Fall 2010  LAS 235: Spanish American Women Writers (in translation)
Professor: Blanca Anderson  (bandersn@loyno.edu)

Course Description/Objectives: To present the student with a representative sample of important Spanish-American women writers of the 20th and 21st centuries, covering different literary periods, genres and countries (the emphasis will be on narrative). Through detailed discussion of the texts, plus films (when appropriate) and oral presentations, the student will explore the complex cultural and historical realities that have shaped the writings of Spanish American authors in general and women in particular.

Texts (some of these novels, out of print will be available through blackboard):
Novels: Garro, Elena. Recollections of Things to Come (Mexico)
        Belli, Gioconda. The Inhabited Woman  (Nicaragua)
        Valenzuela, Luisa. Black Novel with Argentines (Argentina)
        Santos Febres, Mayra. Sirena Selena (Puerto Rico)
        Mercado, Tununa, In a State of Memory (Argentina/Spain/Mexico)
E-reserves:
María Sabina, shaman (Mexico); Rigoberta Menchú  (Guatemala)
Sandra Cisneros (U.S.), Gloria Anzaldúa (U.S.)
Short stories, essays, and poetry from writers from the Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Colombia, Cuba, Chile, and others.

Why these authors? Areas and themes of discussions:
2) Gioconda Belli and the Nicaragua revolution: women writing history. Arts Roman as subversive?
3) Luisa Valenzuela and the Dirty War in Argentina. Political questions in experimental literature. Film Noir, detective novels.
5) Tununa Mercado and the literature of exile. Memory and history, the space of the personal and the political.
8) Other themes, as related to readings: The Cuban revolution, Latina women in the U.S, and Military dictatorships in Chile, Dominican Republic.

Grade:
Class work: Attendance, participation, and preparedness: 20%
Written work, class presentations, quizzes: 20%
Exams: 40% (take home essays)
Final Paper: 20% (critical essay/ on a short work, to be discussed with professor)
Please note: 1) If you are absent more than 3 times, your class grade will go down. Work handed in late cannot receive full credit.
   2) Syllabus is subject to change. It is your responsibility to remain informed of any changes.

---------------------------

**August 30- September 3**
Introduction to Mexico  *Recollections of Things to Come*

**September 6-10**  (Monday-Holiday)
*Recollections of Things to Come*

**September 13-17**
*Recollections of Things to come/ Maria Sabina (chants and testimonials)*

**September 20-24**
Maria Sabina/ Introduction to Nicaragua/ *The Inhabited Woman*

**September 27- October 1st**
*The Inhabited Woman*

**October 4-8**
*The Inhabited Woman*, Introduction to Guatemala

**October 11-15** (Exam 1)
Rigoberta Menchú (*testimonial*)/Introduction to Argentina

**October 18-22** (M, W Fall Break)
*Black Novel with Argentines*

**October 25-29**
*Black Novel/ In a State of Memory*

**November 1-5**
*In a State of Memory*

**November 8-12** (Exam 2)
*In a State of Memory/ Introduction to the Caribbean, Puerto Rico*

**November 15-19**
*Sirena Selena*

**November 22-26** (W, F Holidays)
*Sirena Selena*

**November 29- December 3**
*Selected writings (Latina writers, others)*

**December 6-10** (Exam 3)
*Selected writings (Latina, others)*

Final paper due the day of the final exam.