

Course Title:**"Voices of Resistance: 20th-Century Latin American Women Writers"****Course Description:**

In this study I will examine the contributions of Latin American women writers during the late 20th century. I will be focusing on themes such as gender, resistance, identity, motherhood, and the joining of politics and personal life. I will complete this by reading key texts from authors such as Isabel Allende, Sandra Cisneros, and Julia Alvarez. I will also read selections of poetry and critical essays found in *Making Face, Making Soul Haciendo Caras* edited by Gloria Anzaldua, as well as *Latin-American Women Writers: Class, Race, and Gender* by Myriam Yvonne Jehenson. My study will explore how these writers responded to political turmoil, colonial legacies, and patriarchal oppression. I will engage with novels, short stories, essays, and poetry. I will analyze how these works resist the more dominant narratives of Latin America. By doing so I hope to articulate alternative visions for social justice and cultural identity in Latin America.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, I will:

1. Understand key themes in 20th-century Latin American women's literature, including gender roles, political resistance, and cultural identity.
2. Analyze the works of prominent Latin American women writers in the context of historical and political events.
3. Examine how these writers navigate the intersections of personal and collective struggles, particularly in relation to gender and social justice.
4. Develop critical reading and writing skills through close analysis of both primary texts and secondary scholarship.
5. Engage with feminist literary theory as it applies to Latin American women's writing.

Required Texts:

1. **Isabel Allende** *The House of the Spirits* (1982).
2. **Sandra Cisneros** *The House on Mango Street* (1984).
3. **Julia Alvarez** *In the Time of Butterflies* (1994).
4. **Julia Alvarez** *Something to Declare: Essays* (1998).
5. **Gloria Anzaldua** *Making Face, Making Soul- Haciendo Caras: Creative and Critical Perspectives by Feminists of Color* (1990).
6. **Myriam Yvonne Jehenson** *Latin-American Women Writers: Class, Race, and Gender* (1994).

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to Latin American Women's Writing

- **Readings:**
 - Introduction from *Latin-American Women Writers: Class, Race, and Gender*
 - Introduction from *Making Face, Making Soul – Haciendo Caras*
- **Assignment:** Write a short reflection (300 words) on the week's readings.

Week 2: Isabel Allende

- **Readings:** *The House of the Spirits* (Chapters 1-5)
- **Assignment:** Write a short reflection (300 words) on the week's readings.

Week 3: Magical Realism

- **Readings:** *The House of the Spirits* (Finish the novel)
- **Assignment:** Write a short essay (500-800 words) on how Allende uses magical realism to critique colonial legacies, and patriarchal oppression.

Week 4: Sandra Cisneros

- **Readings:** *The House on Mango Street* (Entire book)
- **Assignment:** Write a short reflection (300 words) on the week's readings.

Week 5: Space and Identity in Cisneros' Work

- **Readings:** No new readings this week, focus on essay.
- **Assignment:** Write an essay (800-1,000 words) on how space (neighborhood, home) influences the characters' sense of self in *The House on Mango Street*.

Week 6: Julia Alvarez's Essays

- **Readings:** *Something to Declare* (Selected essays)
- **Assignment:** Write a short reflection (300 words) on the week's readings.

Week 7: Women and Revolution

- **Readings:** Selected poems from *Making Face, Making Soul*
- **Assignment:** Create a PowerPoint presentation comparing how two different writers respond to political turmoil in their works.

Week 8: Feminist Perspectives in Latin American Writing

- **Readings:** Selections from *Making Face, Making Soul* (focus on feminist writings)
- **Assignment:** Write an essay connecting feminist theory to the primary texts discussed.

Week 9: Motherhood

- **Readings:** Selected essays from *Latin-American Women Writers* (focus on writings on motherhood)
- **Assignment:** Write a comparative analysis (700-1,000 words) of motherhood in *The House of the Spirits* and *The House on Mango Street*.

Week 10: SPRING BREAK

Week 11:

- **Readings:** Selections from *Latin-American Women Writers*
- **Assignment:** Write a short reflection (300 words) on the week's readings.

Week 12:

- **Readings:** Selections from *Latin-American Women Writers*
- **Assignment:** Write a short reflection (300 words) on the week's readings.

Week 13: Julia Alvarez

- **Readings:** *In the Time of Butterflies* (first half of the novel)
- **Assignment:** No assignment, concentrate on close reading.

Week 14: Julia Alvarez

- **Readings:** *In the Time of Butterflies* (finish the novel)
- **Assignment:** Write a short essay (500-700 words) on themes found in *In the Time of Butterflies*.

Week 15: Final Reflections

- **Readings:** Review key selections from the course texts
- **Assignment:** Write a short reflection (300 words) on the texts from this semester, focus on the texts you will write final paper on.

Week 16: Final Due

- **Readings:** No new readings, focus on final paper.
- **Assignment:** Final research paper due (2,000 words) April 30.