Evolution of a Myth" in *Feminism, Nation, and Myth. La Malinche*. Eds. Rolando Romero and Amanda Nolacea Harris. Houston, TX: Arte Publico Press, 2005. 134-

38.

- Mullen, Harryette. "A Silence Between Us like a Language': The Untranslatability of Experience in Sandra Cisneros' Woman Hollering Creek." *MELUS* 21:2 (Summer 1996): 3-20. JSTOR
- Paz, Laura. "'Nobody's Mother and Nobody's Wife': Reconstructing Archetypes and Sexuality in Sandra Cisneros' 'Never Marry a Mexican'". *Human Architecture: Journal of the Sociology of Self-Knowledge* 6.4 (2008): 11-27. Available at: <http://scholarworks.umb.edu/humanarchitecture/vol6/iss4/3>

[Special thanks to Rebecca M. Bender, PhD for her amazing collection of La Llorona images, etc.](#)