English 414-001: Special Topics in Creative Writing—Texts for Performance
Professor Brenda Cárdenas, cardenah@uwm.edu
Meeting Days/Times: Tuesdays, 3:30-6:10 p.m.

Course Description:
In this course, students will compose texts intended for live performance, such as spoken word/performance poems, dramatic monologues, ten-minute plays, and experimental performance art works. Some will be solo pieces and others will be collaboratively written and choreographed. To achieve this goal, we will complete various in-class writing and improvisatory performance exercises (including image theater and voice exercises), as well as read, view, and listen to published/produced pieces by professional performance poets, artists, and playwrights. Students will also draft poems, scripts and “performance plans” as homework assignments and bring them to class to be critiqued by peers who will offer suggestions for how they might best craft the pieces to achieve the desired effect. Although no previous experience is required, students will be expected to actively participate and present their pieces to the class. We will cultivate a welcoming and supportive environment for our work.

Required Texts:
2. Print-outs of PDFs uploaded to our course D2L site: These will include the published performance poems, monologues, and plays, as well as articles about performance art.
3. Print-outs of student work uploaded to our course D2L site for workshop sessions.

Prerequisites: Junior Standing, satisfaction of GER English Composition competency requirement, English 233(P), 234(P), 235(P), or 236(P); or grad standing

A full syllabus and course calendar will be distributed on the first day of classes.