Preliminary Exam
History and Gender; Latino/a and Chicano/a Studies
February 2010
Please choose two questions from Part One and one question from Part Two for a total of three questions. Be sure your essays have a clear line of argument and engage with both history and historiography, discussing both scholars and scholarly work where appropriate. As per History Department regulations, the total time for this exam is seven hours.

Part One – Comparative US/Latin American Gender and History – ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS

1. To what extent is Joan Scott’s two-part definition of gender, as explained in “Gender – A Useful Category of Historical Analysis”, universally applicable? Are there other, more influential definitions and conceptualizations of gender in Latino/a studies?

2. “…cross-cultural feminist work must be attentive to the micropolitics of context, subjectivity, and struggle, as well as to the macropolitics of global economic and political systems and processes.” Does this quote from Chandra Mohanty (“Feminism Without Borders”, 2003) reflect the current perspectives of prominent Chicano/a historians, or, rather, have they tended to produce more focused, localized narratives?

3. How do you differentiate US women of color feminism as an analytic from Latin American feminism as an analytic?

4. How would you periodize Mexican feminism and why? (This question relates only to the years your dissertation will cover.)

Part Two – Theory, Praxis and Politics – ANSWER ONE QUESTION

5. You have been asked to give a lecture to a large undergraduate American History class on the topic, “Gender on the Border,” focusing on the border between the US and Latin America. What three advance readings would you assign for the class, and why? What major points would you plan to make during your lecture? What new ideas and perspectives do you hope the students would learn from your talk?
6. “U.S.-third world feminists” have provided us important critiques of identity politics, but these critiques have necessarily engendered an identity imagined as the basis for potential social movements. In what ways does U.S. third world feminism negotiate, neglect, embrace, and/or account for this contradiction?