

# **WST 6935/4930: Latina Children's & Young Adult Literature Spring 2021**

Instructor: Prof. Elizabeth Garcia  
Class Location: Online  
Ofc. Hours: T/TH 10:40-11:40 a.m. via Zoom  
Email: egarcia1@ufl.edu

## **Course Description:**

In recent years there has been an increase in the number of Latinx children's and young adult literature written by Latinx women. Many of these books have received numerous awards and national acclaim. In this course, we explore this trend by taking an in-depth look at selections from this literature. We'll begin with one of the earliest women writers of Latinx children's books, Pura Belpré, whose legacy is recognized through the Pura Belpré award. We'll explore the picture books of Chicana feminist theorist, Gloria Anzaldúa, analyzing why such a prominent feminist theorist would turn to children's literature. Finally, we'll explore a series of middle-grade and young adult novels analyzing their portrayal of intersectional identities in the everyday lives of Latinx girls and young women.

## **Class Assignments and Grading:**

Grading will be based on the following assignments:

### Undergraduates:

Introductory Paper: 15%  
Response Paper I: 20%  
Response Paper II: 20%  
Discussion Participation: 20%  
Final Paper: 25%

### Graduates:

Introductory Paper: 15%  
Discussion Participation: 20%  
Presentations: 25%  
Paper Proposal: 10%  
Final Paper: 30%

**NOTE:** I do not assign extra-credit assignments. I also do not change final grades once they have been submitted. Therefore, it is important that you apply yourself and do your very best in each of the assignments that you have during the semester. If you have any questions about

your assignments make sure to talk to me before turning in your papers to make sure that you have understood the assignment and are on the right track.

### Grading Rubric:

A= 100-93	C(S)= 76-73
A-= 92-90	C-(U)= 72-70
B+= 89-87	D+= 69-67
B= 86-83	D= 66-63
B-= 82-80	D-= 62-60
C+= 79-77	E= 59-0

### Course Format:

This course will be a HyFlex course and will meet weekly during our regularly scheduled time. The course is primarily discussion based where we will collectively discuss the readings and any other materials assigned each week. Each Friday morning I will post a weekly Page that will include any announcements, the readings you have to do for the following Thursday, and any supplemental materials such as videos that I want you to look at before we meet. **It is your responsibility to check this page every week before our Thursday class.**

### Undergraduate Assignment Descriptions:

#### Introductory Paper:

This paper is meant to reflect on your own experiences with children and young adult literature. In a 2-page paper, respond to the following prompt:

Describe your earliest reading experiences from your childhood? Did you enjoy reading? What kinds of things did you read, books, graphic novels, comic books, etc.? In what ways did your reading experience reflect your own everyday life and identities? In what ways did it not?

**This paper is due via canvas on Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup> by 11:59 p.m. via Canvas.**

#### Discussion Participation:

Participating in class is a very important part of your final grade. Participation in this course is defined as a) attending class having read the assigned material, b) **actively** engaging in class conversation. Lack of preparedness in any of the above manners will impact your final grade.

Participation requires that you be consistently present in class. **More than three unexcused absences will result in 5 points off your participation grade for each absence.**

Please also note that tardiness will count against your participation grade.

### Response Papers I and II:

You will be given a series of writing options and prompts from which you will choose one and write a 5-7 page paper. Further detailed instructions will be provided at least a week before the assignment is due. The assignments will be due as follows, **Response Paper I: Friday February 19th by 11:59 p.m. via Canvas** and **Response Paper II: Friday, April 2nd by 11:59 p.m. via Canvas.**

### Final Paper:

For your final paper you should write a 5-7 page paper, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font. Pick two books we've read throughout the semester, and one theme that both books address. Compare and contrast how both books address the theme you've chosen. Your **Final Paper will be due Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup> by 11:59 p.m. via Canvas.**

## **Graduate Assignment Descriptions:**

Introductory Paper: See undergraduate section above. Due date will be the same as undergraduates.

Discussion Participation: See undergraduate section above.

### Presentation:

All graduate students will do an in class 15-20-minute presentation based on the assigned readings for the day. Students will sign up for presentations during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of class.

Your presentation should include the following:

- A slide show presentation that highlights the key points of the reading, has interesting visuals, and incorporates multi-media (i.e. images, clips, audio, music, etc.)
- Presentations should focus on 3-5 key points that you have chosen to discuss. These should be identified clearly at the beginning of the presentation.
- Presentation should end with 3-5 discussion questions to engage and lead the class in discussion.
- Presentations should last at least 15-20 minutes.
- You should email me a copy of your presentation by noon on the day that you present.

Final Paper: For this paper you will choose either two picture books or a YA or middle-grade novel by a Latinx author not discussed in class and analyze how the text engages one of the themes discussed in class. The paper should be 10 double-spaced pages, 12-point Times New Roman font, and follow MLA citation methods. The paper should engage course materials as well as outside sources including any relevant published literary criticism on the texts you've selected.

A **paper proposal** will be due **April 2<sup>nd</sup> by 11:59 p.m. via Canvas**. This should be 1 page paper describing the text(s) and themes you've chosen to discuss for your final paper.

**Paper Format for All Papers:** Papers should be typed, double-spaced, left-justified, in 12 pt. Times New Roman font, with 1" margins all around. Pages must be numbered and stapled. Do not include a cover sheet.

**Single-space your name, the date, and the course name and number in the upper right-hand corner, and center the title of your paper just below that.**

References to texts should be cited using parenthetical citations. Basic parenthetical citation form is explained here:

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/mla\\_in\\_text\\_citations\\_the\\_basics.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_in_text_citations_the_basics.html)

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PROOFREAD YOUR WORK BEFORE HANDING IT IN. Mechanical and formatting errors will detract from your grade.

## **Course Policies**

**Communication & Email Policy:** The best way to communicate with me is via email. You should be aware however that I check my email M-F 9a.m.-5p.m. and sparingly on weekends. Therefore, you should not expect quick responses from me if you email after 5 p.m. weekdays or during the weekends.

Communication is also key when it comes to any issues or challenges you may be having that prevent you from participating in class weekly, turning in an assignment on time, or impact your overall performance in class. Communicating with me as early as possible when confronted with an issue will ensure that I can work with you to maximize your success in the course.

**Late Work & Incompletes:** Late assignments require prior permission from the instructor and will be deducted 1/3 of a letter grade for each day they are late (ex: A- becomes a B+). Assignments over 5 days late will not be accepted.

In accordance with UF policies, an incomplete may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor as an interim grade for a course in which:

1) the student has completed a major portion of the course with a passing grade,  
AND

2) been unable to complete course requirements before the end of the term because of extenuating circumstances, AND

3) obtained written agreement from the instructor and arranged for resolution of the incomplete grade.

### **Academic Integrity:**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

### **Students Requiring Accommodations**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### **Consider (Double) Majoring in Women’s Studies**

Do you want to learn about issues of diversity, power, equity, and justice and gain the scholarly knowledge and skills to change the world? Adding the Women’s Studies major can deepen your critical thinking, analysis, and skills in intersectional feminist approaches to studying and transforming gender, race, class, sexualities and other systems of power. The Women’s Studies major shows graduate schools and employers that you bring advanced knowledge and skills about diversity and equity issues. The 30-credit Women’s Studies major consists of four core courses and six electives. It’s simple to combine with another major, and up to 15 credits can double count with another degree (English, Psychology, and Sociology in particular have many courses that can double count). It’s also the perfect complement to pre-health studies. Contact undergraduate coordinator Dr. Alyssa Zucker ([azucker@ufl.edu](mailto:azucker@ufl.edu)) to make an appointment to discuss adding the major.

### **Consider adding a Certificate in Women’s Studies or Gender and Development**

Adding a Certificate in *Women’s Studies* or in *Gender and Development* can deepen your critical thinking, analysis, and skills in intersectional feminist approaches to studying and transforming gender, race, class, sexualities and other systems of power. The 12 credits Certificate will appear on your transcript and can be listed on your CV. The *Certificate in Women’s Studies (WST)* is designed for graduate students from any discipline who wish to become

acquainted with various feminist (and other appropriate) theoretical approaches and methodologies for examining the roles and intersections of gender, race/ethnicity, sexualities and other sociocultural systems. The *Certificate in Gender and Development (GAD)* applies this lens to the analysis of labor/economic development processes at micro and macro levels. All graduate students in an MA or PhD program from all colleges at UF are eligible to enroll in these certificates. Visit the Center's website for details on how to add the [Women's Studies Certificates](#) and the [Gender and Development Certificate](#) and review the [Graduate Handbook](#) (p. 15-18). Contact Dr. Broad ([klbroad@ufl.edu](mailto:klbroad@ufl.edu)) with any questions.

### **Required Texts:**

All books are available for purchase at the college bookstore and are on reserve at the library. All other readings will be found on Canvas in the Modules section

Gloria Anzaldúa, *Prietita and the Ghost Woman/Prietita y la llorona*

Gloria Anzaldúa, *Friends from the Other Side/Amigos del otro lado*

Nicholasa Mohr, *Nilda*

Celia Pérez, *First Rule of Punk*

Erika Sánchez, *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*

Elizabeth Acevedo, *The Poet X*

Gabby Rivera, *Juliet Takes a Breath*

### **Week 1 (1/14): Course Introduction**

READING: Syllabus & Ground Rules

### **Week 2 (1/21): Latinx Children's Literature**

READING: Mary Pat Brady, "Children's Literature"  
Marilisa Jiménez-García, "Side-by-Side: At the Intersections of Latinx Studies and ChYALit"  
E. Sybil Durand and Marilisa Jiménez-García, "Unsettling Representations of Identities: A Critical Review of Diverse Youth Literature."

### **Introductory Paper Due January 21st via Canvas by 11:59 p.m.**

### **Week 3 (1/28): The Children's Ambassador: Pura Belpré**

READINGS: Lisa Sanchez Gonzalez, "Pura Belpré (1899-1982): Her Life and Writing"  
Marilisa Jiménez-García, "Pura Belpré Lights the Storyteller's Candle: Reframing the Legacy of a Legend and What it Means for the Fields of Latino/a Studies and Children's Literature"

Marilisa Jiménez-García, "The Pura Belpré Medal: The Latino/a Child in America, the "Need" for Diversity, and Name-branding Latinidad."  
Pura Belpré, "Perez and Martina"

**Week 4 (2/4): Picture Books**

READINGS: Gloria Anzaldúa, *Prietita and the Ghost Woman/Prietita y la llorona*  
Gloria Anzaldúa, *Friends from the Other Side/Amigos del otro lado*

Cristina Rhodes, "Processes of Transformation: Theorizing Activism and Change Through Gloria Anzaldúa's Picture Books"  
Elizabeth Garcia, "'Latina Feminist Agency: Manifestations of a New Mestiza Consciousness in Gloria Anzaldúa's Children's Books"

**Week 5 (2/11): Middle-Grade Novel**

READING: *Nilda*, pp. 1-123

**Week 6 (2/18): Middle-Grade Novel**

READING: *Nilda*, pp. 124-248

**Response Paper I Due Friday February 19<sup>th</sup> via Canvas by 11:59 p.m.**

**Week 7 (2/25): Middle Grade Novel**

READING: *First Rule of Punk*, Ch. 1-20

**Week 8 (3/4): Middle Grade Novel**

READING: *First Rule of Punk*, Ch. 21-39

**Week 9 (3/11): Young Adult Novel**

READING: *I am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*, Ch. 1-13

**Week 10 (3/18): Young Adult Novel**

READING: *I am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*, Ch. 14-29

**Week 11 (3/25): Novel in Verse**

READING: *The Poet X*, pp. 3-178

**Week 12 (4/1): Novel in Verse**

READING: *The Poet X*, pp. 179-357

**Undergrads: Response Paper II Due Friday April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
via Canvas by 11:59 p.m.**

**Grads.: Paper Proposals Due by Friday April 2<sup>nd</sup> via Canvas by 11:59 p.m.**

**Week 13 (4/8): Queer YA**

READING: *Juliet Takes a Breath*, Preface-Ch. 12

**Week 14 (4/15): Queer YA**

READING: *Juliet Takes a Breath*, Ch. 13-Epilogue

**All Final Papers are due Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, via Canvas by 11:59 p.m.**