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"Western" Collection of Poems

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“WESTERN” COLLECTION OF POEMS

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This collection of poems written in Spanish, entitled *Western*, explores through poetic texts the relationship between the Western genre of American cinema and some border contexts and rural situations of northern Mexico. Characters such as the cowboy, the sheriff and the Native American are related in these texts to characters such as the wetback, the narco or the rancher, having in common violence, *machismo*, revenge, good and evil, adventure and migration as a way of life, while each text gives us a glimpse of the context of lawless towns, which characterized rural regions in both the U.S. and Mexico in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The book is divided into four sections: *Western USA*, *Western Mexico*, *Western Frontera*, *Western Místico*. In *Western USA*, I narrate the migratory movement from the east to the west of the United States, known as the gold rush, under dramatic situations experienced by the characters in that context. In *Western Mexico*, I narrate dramatic situations of some characters who live in rural areas where scarcity and abandonment by the state prevails, which causes them to consider the possibility of migrating to the north as a form of salvation. In *Western Frontera*, I narrate dramatic situations of young characters who find in drug trafficking an opportunity to survive, but paying the price of a direct contact with cruelty and violence. In *Western Místico*, I narrate psychological and emotional situations related to some characters that could be North American, Mexican or Native American; here I emphasize more a subjective experience with the transcendent always under a western context.

As an important feature of this project, I want to mention that I am currently taking the course Novels of the Mexican Revolution with Professor Brandon Bisbey and I have found certain elements and topics pertaining to the revolutionary context in Mexico, which may well be related to the Western genre.

My presentation will last about 10 to 12 minutes and will consist of reading in Spanish two poems from each section of the book.