Spring 2019

SPN 415: Hispanic Cultures in Contact

Topic: Domestic Work

T, Th 10-11:20, Frey Hall 216, SBC: ESI, HFA+

Daniela Flesler

This class, taught in Spanish, will explore the social, racial, sexual and class dynamics at work in domestic and care work through a variety of cultural texts from Latin America, Spain and the US. Some of the films we will watch include Doméstica (Gabriel Mascaro, Brazil, 2012), La Nana (Sebastián Silva, Chile, 2009), Cama adentro (Jorge Gaggero, Argentina, 2004), Rabia (Sebastián Cordero, Spain, 2010), Amador (León de Aranoa, Spain, 2010), Roma (Alfonso Cuarón, Mexico, 2018). The class is co-scheduled with AFH 382, taught by Tracey Walters. Both classes will get together several times in the semester to discuss common readings and to receive the visit of scholars whose work we will read: Premilla Nadasen, whose book Household Workers Unite explores the political organizing of African American domestic workers in the U.S.: Tamara Mose, whose book Raising Brooklyn: Nannies, Childcare, and Caribbeans Creating Community is about the roles nannies of Caribbean descent play in the families whose children they help to raise; N. Michelle Murray, whose book Home Away from Home: Immigrant Narratives, Domesticity, and Coloniality in Contemporary Spanish Culture explores the representations of migrant domestic workers in Spanish fiction and film, and Susanna Rosenbaum, whose book, Domestic Economies: Women, Work, and the American Dream in LA, analyzes the relationship of Mexican and Central American domestic workers and their middleclass employers.

