**English 854:** **Seminar in College Composition, Theory, and Pedagogy: Latinx Rhetorics and Community Writing**

Mondays 4-6:40 pm, Curtin 468

This course will explore Latinx[[1]](#footnote-1) Rhetorics and Community Writing in relation to contemporary theory, pedagogy, and practices of writing. In this seminar, we will examine how Latinx writers have taken up topics of culture, race, language, gender, sexuality, and identity in their academic and community-based work. This class will encourage critical approaches to writing outside of the academy and examine its importance for both social action and composition pedagogy. Drawing from cultural, digital, and translingual approaches to Composition Studies, we will also examine the complex and strategic ways communities leverage cultural and rhetorical skills in their everyday communication practices. Some of the questions we’ll explore together will include: What can composition teachers learn from Latinx rhetorics and community writing? How might our pedagogy become more attuned to intersectional identities by exploring the Indigenous, African, and activist foundations of Latinx rhetoric and writing today? What do Pedagogies and Writing Programs centered on Community Writing look like? This course will also include a community-engaged component that aims to cultivate conversations with individuals and organizations that use writing for social change, advocacy, and community-building.

**Required Course Texts:**

*Community Literacies en Confianza: Learning from Bilingual After-School Programs* by Steven Alvarez

*Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* by Gloria Anzaldúa

*Rhetorics of the Americas 3114 BCE to 2012 CE* edited by Damián Baca and Victor Villanueva

*Translanguaging Outside the Academy: Negotiating Rhetoric and Healthcare in the Spanish Caribbean* by Rachel Bloom-Pojar (Forthcoming)\*

*Sites of Translation: What Multilinguals Can Teach us about Digital Writing and Rhetoric* by Laura Gonzales (Forthcoming)

*Language, Culture, Identity and Citizenship in College Classrooms and Communities* by Juan C. Guerra

*Toward a New Rhetoric of Difference* by Stephanie Kerschbaum

*This Bridge Called my Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color* edited by Cherrie Moraga and Gloria Anzaldúa

*Decolonizing Rhetoric and Composition Studies: New Latinx Keywords for Theory and Pedagogy* edited by Iris Ruiz and Raul Sanchez

*Bootstraps: From an American Academic of Color* by Victor Villanueva

+Selected Articles and Chapters

\*Forthcoming texts will be provided. For more information, contact Rachel Bloom-Pojar at [bloompoj@uwm.edu](mailto:bloompoj@uwm.edu)

1. Pronounced “La-teen-x,” Latinx is “a gender-neutral or non-binary alternative to Latino or Latina” (Oxford Dictionaries). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)