English 716-001: Poetic Craft and Theory: Intertextualities
Fall, 2019

Professor: Brenda Cárdenas 
Course: English 716-002, Lec.
Pronouns: She/her/hers 
Meeting Days/Times: T 4:30-7:10 p.m.
E-mail: cardenab@uwm.edu 
Classroom: Curtin 405
Cárdenas’ Office: Curtin 589 
Cárdenas’ Office Hours: T 2:00-4:15 p.m., Th 2:00-2:45 p.m., and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION
In the 1960’s, literary theorist Julia Kristeva, drawing on Bakhtin's “intersection of textual surfaces,” coined the term “intertextuality,” writing that “any text is constructed as a mosaic of quotations; any text is the absorption and transformation of another…and poetic language is read as at least double” (“Word, Dialogue and Novel”). Both before and after Kristeva, inventive poets from a host of literary movements and steeped in various poetic genres and methods (i.e. documentary, OULIPO, chance operations) have literalized this concept through appropriative approaches to writing that have involved direct quotation, collage, erasure, palimpsest, diastic and “writing through” methods, combinations of text and image, etc., using source texts.

From the perspective of writers, we will study contemporary exemplars of poetics that involve collage, erasure and palimpsest (especially in documentary poetry, but also in centos and reinvented myths and fairytales), chance operations and deterministic procedures, and imagetext. Our focus will be on craft--how these techniques are employed and to what effect, paying particular attention to the tensions, valences and nuances that emerge in the juxtapositions, gaps, and overlays, as well as considering the ethical dimensions of such practices. We will also write poems using these methods and bring them to class for critique, which will include suggestions for how we might best achieve the desired effect(s).

REQUIRED TEXTS:
(These books are available for purchase through the UWM Virtual Bookstore or at Woodland Pattern Book Center, 720 E. Locust St., Milwaukee, WI 53212. Ph: 414-263-5011. Woodland Pattern is closed on Mondays but open on weekends. You may also purchase them at various online vendors where they sell for less.
than the list price and where several of them are available as used copies and/or Kindle.

Print-outs of assigned readings (poems, articles, and student work) posted to our course D2L or Canvas site.

**EVALUATION METHODS/COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**
The final grade for this course will be based on the following components:

1. **Participation**—15%: Regular constructive class contribution, including frequent and meaningful verbal participation in discussions and workshops, completion of all reading and writing assignments including critiques, and regular attendance* (see policy below). Please post all written critiques of your colleagues’ poems as replies to those posted poems in the D2L Discussion area designated for them by 4:15 p.m. on the days those pieces are to be “workshopped.” To earn an “A” for participation, in addition to the kinds of contributions listed above, you must write thorough, constructive critiques that follow the general guidelines I provide. Missing critiques will negatively affect your grade. Please always bring one copy of each completed critique to class so that you may refer to it during the workshop sessions. Also please see the technology** policy below.

2. **Discussion Leader**—10%: With a partner, you will consult book reviews, critical articles, and/or author interviews regarding one of the required course texts and prepare specific discussion questions and notes regarding that text. Some questions should concern the intertextual and/or inter-arts aspects of the book. On the day the book you’ve chosen is due (see attached course calendar), you and your partner will lead the discussion on it.

3. **Five Poetry Writing Assignments: (early drafts)**—20%: There are five poetry writing assignments listed on the calendar throughout the course of the semester, which you will put together in a poetry project at semester’s end. To this end, you may wish to explore a particular theme and/or use a particular set of sources for all five poems. The early drafts (before final revisions) of these assignments must be completed and posted to the appropriate forum in the D2L Discussion area on the due dates listed (Fridays by 12:00 noon.) You will receive a “3” if you submit your poem on time, it is in keeping with the assignment (i.e. it makes use of collage or erasure, it combines image and text, etc.), and it is a strong early draft; in other words, it’s obvious that you expended reasonable effort in crafting the poem as much as possible given the time constraints. You may receive a “2” or a “1” if the poem demonstrates a lack of effort, is not in keeping with the assignment, or is late. Work that is more than 24 hours late will not receive credit.

4. **Reading Responses**—15%: From Weeks Three-Eleven, I will post writing prompts concerning the assigned readings. You must choose six of those nine prompts and write short reflective “think” pieces (250-300 words) regarding those readings and post them to the forum/topic designated for them by 4:15 p.m. on the
due dates that each of those readings is due. You may receive up to three points for each response.

5. **Analytical Craft Essay—20%**: This 10-12-page essay will explore a collection of poems that makes use of the intertextual and inter-arts approaches which are the focus of our study. Please choose a collection from the list of books that I provide. The essay should examine the craft, poetics, and when appropriate, the larger implications of the work, analyzing it for its main effects, nuances, innovations, and/or the theoretical concepts that the poet develops or draws on in creating the work. You may apply literary and/or cultural criticism to your analysis of the work as you see fit. You will be expected, of course, to document your sources in correct MLA format.

6. **Final portfolio of revised poems and an introductory essay—20%**: Your portfolio will include a revision of each of your five poems and the initial draft on which I commented. It will also include an introductory essay that discusses your approaches and influences for these particular poems as well as how they heed, push, deepen, and/or expand your poetics in general, and, if appropriate, how this work might fit into a larger current or future project on which you are already working or that you imagine.

*Attendance Policy*: You are allowed up to two absences. After your second absence, your **final grade** will be reduced by five percent for each subsequent absence up to FOUR absences total. As of your fifth absence, you will have missed a third of the semester and will automatically fail the course. The only absences after your second which will be considered “excused” (and not count against your grade) will be those caused by substantial, prolonged illness or hospitalization for which you provide a valid doctor’s excuse. Tardiness is strongly discouraged, and late arrivals of 10 minutes or more will count as half absences as will leaving class early. If you are absent, please contact me via e-mail before the next class session to check on any changes in the course calendar, including assignments due.

**Technology Policy**: Your cell phone must be completely silent and put away for the duration of the class period. Vibrate mode is not acceptable. Any student using a cell phone without permission during class time will be asked to leave. If this happens, you will receive an absence for the day.

**Grade Scale**: 93-100 = A 90-92 = A- 87-89 = B+ 83-86 = B 80-82 = B-
77-79 = C+ 73-76 = C 70-72 = C- 67-69 = D+ 63-66 = D 60-62 = D-
0 – 59 = F

**ADDITIONAL COURSE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES**: A web page maintained by the Secretary of the University contains university policies that affect the instructor and students in the course, as well as essential information specific to conduct of the course. Please see the attached policy links addendum for abbreviated policy descriptions and links to the policies on-line. Also, please note the following:
**Academic Resource Center (ARC) (formerly SAC):**
If you have a chronic health condition or disability that may affect your ability to meet any of the requirements of this course, you must bring me a VISA form completed by an ARC counselor within the first week of classes. Together with the ARC, we will establish a plan that allows you to meet the goals of this course. Students with conditions that are not documented by the ARC at the beginning of the semester will not receive exceptions to any of the course policies, so it is very important that you visit the center in a timely manner. For more information, please see [http://www4.uwm.edu/sac/SACltr.pdf](http://www4.uwm.edu/sac/SACltr.pdf).

**Academic Conduct/Mis-Conduct:** University policy states, “Academic misconduct is an act in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation, uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise, forges or falsifies academic documents or records, intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others, engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance, or assists other students in any of these acts.” Such acts are violations of the academic honor code and carry severe sanctions, including failing the course or even suspension or dismissal from the University. Please avoid all forms of cheating, including plagiarism, at all costs.

**Discriminatory Conduct Policy:**
UWM’s discriminatory conduct policy, which you can read in its entirety by following the link provided on the next page of this syllabus, protects individuals against discrimination based on age; ancestry; arrest or conviction; color; disability; gender identity/expression; identity as a veteran; marital status; membership in the national guard, state defense force or any other reserve component of the military forces of the United States or this state; national origin; pregnancy; political affiliation; race; religion; sex; and sexual orientation. Discriminatory conduct of any kind will not be tolerated in this class. Please refer to each student by the name and pronoun they use (e.g., she, he, they, ze). If you have a name that differs from the one that appears on the roster, please inform me before the second class period so that I can use your correct name and pronouns.

In general, I expect all class members to practice common courtesy. Learning is a partnership between the professor and students that requires mutual respect, regular preparation and participation, and attentive communication. My office is open, and I welcome student visits. Please feel free to discuss any class-related matter with me and especially to address significant issues when they occur.

**Firearms Policy:** Individuals, including licensees, are prohibited from carrying firearms and dangerous weapons into buildings or portions of buildings that are owned, occupied, or controlled by UWM. Please see Policy S-24.5.

**NOTE:** This syllabus and the course calendar, which you will receive no later than the first day of class, are subject to change as the professor deems necessary although every
effort will be made not to add more work than indicated here. Any changes will be provided in writing.

*Syllabus Addendum:*

**Policy Links**

1. *Students with disabilities.* Notice to these students should appear prominently in the syllabus so that special accommodations are provided in a timely manner. [http://www4.uwm.edu/sac/SACltri.pdf](http://www4.uwm.edu/sac/SACltri.pdf)

2. *Religious observances.* Accommodations for absences due to religious observance should be noted. [http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm](http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm)

3. *Students called to active military duty.* Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty should be noted. Students: [http://www4.uwm.edu/current_students/military_call_up.cfm](http://www4.uwm.edu/current_students/military_call_up.cfm) Employees: [http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S40.htm](http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S40.htm)

   (Editorially Revised, 3/25/09)

4. *Incompletes.* A notation of "incomplete" may be given in lieu of a final grade to a student who has carried a subject successfully until the end of a semester but who, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond the student's control, has been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of term work. [http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S31.pdf](http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S31.pdf)

5. *Discriminatory conduct (such as sexual harassment).* Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience, and well-being of students, faculty, and staff. [http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S47.pdf](http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S47.pdf)

6. *Academic misconduct.* Cheating on exams or plagiarism are violations of the academic honor code and carry severe sanctions, including failing a course or even suspension or dismissal from the University. [http://www4.uwm.edu/acad_affi/policy/academicmisconduct.cfm](http://www4.uwm.edu/acad_affi/policy/academicmisconduct.cfm)

7. *Complaint procedures.* Students may direct complaints to the head of the academic unit or department in which the complaint occurs. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the head of the department or academic unit in which the complaint occurred or to the

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1 Supplement to UWM FACULTY DOCUMENT NO. 1895, October 21, 1993; Revised March 16, 2006; Revised January 24, 2008; Editorially Revised, 8/26/11.
appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy.
http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S49.7.htm

8. *Grade appeal procedures.* A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College/School.
http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S28.htm

9. *Other* The final exam requirement, the final exam date requirement, etc.
http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S22.htm
Syllabus Addendum:
Credit Hours

The university has asked departments to break down for students how much time they will spend working on various aspects of their classes.

As the UW System assumes “that study leading to one semester credit represents an investment of time by the average student of not fewer than 48 hours” (UWS ACPS 4), a 3-credit course such as this one will require a minimum of 144 (3 x 48) hours of your time. You may find it necessary to spend additional time on a course; the numbers below only indicate that the course will not require any less of your time.

If this is a **traditional, or face-to-face** course, you will spend a minimum of
- 37.5 hours in the classroom
- 75 hours preparing for class, which may include reading, note taking, completing minor exercises and assignments, and discussing course topics with classmates and the instructor in structured settings
- 31.5 hours preparing for and writing major papers and/or exams.

If this is an **online** course, you will spend a minimum of
- 37.5 hours reviewing instructional materials prepared by your instructor and placed online
- 75 hours preparing for class, which may include reading, note taking, completing minor exercises and assignments, and discussing course topics with classmates and the instructor in structured settings
- 31.5 hours preparing for and writing major papers and/or exams.

If this is a **hybrid** course, you will spend a minimum of
- 18.75 hours in the classroom
- 18.75 hours reviewing instructional materials prepared by your instructor and placed online
- 75 hours preparing for class, which may include reading, note taking, completing minor exercises and assignments, and discussing course topics with classmates and the instructor in structured settings
- 31.5 hours preparing for and writing major papers and/or exams.

**Notes**
- The breakdown above is for a standard 15-week semester. In a 16-week semester, the numbers breakdown above changes as follows. Traditional: 40 hours in classroom, 80 for preparation, 24 for papers and exams; online: 40 hours of online instruction, 80 for preparation, 24 for papers and exams; hybrid: 20 hours in classroom, 20 for online instruction, 80 hours for preparation, 24 for papers and exams. Again, these are minimums.
- UWM Credit Hour Policy, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Faculty Document No. 2838, can be found at [https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/faculty/2838_Credit_Hour_Policy.pdf](https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/faculty/2838_Credit_Hour_Policy.pdf).
- UWS ACPS 4, the University Of Wisconsin System Policy On Academic Year Definition And Assorted Derivatives, can be found at [http://www.uwsa.edu/acss/acps/acps4.pdf](http://www.uwsa.edu/acss/acps/acps4.pdf).