English 523-001—Studies in U. S. Latino/a Literature: Contemporary Literature of the Political Imagination
Spring, 2017

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Course: English 523-001, Lec. 61086
Meeting Times: Tuesday/Thursday, 12:30-1:45p.m.
Classroom: Curtin Hall, Rm. 209

COURSE DESCRIPTION
In this course, we will explore, analyze, and evaluate how contemporary U. S. Latina/o writers of fiction, poetry, drama, and creative non-fiction witness, contextualize, complicate, critique, influence and are influenced by the pressing socio-political issues and legacies that their communities face. We will examine how in literary texts, individuals and communities negotiate the experiences of internal colonialism, exile, immigration, and transnationality in the contexts of racial, ethnic, gender, and class identities and conflicts as well as accompanying struggles for labor rights, civil rights, and immigration reform within the U.S. Additionally, in recent years, more U.S. Latino/a writers have turned their attention to the political upheavals and turmoil caused by dictatorships, civil wars, revolutions, and government-sponsored and guerilla terrorism in Latin America and elsewhere often affected by U.S. foreign policy and globalization. The course will include literary works by Puerto Rican, Cuban-, Dominican-, Mexican-American/Chicano, and U.S.-Central and South American authors. In addition to the course textbooks listed below, we will also read shorter pieces by authors such as Francisco Alarcón, Gloria Anzaldúa, William Archila, Daniel Borzutzky, Julia de Burgos, Martin Espada, Coco Fusco, Aracelis Girmay, Victor Hernández Cruz, Juan Felipe Herrera, Paul Martinez-Pompa, Marisela Norte, Achy Obejas, Pedro Pietri, Tomas Rivera, Natalie Scenters-Zapico, Carmelita Tropicana, Luis Valdez, and others as well as scholarly articles by literary critics/theorists and historians.

This course meets GER Cultural Diversity distribution requirements as outlined in the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Faculty Document No. 2836 ("GER Composite Document"). This course also counts toward the Certificate in Latino/a Studies at UWM.

PREREQUISITES:
Junior or above and GER English requirement (C or above in English 102 or equivalent transfer course, or EPT score of 525 or above); or Graduate standing; or University Special Student.

REQUIRED TEXTS
978-0810131644

*(All texts listed above will be available for purchase at UWM’s online bookstore as well as at Woodland Pattern Book Center, 720 E. Locust St., Milwaukee, WI 53212. Ph: 414-263-5011. Hours: 11am - 8pm Tues. through Fri., and 12pm - 5pm Sat. and Sun.)*

Readings posted as PDFs on D2L (Content area) are also required. You will be asked to bring them to class on their due dates as indicated on the course calendar.