

**Instructor:** García, P  
**Course Unique #s:** E 349S (#34997);  
MAS 374 (#35685); WGS 340 (#46349)  
**Semester:** Spring 2017  
**Cross-lists:** MAS 374/E 349S/ WGS 340

**Areas:** None  
**Flags:** Cultural Diversity  
**Restrictions:** See prerequisites below  
**Computer Instruction:** No

**Prerequisites:**

E349S: Six semester hours of upper-division coursework in English  
MAS 374: None.

**Description:**

The careers of two of the most important Latina writers of the last 30 years, Sandra Cisneros and Julia Alvarez, cover multiple genres: short fiction, novels, poetry, children's and young adult literature, and non-fiction. Moreover, the construction of ethnic and gendered identity within their works creates a Latino/a aesthetics, especially in considering the merging of author and speaker, fiction and history, and, stylistically, poetic and prose voices. Through our readings and discussions, we will also compare their different ethnic experiences in the United States as Mexican American and Caribbean/Dominican American writers. In addition to writing analytical essays, students will also complete an archive project on the work of Julia Alvarez using her materials at the Harry Ransom Center Library.

**Texts:** All texts are available at the University Co-op. If possible, I will place these on reserve at the PCL.  
Sandra Cisneros

- *“Woman Hollering Creek” and Other Stories*
- *The House on Mango Street*
- *Loose Woman*

Alvarez

- *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*
- *In the Time of the Butterflies*
- *Homecoming*

**Requirements & Grading:**

- Participation 10%
- Discussion posts 15%
- Archive Project 15%
- Close Reading Essay (2) 20%
- Final Essay 25%
- Group Presentation 15%

Grading scale is below. To ensure fairness, only final averages .5 and above will be rounded up. Thus a B- will be inclusive of all scores of 79.5 through 83.4. The University does not recognize the grade of A+. A = 94-100; A- = 90-93; B+ = 87-89; B = 84-86; B- = 80-83; C+ = 77-79; C = 74-76; C- = 70-73; D+ = 67-69; D = 64-66; D- = 60-63; F = 59 and below

**Course Policies:**

Classroom Expectations:

- We will observe civil classroom behavior at all times, especially during our discussions.

- In addition to regular class attendance, students are expected to come prepared, bring the textbook to class, and complete all in-class projects.
- Please make it to class on time. If tardiness becomes a habitual problem, you may be penalized 1 or more absences at the instructor's discretion. This will only occur after meeting to discuss the issue.
- If you need to leave class early, please alert me to this before class begins.
- If you miss more than 15 minutes of the class (due to a tardy or to leaving class early), you will be counted absent.
- Please be cordial and wait until I dismiss the class at the end of each period. I will try not to keep anyone after the bell rings, but sometimes a few moments are necessary.
- Please turn off or turn to silent mode all cell phones, and please avoid any texting during class.
- If you utilize a laptop to take notes in class, please use it only for taking notes. Searching the web, chatting, working on other assignments, or other such activities is not an appropriate use of your laptop during class lectures, and I ask that you refrain from such activities.
- Finally, please limit eating/drinking during class so as not to be a distraction, and dispose of all trash properly.

Honor Code: The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Academic Integrity: Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. Any academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to University policy, including assessment of the stiffest penalty that the instructor may assess (e.g., a failing grade in the course). The University may impose additional sanctions. Cheating in any form, including plagiarism and self-plagiarism, will not be tolerated. If you are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism, ask the instructor. For additional information on Academic Integrity, see <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acadint.php>.

Participation Grades/Attendance: Participation grades are based upon attendance and participation in classroom learning activities.

- Attendance is important as class discussions and work aid your comprehension of materials. Attendance will be taken everyday, and you should bring your book and materials to class everyday. An attendance sheet will be available at every class meeting. You are responsible for signing the attendance sheet to verify your presence in class.
- Everyone begins with 100% participation grade. You are allowed 4 absences total. There will be no excused or unexcused absences except for official university-excused activities. Grades are determined as follows: 0 absences 100%; 1-4 absences 95%; 5-6 absences 85%; 7-8 absences 75%; 9-10 absences 65%, 11+ absences 55%. If you never attend class, you will receive a 0.
- I reserve the right to modify participation grades based on your actual, active participating in class (bringing your textbook and course materials, contributing to class discussion, creating a safe and supportive environment for learning).

Expectations for written work: All assignments should be typed and follow MLA format: double-spaced with one-inch margins; this means approximately 250 words per page (12-point font). Note that the minimum page count for each assignment: for example, 2- pages means at least two full pages, and NOT one and a half or one and three-quarters pages.

Personal Responsibility Statement: Each student will be responsible for the grades that he or she earns in this course. Except under exceptional, documented conditions, no requests for grade modification (including those for a grade of “Incomplete”) for personal circumstances outside the purview of the course (e.g., probationary standing, financial aid eligibility, scholarship status, etc.) will be considered. Please monitor your grades carefully throughout the semester. Extra credit opportunities may be offered to the class during the semester, but no individual extra credit opportunities will be allowed.

Documented Disability Statement: The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Students with disabilities who require special accommodations need to get a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students (471-6259 or 471-4641 (TTY) for users who are hearing-impaired). This letter should be presented to the instructor in each course at the beginning of the semester and accommodations needed should be discussed at that time. Five (5) business days before an exam the student should remind the instructor of any testing accommodations that will be needed. See the following website for more information:  
<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/providing.php>

Religious Holy Days: By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Consultation: I encourage everyone to use office hours. I am also available by appointment. Writing advice is available from the Undergraduate Writing Center at the UT Learning Commons at the PCL. Their website is <http://uwc.utexas.edu/>.

Canvas: This course uses Canvas, a Web-based course management system in which a password-protected site is created for each course. You will be responsible for checking the course site regularly (at least twice a week) for class work and announcements; email may also be used for announcements. You will also turn in written assignments directly to the site. Finally, all email correspondence through our course site should be related to our course rather than personal information. To access Canvas, go to <http://canvas.utexas.edu/>

Syllabus: The instructor retains the right to vary the syllabus and schedule for the course. You will be asked to sign a document affirming that you have read and understand the syllabus and course policies.

### Cultural Diversity Flag Information

Courses carrying the Cultural Diversity flag typically focus on the histories, traditions, practices, or aesthetics of one or more underrepresented U.S. communities as a way of understanding their culture. “Cultural groups” may be delimited in terms of shared practices and beliefs and include groups such as women in the United States, certain immigrant communities, and the American Deaf Community. A cultural group will be considered “underrepresented” for this purpose if the experience of its members in the United States has been or continues to be one of persistent marginalization. Small numbers alone are not sufficient to show that a cultural group is underrepresented; rather, differences in the social and political power of a cultural group are key to this determination.

Ideally, the Cultural Diversity flag will challenge students to explore the beliefs and practices of an underrepresented group in relation to their own cultural experiences so that they engage in an active process of self-reflection.

### Writing Flag Information

Typically, this course carries the Writing Flag and was designed as such. Unfortunately, the writing flag for this course expired before the course was scheduled. This class will follow the writing flag guidelines, and I encourage all students to submit the online Flag Petition form so that you receive the writing flag credit. That information can be found at the following link, and I will discuss this further with you on our first class meeting and throughout the semester: <https://ugs.utexas.edu/flags/students/petitions>

## Schedule of Readings and Assignments (Updated 1/17/18)

Spring 2018

Please note that the schedule and due dates are subject to revision. All readings are from the textbook unless otherwise noted. You should complete all reading assignments before class time.

DATE	TOPIC/READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS
1/17	Class Orientation	
9/1	<i>The House on Mango Street</i>	
1/22	<i>The House on Mango Street</i>	
1/24	<i>The House on Mango Street</i>	Discussion 1 due. Assign Close Reading 1.
1/26	<i>The House on Mango Street</i>	
1/29	<i>The House on Mango Street</i>	
1/31		Writing Workshop
2/2	<i>How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents</i>	
2/5	<i>How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents</i>	Discussion 2 due.
2/7	<i>How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents</i>	Close Reading 1 due. Assign archive project.
2/9	HRC Visit	
2/12	<i>How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents</i>	
2/14	Readings TBA	Group 1 Presentation
2/16	HRC Visit	
2/19	<i>How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents</i>	
2/21	<i>In the Time of the Butterflies</i>	
2/23		
	<i>In the Time of the Butterflies</i>	Discussion 3 due.
2/26	Readings TBA	Group 2 Presentation
2/28	<i>In the Time of the Butterflies</i>	
3/2	<i>In the Time of the Butterflies</i>	
3/5	<i>In the Time of the Butterflies</i>	
3/7	<i>In the Time of the Butterflies</i>	
3/9	Archive Project Presentations	Archive Project due.
3/11-3/16	Spring Break	
3/19	Alvarez, essay (Canvas)	Assign Close Reading 2.
3/21	Alvarez, essay (Canvas)	
3/23	Cisneros, essay (Canvas)	
3/26	Cisneros, selection from <i>Caramelo</i>	
3/28		Writing Workshop
3/30	No class meeting	
4/2	Cisneros, "Woman Hollering Creek" and other Stories.	
4/4	Cisneros, "Woman Hollering Creek" and	Discussion 4 due.

	<i>other Stories.</i>	
4/6	Cisneros, " <i>Woman Hollering Creek</i> " and <i>other Stories.</i>	Close Reading 2 due. Assign final essay.
4/9		Library Workshop 1
4/11	Cisneros, " <i>Woman Hollering Creek</i> " and <i>other Stories.</i>	
4/13		Library Workshop 2
4/16	Readings TBA	Group 3 Presentation
4/18	Alvarez, <i>Homecoming</i>	
4/20	Alvarez, <i>Homecoming</i>	
4/23	Alvarez, <i>Homecoming</i>	Please note that writing workshops will be scheduled outside of class time during this week.
4/25	Cisneros, <i>Loose Woman</i>	
4/27	Readings TBA	Group 4 Presentation
4/30	Cisneros, <i>Loose Woman</i>	Discussion 5 due. Please note that writing workshops will be scheduled outside of class time during this week.
5/2	Cisneros, <i>Loose Woman</i>	
5/4	Course conclusions	
5/9		Final essay due.