Yunior, one of the narrators in Junot Diaz’s novel *The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, asks, “What is more sci-fi than Santo Domingo? What more fantasy than the Antilles?” Although the U.S. publishing, movie and media industries continue to box Latinos into narratives of immigrant earnestness and thug realism, many Latino artists have refused to tell simple, straightforward stories about themselves and their experiences. Sometimes, the “unreal” is the best way to get to an experiential and emotional truth.

This class will explore the works of 20th and 21st C U.S.-based Latino narrators who choose the more experimental path to individual and collective expression. This including modes such as satire/parody/absurd, baroque excess, surrealism, science fiction and invented histories. We will read poetry, short stories, novels, essays and graphic novels, as well as examining some performance work, film and video by Chicanos, Nuyoricans, Dominicans, Cubans and members of other national origin groups that departs from “realistic” modes of storytelling.