

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*6811	Course Title: Special Topics: Latinx Literature and Collective Memory	Date of Offering: FALL 2017
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Course Instructor: Pablo Ramirez	Course Format: Seminar
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Brief Course Synopsis: Due to the steady migration of Latinas and Latinos into North America and the close proximity of Latin America, Latina/os have a long history of resisting citizenship's requirement that they contain their identities within the boundaries of the nation. When it comes to the question of Latina/os in the United States and Canada, both countries are uncomfortably faced with a series of critical questions. What are the political and ethical effects of having a group of people unable to imagine or narrate community and family solely within the borders of the nation? What happens when one traverses borders and gains two or more histories, two or more sets of memories? How do we address memories and histories that do not respect national borders and "migrate," disrupting official national histories and demanding different archives and collection practices? How can fiction participate in the formation of historical memory? What are the limits and benefits to such a literary intervention into the archive? This course will explore these questions by focusing on contemporary Latina/o fiction and examine how Latina/o cultural producers are addressing issues of history and memory in their work.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Participation	20%
One Lecture	15%
One Presentation	5%
Paper Proposal (500 words)	15%
Rough Draft (2100 words)	20%
Final Paper (4500 words)	25%

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)
Heart of Aztlán, Rudolfo Anaya

The Conquest, Yxta Maya Murray

Dreaming in Cuban, Cristina García

Fronteras Vivientes: Eight Canadian Latino Plays

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, Junot Diaz

Unclaimed Experience, Cathy Caruth

The Collective Memory Reader, Jeffrey Olick et al.

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

List the distribution requirements that this course fulfills: