

Westfield State College
Department of World Language Studies

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION	COURSE INFORMATION
Dr. Enrique Morales-Díaz Mod Hall 104H 572-8193 Email via PLATO	LLIT 202: Women Writers of the Americas: US Latina Writers (CORE: Literary and Philosophical Analysis/US Diversity) ONLINE – Spring 2014

COURSE DESCRIPTION/OBJECTIVES

The works that we will read, discuss, and analyze focus primarily on LATINA writing 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. 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 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.*
*Other readings will be posted on PLATO.