


**Department of World Language Studies  
Spring 2017**

<b>INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION</b>	<b>COURSE INFORMATION</b>
<p>Gina Malagold Adjunct Faculty World Languages Department (608)692-0952 <a href="mailto:gmalagold@westfield.ma.edu">gmalagold@westfield.ma.edu</a></p>  <p>Office: Mod Hall 104F Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 1:30-2:30 or by appointment</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 &amp; 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 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. 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.*