Course Description: This section of English 430 will focus on a translingual approach to writing for social change. You’ll develop your writing and rhetorical practices, but to do that, you’ll be focusing on much more than “good papers” and “proper grammar.” In this class, you’ll learn about discussions of code switching, code meshing, and translanguaging in the fields of Composition and Education. We’ll explore how people use social media to communicate in strategic ways (using things like palabras, gifs, + emojis ⚡📱💯). We’ll also examine how activist organizations, like Voces de la Frontera, use art, writing, and rhetoric to organize coalitions for social change. Ultimately, by the end of the course, you should have a deep understanding of how contemporary communication is multimodal and multilingual, and how leveraging diverse rhetorical skills can improve your ability to effectively write for various audiences in and outside of academic settings.

Through in-class workshops and teacher-student conferences, we will focus on writing as a process. The class will also emphasize the social nature of writing in the conversations you will have with each other and with me about your ideas and experiences with writing and language. You’ll have the chance to experiment, to be creative, and to strengthen your writing and revision skills across the semester all while addressing how our writing and language practices impact communities. The types of writing you’ll engage in will be a mixture of reading notes, reflection essays, multimodal compositions, and a final presentation on writing for social change.

Texts: You are not required to purchase any books for this class. We will read a selection of articles that will be provided on Canvas, and you will find credible sources to support your research and writing. You will also spend a lot of time with the writing that you and your classmates produce throughout the semester.

Please email me at bloompoj@uwm.edu if you have any questions.