Crossing Borders into Cultures Unknown: Writers and Artists of the Southwest  
DISC 1313  
Dr. Pauline T. Newton

Course Description
This writing-intensive course, which will allow students to develop and hone writing skills such as thesis statements and organization, will examine cultures and border areas investigated by and challenged by writers and artists of the southwest area surrounding Taos. Students will examine some of the aesthetic, linguistic and cultural border crossings described by writers and artists such as Frances Esquibel Tywoniak (excerpts from *Migrant Daughter*), Gloria Anzaldúa (excerpts from *La Frontera/Borderlands*), Edward Abbey (*Fire on the Mountain*), Barbara Kingsolver (*Animal Dreams*), Leslie Marmon Silko (excerpts from *Ceremony*), J. Frank Dobie (excerpts from *Coronado’s Children*) and Georgia O’Keeffe (excerpts from correspondence and biographies). (Excerpts will be compiled in a course packet.)

As students enrich their understanding of paragraph and essay development and turn their attention to audience and purpose and research and citations, they will study southwestern culture, arts and literature. They will visit places of interest such as the Gerald Peters Gallery, the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum, the Folk Art Museum of Santa Fe and The Harwood Museum of Art and will use sources from both texts and artwork in their writing.

Syllabus
**Prior to arrival: read *Fire on the Mountain***

Days 1-2  
Read *Coronado’s Children* excerpts.  
Discuss *Fire on the Mountain* and *Coronado’s Children* excerpts.  
*Visit place of natural/local interest. Visit SMU-in-Taos library or Taos Pueblo.*  
Short response due (3 pp.)

Days 3-4  
Read and discuss *Migrant Daughter* excerpts.  
*Visit Harwood Museum of Art (possible alternative: The Santa Fe Public Library).*  
Short response due (3 pp.)

Days 5-6  
Read and discuss *La Frontera* excerpts and Georgia O’Keeffe biography/correspondence excerpts.  
*Visit Georgia O’Keeffe Territory (Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu).*  
Major Paper and annotated bibliography due (6-8 pp.)

Days 7-8  
Read and discuss *Animal Dreams*.  
*Visit Santa Fe Folk Art Museum and/or the Santa Fe Museum of Art.*  
Short response due (3 pp.)

Days 8-9  
Read and discuss *Ceremony* excerpts.  
*Visit museums such as the Gerald Peters Gallery or the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum and/or take tour of Santa Fe arts life with Helen Lamberton (if available), author, area arts expert and Sarah Lawrence College graduate.*

Days 10-11
Nature walk - Williams Lake/Wheeler Peak.
In-class writing (approx. 3 pp).

**Students will complete the same amount of writing for a June course, but they will have additional time to begin and complete the first assignments/readings. For example, they can read Fire on the Mountain during the first days in Taos.**

Misc Notes
Since sessions generally run for 8-11 days, I have based my syllabus on this timeline loosely. However, I can easily adjust the scope of the course as needed, especially for the June session, which runs for 18 days. I envision that students will write a total of three 3-page papers, one 6-8 page paper and one in-class essay. We will make a field trip on one day and then focus on writing on the alternate day; we may also divide each day into part instruction and part visitation, depending on the excursion.

I also am willing to coordinate trips with faculty who are teaching other courses.

Please note that my curriculum vitae indicates my long-standing interest in southwest studies. For example, I interviewed Frances Esquibel Tywoniak, author of Migrant Daughter; her interview was published in my book (Transcultural Women of Late-Twentieth-Century American Literature: First-Generation Immigrants from Islands and Peninsulas), which largely deals with migrant experiences.

For the sake of brevity, this proposed syllabus does not include necessary details concerning student learning outcomes, accommodations and excused absences, not to mention the required description for DISC 1313. Those will be added to a final syllabus.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for this opportunity.