

**Department of World Language Studies**  
**Spring 2016**

<b>INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION</b>	<b>COURSE INFORMATION</b>
Dr. Enrique Morales-Díaz Email via PLATO	LLIT 202: Women Writers of the Americas: US Latina Writers (CORE: Literary and Philosophical Analysis/US Diversity)



**COURSE DESCRIPTION/OBJECTIVES**

The works that we will read, discuss, and analyze focus primarily on LATINA writing of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. We will place emphasis on similarities and differences in the experiences among different LATINAS in the United States – particularly the experiences of U.S. Puerto Rican and Dominican writers. We will discuss such topics as the construction of identity in terms of race, gender, sexuality, and class; the experiences of the ‘immigrant’, and the colonial subject; the marketing of a LATINA identity; and the relationship of the writer to her communities. We will also discuss: culture; history and society; politics and politics of identity in relationship to race/ethnicity/nationality, social/economic class, gender, being bicultural versus “living on the margins,” and the struggle for self-determination.

*By the end of the semester, students SHOULD be able to:*

- Contextualize and comment, critically and analytically on the meaning of LATINA writing;
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of varying points of view about LATINA writing and its relationship to mainstream U.S. Latino writing;
- Understand how Latina writing reflects changing ideas of both U.S. multi-ethnic writing and U.S. Latino literature specifically.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Julia Alvarez. *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accent.*  
Raquel Cepeda. *Bird of Paradise: How I Became a Latina.*  
Judith Ortiz Cofer. *The Meaning of Consuelo.*  
Esmeralda Santiago. *Almost a Woman.*  
\*Other readings will be posted on PLATO.