

## Course Description

The popularity of young adult literature has exploded in recent years, and novels such as *I'm Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* have claimed a seat for Latinos at this very lucrative table. But *Perfect* was hardly the first—Latinx literature has long dabbled in YA, with its two all-time best sellers (*Mango Street* and *Bless Me Última*) falling into this category. In this class we examine what this literature tells us about growing up Latino in the United States. We will also consider YA as a phenomenon in itself, both reflected in academia (where it is *finally* considered as worthy of study), and how it is positioned in the broader literary vis-a-vis against more “illustrious” genres.

## SPANISH 125

FYS: Latinx Young  
Adult Literature

Fall 2022

TuTh 1:00-2:15

Location TBA

## Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will:

- Be familiar with defining characteristics of YA literature
- Be able to argue for/against the “seriousness” of certain genres
- Learn critical concepts to enable deeper analysis
- Develop critical thinking skills, demonstrated through thesis-driven essays
- Develop necessary skills to explore a topic both in writing and through oral presentations
- Be familiar with key issues facing Latinos in the United States

As a First Year Seminar, this class also aims to develop broader skills that will help you in your university career. These include:

- Accessing resources in order to do research
- Properly citing sources and avoiding plagiarism/honor code violations
- Developing public speaking and presentation skills

## Course Components

**Participation & Attendance:** Attendance and participation is a **must** in this class. Participation is not merely sitting there—you must actively speak! While reading, I recommend taking extensive notes not only to remember plot-points, etc., but also interesting passages/points/emergent themes that you'd like to discuss in class.

**Quizzes:** In order to verify that you've done the readings, I will give a number of in-class quizzes on covered content. Since I will drop the lowest grade, there will be no make-ups.

**Written Reflections:** These are an ongoing discussion (with yourself) that will hopefully show how your reasoning has evolved over the semester. These are also a great place to jot down ideas from readings to organize your thoughts for in-class discussions and essays.

**Presentation:** In front of the class, you will present a topic that covers an issue connected to Latinos in the United States. Should be 6-8 minutes in length. Depth and precision are key.

**Essays:** Over the course of the semester, you will produce three essays in varying length, focusing on (1) literary analysis, (2) compare and contrast, and (3) argument. You will combine the readings with writing skills that we will develop to show how you have progressed.

**Final Project:** After reading a semester's worth of Young Adult literature, surely you have some ideas of your own! It's time to get creative. In a roughly 2000 word short story, you will do just that.



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**Mid-term Grades:** Will be determined by work completed to that point in the semester. Because of that, it may be more heavily weighted towards some of the above categories than others.

10%	Written Reflections	A	93-100%	C	73-77
10	Quizzes	A-	90-92	C-	70-72
15	Presentation	B+	88-89	D+	68-69
15	Final Project	B	83-87	D	63-67
20	Participation & Attendance	B-	80-82	D-	60-62
30	Essays	C+	78-79	F	<60

## [ Required Texts ]

- ⇒ The House on Mango Street (1983, Sandra Cisneros, 978-0679734772)
- ⇒ Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe (2012, Benjamin Alire Sáenz, 978-1442408937)
- ⇒ Bless Me, Ultima (1972, Rudolfo Anaya, 978-0446600255)
- ⇒ The Poet X (2018, Elizabeth Acevedo, 978-0062662804)
- ⇒ I'm Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter (2017, Erika L. Sánchez, 978-1524700485)

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FYS: Latino Young  
Adult Literature

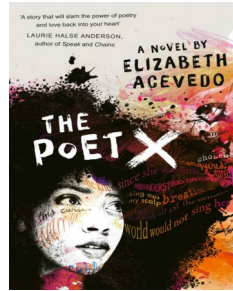
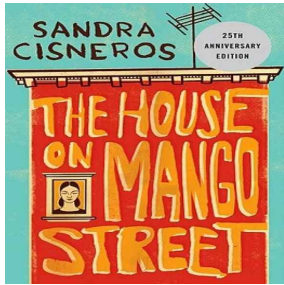
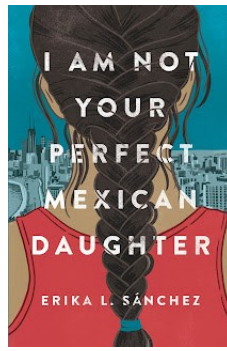
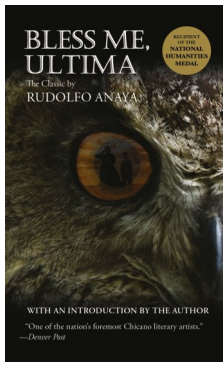
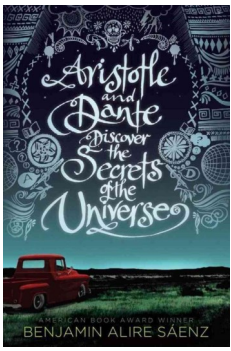
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## [ Course Calendar ]

Aug 23	Introductions	Oct 13	Aristotle and Dante...
Aug 25	What is YA literature?	Oct 18	Aristotle and Dante...
Aug 30	What is Latino YA literature	Oct 20	Aristotle and Dante...
Sep 1	House on Mango Street	Oct 25	Presentations Workshop
Sep 6	House on Mango Street	Oct 27	Flex day
Sep 8	Mouse on Mango Street	Nov 1	Poet X
Sep 13	Research workshop	Nov 3	Poet X
Sep 15	Bless Me, Ultima	Nov 8	Poet X
Sep 20	Bless Me, Ultima	Nov 10	Poet X
Sep 22	Bless Me, Ultima	Nov 15	I'm Not Your Perfect...
Sep 27	Bless Me, Ultima	Nov 17	I'm Not Your Perfect...
Sep 29	Bless Me, Ultima	Nov 22	I'm Not Your Perfect...
Oct 4	Structuring Essays Workshop	Nov 24	Thanksgiving Break
Oct 6	Aristotle and Dante...	Nov 29	I'm Not Your Perfect...
Oct 11	Fall Break	Dec 1	Final Presentations



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## Important College Policies

### Campus Health and Safety for Spring 2022

Proper face coverings must be worn in all indoor locations except when in private workspaces. This policy applies to all members of the campus community and includes masking in classrooms and meeting spaces. Masks are not required while outdoors with the exception of large, crowded gatherings where physical distancing is not possible.

Students (vaccinated and unvaccinated) who were away during Jan term are encouraged to upload at least one of the following to the Proof of Test Portal.

—a negative PCR or provider-administered antigen test (at-home tests will not be accepted) administered between Jan 31 - Feb 7.

—proof of a positive COVID-19 PCR test collected within the past 90 days

Similar to previous semesters, all students, faculty and staff are expected to complete the daily health screener. A green check mark is required to attend class each day.

**Converse Honor Code:** Please refer to the Student Handbook section titled “Honor System” (p. 40) and be aware of infractions that include cheating, plagiarism, lying, and/or bribery. Rewording any section of another author’s work without citation, copying and pasting from the internet, and giving your answers to another student are examples of academic dishonesty that are cause for academic disciplinary action. Any student who is believed to have engaged in any form of academic dishonesty will be subject to the procedures set forth in the Converse Student Handbook (p. 42). Please reference regularly and remember the Principles of the Converse Honor Tradition.

**Academic Accommodations:** Students with documented disabilities who would like to request academic accommodations should review and complete the form on my.converse.edu under Students > Student Life > Student Accessibility Services. Questions can be directed to Sami Singleton, Case Manager for Student Accessibility Services, at sami.singleton@converse.edu or by calling (864) 596-9027.

COVID-related absences will be excused once approved by Sami Singleton or the

Wellness Center, and instructors will be notified of a start and end date. Unapproved absences will be excused at the discretion of the instructor.

Students experiencing travel disruptions due to COVID should also contact Sami Singleton if an accommodation is needed.

### Title IX Statement

In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Converse prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex. Converse strongly encourages the prompt reporting of, and is committed to a timely and fair resolution of, complaints of sex discrimination and harassment by students, faculty, staff, and third-party contractors. Sexual harassment includes quid pro quo harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking.

Incidents of sex discrimination should be reported to the Converse Title IX Coordinator, as outlined in the Sex Discrimination and Harassment Policy and the Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedures. The policy and grievance procedures can be found on the Title IX page on my.converse.edu. Reports may be filed anonymously at the link [HERE](#).