

## LIT 4233

**Title** Postcolonial Literature, Theory, and Culture  
**Theme** Life Writing in the Time of Coloniality

**Professor** Raúl Sánchez

**Section** 21GD

**Term** Fall 2019

**Place** Turlington 2328

**Days/Times** Tuesday 5-6 (11:45-1:40) / Thursday 6 (12:50-1:40)

**Contact** [rsanchez@ufl.edu](mailto:rsanchez@ufl.edu)

392.294.2884

**Office** Turlington 4117

**Hours** Thursday 5 (11:45-12:35), *and by appointment*

**Description** According to the [UF Undergraduate Catalog](#), this course will “explore the issues, questions and themes raised in the rich literature, culture and theory that emerge as a response to and in contestation of the experiences of the colonial and postcolonial worlds.”

Specifically, this version of the course will examine the concept of *coloniality* through examples of *life writing*.

*Coloniality* refers to the influence European ideas exert on formerly colonized nations, mostly to their detriment. *Life writing* refers to forms of non-fiction that describe all or part of an author's life.

**Plan** We will start by reading and discussing a handful of essays about coloniality and life writing, in order to build a conceptual foundation. Then, we will read and discuss six books.

**Books** Domitila Barrios de Chungara. *Let Me Speak!*  
Rigoberta Menchú. *I, Rigoberta Menchú: An Indian Woman in Guatemala*  
Carolina Maria de Jesus. *Child of the Dark: The Diary of Carolina Maria de Jesus*  
Louise Erdrich. *Books and Islands in Ojibwe Country*  
Joy Harjo. *Crazy Brave: A Memoir*  
Terese Marie Mailhot. *Heart Berries: A Memoir*

**Work** 1 Research Project A report of 1500-2000 words in which you synthesize current or major scholarship on a specific topic. **20 points**  
3 Take-home Exams Essays, 800-1000 words each, in which you analyze reading assignments and concepts from the course. **3 x 20 points**  
Questions Paragraphs, 50-100 words each, in which you pose a substantive question about each day's reading. **20 points**

**Criteria** Research Project Identify key issues in scholars' writings about a given topic. Weave these issues into a coherent intellectual narrative. Write clearly and economically.  
Take-home Exams Examine course concepts in detail. Relate course concepts to each other. Write clearly and economically.  
Questions Identify compelling or confusing parts of reading assignments. Explain how the parts are compelling or confusing.

**Grading** A range Very well done, almost at the level of a first-year graduate student.  
B range Well done, at the level of an advanced undergraduate student.  
C range Done; not outstanding but not struggling; adequate.  
D range Struggling to meet the demands of the task.  
E (zero points) Assignment is incomplete, or was not submitted.

<b>Point Scale</b>	<i>Assignments</i>	<i>Total</i>
A	19-20	94-100
A-	18	90-93
B+	na	87-89
B	17	84-86
B-	16	80-83
C+	na	77-79
C	15	75-76
C-	14	70-73
D+	na	67-69
D	13	64-66
D-	12	60-63

**Late Work** Will not be accepted. Plan ahead for any and all technical difficulties.

**Attendance** Your course grade drops by one full letter for each “unacceptable” absence after three. Please see this [link](#) for details:  
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

**Plagiarism** If you plagiarize a draft or final version of any assignment (including the Questions), you earn an E for the course, and I report the incident to the Dean of Students Office. In other words, you must abide by the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code. For more information, including explanations of “plagiarism” and “submission of academic work purchased or obtained from an outside source,” please visit this link:  
<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

**Appeal** You may appeal your final course grade by consulting Prof. Kenneth Kidd, Associate Chair, Department of English. His email address is [kbkidd@ufl.edu](mailto:kbkidd@ufl.edu).

**GPA** This [link](#) explains how UF assigns points to your course grades:  
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

**Evaluations** Toward the end of the semester, you will receive email messages asking you to evaluate this course. [Here](#) is a link to the course evaluation website:  
<https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals/Default.aspx>

Here is a link to past evaluations: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>

**Disabilities** The [Disability Resource Center](#) in the Dean of Students Office provides information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information, please visit this link for details:  
<https://drc.dso.ufl.edu>

**Counseling and Wellness** If you are experiencing distress or a personal crisis, you may call the Counseling and Wellness Center at 352-392-1575. Please visit this link for details:  
<https://counseling.ufl.edu/>

**Sexual Harrassment** UF provides an educational and working environment that is free from sex discrimination and for its students, staff, and faculty. Please visit this link for details:  
<https://hr.ufl.edu/forms-policies/policies-managers/sexual-harassment/>

**Content Warning** Portions of the reading material contain descriptions or discussions of sex, violence, and other potentially disquieting activity.

<b>Schedule:</b>	<p><b>Week 1</b> 8/20 8/22</p> <p><b>Week 2</b> 8/27 8/29</p> <p><b>Week 3</b> 9/3 9/5</p> <p><b>Week 4</b> 9/10 9/12</p> <p><b>Week 5</b> 9/15 9/17 9/19</p> <p><b>Week 6</b> 9/24 9/26</p> <p><b>Week 7</b> 10/1 10/3</p> <p><b>Week 8</b> 10/8 10/10</p> <p><b>Week 9</b> 10/13  10/15 10/17</p> <p><b>Week 10</b> 10/22 10/24</p> <p><b>Week 11</b> 10/29 10/31</p> <p><b>Week 12</b> 11/5 11/7</p> <p><b>Week 13</b> 11/12 11/14</p>	<p><b>Introduction</b> Syllabus review To be announced</p> <p><b>Coloniality</b> Quijano (pp. 533-554) Quijano (pp. 554-574)</p> <p><b>Life Writing</b> Beverley + Cook-Lynn Baumgartner</p> <p><b>Take-home Exam 1</b> Review for Exam 1 Review for Exam 1, continued Exam prompt released via Canvas</p> <p><b>Rigoberta Menchú — <i>I, Rigoberta Menchú</i></b> Exam 1 due at 11:59 via Canvas Introduction and Chapters I-XVI Chapters XVII-XXXIV</p> <p><b>Domitila Barrios de Chungara — <i>Let Me Speak!</i></b> pp. 9-115 pp. 116-230</p> <p><b>Carolina Maria de Jesus — <i>Child of the Dark</i></b> Translator's Preface and pp. 3-97 pp. 98-187</p> <p><b>Take-home Exam 2</b> Review for Exam 2 Review for Exam 2, continued Exam prompt released via Canvas</p> <p><b>Conferences for Research Project</b> Exam 2 due at 11:59 via Canvas Sketch of Research Project due at 11:59pm via Canvas No class meeting — individual conferences No class meeting — individual conferences</p> <p><b>Louise Erdrich — <i>Books and Islands in Ojibwe Country</i></b> Chapters 1-3 Chapters 4-5 and Afterword</p> <p><b>Joy Harjo — <i>Crazy Brave</i></b> pp. 15-108 pp. 109-168</p> <p><b>Terese Marie Mailhot — <i>Heart Berries</i></b> Chapters 1-6 Chapters 7-11</p> <p><b>Take-home Exam 3</b> Review for Exam 3 Review for Exam 3, continued Exam prompt released via Canvas</p>
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<b>Week 14</b>	<b>Conferences for Research Project</b>
11/17	Exam 3 due at 11:59 via Canvas Draft of Research Project due at 11:59 via Canvas
11/19	No class meeting — individual conferences
11/21	No class meeting — individual conferences
<b>Week 15</b>	<b>Thanksgiving</b>
11/25	Research Project due at 11:59pm via Canvas
11/26	No class
11/28	No class
<b>Week 16</b>	<b>Exit Conferences</b>
12/3	No class meeting — individual conferences
12/5	No class meeting — individual conferences