


**Department of World Language Studies
Fall 2017**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION	COURSE INFORMATION
<p>Gina Malagold Adjunct Faculty World Languages Department (608)692-0952 gmalagold@westfield.ma.edu</p>  <p>Office: Mod Hall 104F</p>	<p>LLIT 202: U.S. Latina Writers (ONLINE) (CORE: Literary/Philosophical Analysis and U.S. Diversity)</p> <p>(Elective for Spanish major and minor, EGST major, Ethnic Studies, Women's & Gender Studies and U.S. Latino/a Studies minors)</p>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The novels we will read, discuss, and analyze this semester will focus on contemporary U.S. Latina writers of the 20th and 21st 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. Other topics included in the novels and that will be part of our online class discussions are: 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.

COURSE OUTCOMES/OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students SHOULD be able to:

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

REQUIRED TEXTS

Julia Álvarez. *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.*