

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL 2130*02	Course Title: Seminar: Literature and Social Change	Date of Offering: Fall 2016
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Course Instructor: M. Nandorfy	
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<p>Brief Course Synopsis: Seminar: Split Identities and Twin Cities: Straddling the Anglo/Latin American Divide</p> <p>This course will examine the historical context of war and globalization in contemporary North American/Latin@ writing. The focus will be on forms of cultural expression that emerge as a result of massive displacement and migration due to armed struggles in Central America and the related “low impact” war taking place in the US/Mexico borderlands and beyond. Selected texts will deal with the cultural and economic interdependency of people living on either side of the border. The paradoxical nature of the border, as both a policed divide and a permeable membrane allowing the effects of conflict and solidarity to spread within cities, confounds the binary relations between such places as Juárez and El Paso, Tijuana and Los Angeles, or San Diego. Stories about displacement, dis/re-orientation will focus on the genre of literary or creative journalism including documentary film, as it relates to identity politics, hybrid cultural formations, resistance and transcultural projects.</p>
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<p>Course Format: Seminar; writing and participation intensive.</p> <p>Seminar designed to give students the opportunity to work in small groups in a learner-centred environment. Writing intensive to develop close reading strategies, critical interpretation, application of various theoretical approaches to literature. Focus on essay writing skills with opportunities to edit and revise work as an ongoing process to hone these skills. Oral communication skills will also be practiced through continuous participation in class discussion, and structured seminar presentations. This course requires approximately three hours of reading and five hours of writing per week, on average, in addition to class time. Students will write an average of 3600 words of formal prose, citing two to three secondary theoretical/critical sources.</p>	<p>Methods of Evaluation and Weights:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Draft of Essay I</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 20px;">15</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">–Revised Essay I</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 20px;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">–Quality of class participation</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 20px;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">–Seminar presentation and seminar notes</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 20px;">20</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">–Essay proposal and annotated bibliography</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 20px;">20</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">–Essay II</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 20px;">25</td> </tr> </table>	Draft of Essay I	15	–Revised Essay I	10	–Quality of class participation	10	–Seminar presentation and seminar notes	20	–Essay proposal and annotated bibliography	20	–Essay II	25
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Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

Tentative readings: a selection from the following authors and works

Bowden, Charles. *Murder City*

-----'. 'Exodus: Border-Crossers Forge A New America.' *Mother Jones*. Sept./Oct. 2006 issue
<<http://motherjones.com/print/15072>.

Martínez, Rubén. *Crossing Over: A Mexican Family on the Migrant Trail*.

Urrea, Luis Alberto. *By the Lake of Sleeping Children*.

Texts required for essay writing:

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers.

Any handbook containing chapters on grammar, clarity and style, punctuation such as the little brown essential handbook for writers.

Dictionary and Thesaurus

Recommended Text:

González, Juan. *Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America*.

Other information that you wish share about the course (optional):

This course fulfills 20th/21st century distribution requirements.