

University of Puerto Rico
Río Piedras Campus
College of Humanities
Department of English
Graduate Program

English 8080: Caribbean Literatures and Languages in a Global Context: *Latino and Caribbean Fabulist Tales and SciFi in Literature and Film*

Code: INGL/ENGL 8080

Credit hours: 3

Prerequisites: None

Professor: **Dra. Loretta Collins Klobah**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A specialized topics course reflecting formal trends and critical issues in the study of Caribbean and Latino science fiction, and fabulist, folkloric, fantasy or speculative fiction, as well as the viewing of science fiction films. Texts will be studied as aesthetic, artistic, meaning-making creations, complexly mediated, situated within socio-historical and cultural contexts, participating in the contestation and formation of modes of representation, and impacted by readership and spectatorship.

REQUIRED BOOKS

- 1). Matthew David Goodwin, editor. *Latin@ Rising: An Anthology of Latin@ Science Fiction & Fantasy*. Introduction by Frederick Luis Aldama. San Antonio, Texas: Wings Press, 2017. (\$7.99 in the Kindle Edition from Amazon): https://www.amazon.com/Rising-Anthology-Science-Fiction-Fantasy-ebook/dp/B01MXYPQS7/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1505330674&sr=8-1
- 2). Karen Lord, editor. *New Worlds, Old Ways: Speculative Tales from the Caribbean*. New York and Leeds, UK: Peekash Press, 2017. (\$9.99 in the Kindle Edition from Amazon): https://www.amazon.com/New-Worlds-Old-Ways-Speculative-ebook/dp/B01M3V2J1G/ref=sr_1_sc_1?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1505330761&sr=1-1-spell&keywords=Karren+Lord+New+Worlds%2C+Old+Ways

- 3). Tobias Buckell. *Crystal Rain*. Reprint Edition. TOR Books, 2006. (\$7.99 in the Kindle Edition from Amazon): https://www.amazon.com/Crystal-Rain-Tobias-S-Buckell-ebook/dp/B0015UB10C/ref=la_B001HCX2U0_1_9?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1516072730&sr=1-9
- 4). Tobias Buckell. *Ragamuffin*. Reprint Edition. TOR Books, 2007. (\$7.99 in the Kindle Edition from Amazon); https://www.amazon.com/Ragamuffin-Novel-Tobias-S-Buckell-ebook/dp/B002LA0AXE/ref=pd_sim_351_1?_encoding=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=23733GHNJH2VGQEZJXNB
- 5). Carlos Hernández, *The Assimilated Cuban's Guide to Quantum Santeria*. Rosario Publishing, 2016. Reprint edition. (\$3.82 in the Kindle Edition from Amazon): https://www.amazon.com/Assimilated-Cubans-Guide-Quantum-Santeria-ebook/dp/B01AR4ZF26/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1505420607&sr=1-1
- 6). Nalo Hopkinson, *Salt Roads*. Open Road Media Sci-Fi & Fantasy, 2015. (\$6.15 in the Kindle Edition from Amazon): https://www.amazon.com/Salt-Roads-Nalo-Hopkinson-ebook/dp/B00QN352S8/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1516071498&sr=1-6
- 7). Gabriel García Marquez, *Leaf Storm and Other Stories*. Perennial Classics, 2005. (Available in paperback).
- 8). Karen Lord, *Redemption in Indigo*. Small Beer Press, 2010. (\$7.19 in the Kindle Edition from Amazon): https://www.amazon.com/Redemption-Indigo-novel-Karen-Lord-ebook/dp/B003WJ0736/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1516071972&sr=1-3
- 9). Alejo Carpentier, *The Kingdom of this World*. Trans. Pablo Medina. Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 2017. Available in paperback.
- 10). Wilson Harris, *The Four Banks of the River of Space*. Faber & Faber, 1990.

Also selected stories and novel excerpts by Pauline Melville, Geoffrey Philp, Erna Brodber, Opal Palmer-Adisa, Junot Díaz, Edwidge Danticat and Giannina Braschi.

Selected stories from: Nalo Hopkinson, editor. *Whispers from the Cotton Tree Root: Caribbean Fabulist Fiction*. Invisible Cities Press, 2000. ISBN-10: 0967968313.

Course Objectives: Students will be able to

1. Enhance reading knowledge of authors, genres, trends and innovations in contemporary sci-fi, fabulist tales, and speculative fiction in the context of the Caribbean and Latin America.

2. Demonstrate knowledge theory and criticism related to contemporary sci-fi films of the Caribbean and Latin America.
3. Recognize the various differing modes in which writers, as well as film makers have used the multiple genres and media to represent Caribbean and Latin@ societies and their cultural imperatives; retrieve, reinterpret and create cultural memories; critique society and advocate social change; explore questions of identity, race, ethnicity, class, gender, spirituality, and the historical experiences of the Caribbean, Latin America and their Diaspora(s); examine the need for historical redress; promote the languages, traditions, family ties, practices and popular cultures of the region; tell stories and entertain a local and/ or international public of spectators.
- 4.
5. Demonstrate competency in the use of bibliographic and web sources and research methods appropriate to the advanced study of Caribbean and Latin@ literature in order to produce scholarship and a seminar paper.
6. Initiate the process of independent research and study of literary works, art, and theory, which will permit students to formulate, at some later point, original dissertation proposals and write, present, and publish analytical papers.

Content and Time Distribution (12 weeks/ 45 hours)

Introduction: contemporary sci-fi, fabulist, fantasy and speculative fiction and film in the Caribbean and Latin American context (1 hour)

- • Plantation and resistance; indigenous cosmologies (4 hours)
- Spirituality and ancestral gateways; gods; timelines (4 hours)
- Ancestral worlds, haunted spaces, walking dead, spiritwork (4 hours)
- • Plantation legacies; zombies; contagion, illness and plague (4 hours)
- • Myths, folk lore, legends, fables, changelings, magical or

spiritual powers, and shapeshifters (4 hours)

- • The near future: technological imperialism; labor relations;

economic colonization; environmental resources; governance (4 hours)

- • Apocalypse and the post-apocalypse; environmental chaos; dystopia (4 hours)
- • Space is the place; science fiction; intergalactic relations; Afro-futurism (4 hours)
- • Futurism, computer technology, genetic engineering, robotics, A.I., and intergalactic travel (4 hours)
- Quantum and Astrophysics in fiction (4 hours)
- • Caribbean and Latin@ super heroes in comics, television and film (4 hours)

Midterm Project: Author Interviews

Final Exam period: Research paper due.

TOTAL

45 hours

Teaching Strategies

Lecture, Readings, Group Discussion, Writing Assignments. When appropriate, up to 11.25 hours of the course may be taught by alternative methods, including but not limited to, online instruction through an educational platform and class projects.

Resources and Equipment Required

Screening Room for projection of films/ internet access for frequent use of internet video clips.

Methods of Evaluation

Attendance and Participation	10%
Short responses to reading assignments or films	15%
Midterm Interview Assignment	25%
Final Research paper	50%
Total	100%

Reasonable Accommodation: Law 51: Students with access to Vocational Rehabilitation Service should contact the professor at the beginning of the semester in order to plan any special arrangements and equipment necessary in accordance with the recommendation of the Office of Challenged Students' Affairs (OAPI) in the Dean of Students. In addition, any student with special needs or who requires any type of assistance or special arrangements should contact the professor.

Academic Integrity: The University of Puerto Rico promotes the highest standards of academic and scientific integrity. Article 6.2 of the UPR Students General Bylaws (Board of Trustees Certification 13, 2009-2010) states that academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: fraudulent actions; obtaining grades or academic degrees by false or fraudulent simulations; copying the whole or part of the academic work of another person; plagiarizing totally or partially the work of another person; copying all or part of another person's answers to the questions of an oral or written exam by taking or getting someone else to take the exam on his/her behalf; as well as enabling and facilitating another person to perform the aforementioned behavior. Any of these behaviors will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the disciplinary procedure laid down in the UPR Students General Bylaws.

Grading System: A, B, C, D, F

*** A differential grading system will be applied for students with special needs.

Bibliography

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Atwood, Margaret. *The Handmaid's Tale*. 1st Anchor Books, 1998. ISBN-10: 038549081X.

Bell, Andrea A., and Yolanda Molina-Gavilán, editors. *Cosmos Latinos: An Anthology of Science Fiction from Latin America and Spain*. Wesleyan, 2003. ISBN-10: 0819566349.

Borges, Jorge Luis. *Book of Imaginary Beings*. Illustrated by Peter Sis. Translated by Andrew Hurley. Penguin Classics, 2006. ISBN-10: 0143039938.

Bradbury, Ray. *Fahrenheit 451*. Reissue edition. Simon and Schuster, 2012. ISBN-10: 1451673310.

-----, *Bradbury Stories: 100 of His Most Celebrated Tales*. William Morrow, 2005. ISBN-10: 0060544880.

Brotherton, Michael, editor. *Science Fiction by Scientists: An Anthology of Short Stories*. Springer, 2016. ISBN-10: 3319411012.

Bruce, Scott G. *The Penguin Book of the Undead: Fifteen Hundred Years of Supernatural Encounters*. Penguin Classics, 2016. ISBN-10: 0143107682.

Tobias Buckell. *Xenowealth: A Collection*. (\$3.99 in the Kindle Edition from Amazon): https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B018ZR0IVK/ref=cm_sw_r_fa_eb_rCRUzb3SW66T5

Burgess, Anthony. *A Clockwork Orange*. Restored edition. Penguin Classics, 2013. ISBN-10: 0393312836.

Butler, Octavia E. *Seed to Harvest*. Grand Central Publishing, 2007. ISBN-10: 0446698903.

----- *Bloodchild and Other Stories*. Seven Stories Press, 2005. ISBN-10: 1583226982.

Campbell, Bill, and Edward Austin Hall editors. *Mothership: Tales from Afrofuturism and Beyond*. Rosarium Publishing, 2013. ISBN-10: 0989141144.

Card, Orson Scott and Philip Athans, et al. *Writing Fantasy & Science Fiction: How to Create Out-of-This-World Novels and Short Stories*. Second edition. Writer's Digest Books, 2013. ISBN-10: 1599631407.

Clarke, Arthur C. *The Collected Stories of Arthur C. Clarke*. Orb Books, 2002. ISBN-10: 0312878605.

Clarke, Neil. *The Best Science Fiction of the Year, Volume 1*. Night Shade Books, 2016. ISBN-10: 1597808547.

Cox, Michael. *The Oxford Book of Victorian Ghost Stories*. Oxford University Press, 2003. ISBN-10: 1597808547.

Delaney, Samuel R. *Trouble on Triton: An Ambiguous Heterotopia*. Contributor Kathy Acker. Wesleyan, 1996. ISBN-10: 1597808547.

Dillan, Grace L., editor. *Walking the Clouds: An Anthology of Indigenous Science Fiction*. Sun Tracks, 2012. ISBN-10: 0816529825.

Douglas, Marcia. *Notes from a Writer's Book of Cures and Spells*. Peepal Tree Press, 2005. ISBN-10: 1845230167.

Ernst, Max. *Une Semaine de Bonte: A Surrealistic Novel in Collage*. Dover Publications, 1976. ISBN-10: 0486232522.

Espinosa, Frank. *Rocketo: Journey to the Hidden Sea*. Volume 2. Image Comics, 2007. ISBN-10: 1582407355.

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Foster, Sesshu. *Atomik Aztex*. City Lights Publishers, 2005. ISBN-10: 0872864405.

Fowler, Karen Joy. *The Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy 2016*. Mariner Books, 2016. ISBN-10: 0544555201.

Ginway, M. Elizabeth, and J. Andrew Brown, editors. *Latin American Science Fiction: Theory and Practice*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2012. ISBN-10: 1137281227.

Gaiman, Neil. *The View from the Cheap Seats: Selected Nonfiction*. William Morrow, 2016. ISBN-10: 0062262262.

-----, *Trigger Warning: Short Fictions and Disturbances*. William Morrow, 2015. ISBN-10: 0062330322.

Garcia, Rudy Ch. *The Closet of Discarded Dreams*. Edited by Juanita Kees. Illustrated by Neil Jackson. Caliburn Press, 2012. ISBN-10: 1615727558

Gerrold, David. *Worlds of Wonder: How to Write Science Fiction and Fantasy*. Writer's Digest Books, 2001. ISBN-10: 1582970076.

Ghosh, Amitav. *The Calcutta Chromosome: A Novel of Fevers, Delirium and Discovery*. Harper Perennial, 2001. ISBN-10: 9780380813940.

Gleick, James. *Time Travel: A History*. Pantheon, 2016. ISBN-10: 0307908798.

Goodwin, Matthew David, editor. *Latin@ Rising: An Anthology of Latin@ Science Fiction and Fantasy*. Wings Press, 2017. ISBN-10: 1609405242.

Henderson, Caspar. *The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: a 21st Century Bestiary*. U of Chicago Press, 2014. ISBN-10: 022604470X.

Hernández, Jaime. *God and Science: Return of the Ti-Girls (Love and Rockets)*. Fantagraphics, 2012. ISBN-10: 1606995391.

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Electronic Sources:

1). Duppy Thursday (Akashic Press): <http://www.akashicbooks.com/category/duppy-thursday/>

2). Junto Díaz, "Monstruo." *The New Yorker*.

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SYLLABUS

WEEK#1 Course Introduction: **The Caribbean and Latin@ Context in Magical Realism, Speculative Fiction and Sci Fi/ Preview of AfroFuturism topic**

WEEK#2 Plantation and resistance; Indigenous, African-Caribbean, syncretic, Creole cosmologies

Readings: Alejo Carpentier, *The Kingdom of this World*.

WEEK#3 Spirituality and ancestral gateways; gods/ goddesses; timelines

Readings: Nalo Hopkinson, *Salt Roads*. Excerpts from Erna Brodber, *Jane and Louisa Will Soon Come Home*.

WEEK#4 Ancestral worlds, haunted spaces, walking dead, spiritwork

Readings: Selected stories from Gabriel García Márquez' *Leaf Storm and Other Stories*; Daína Chaviano, "Accursed Lineage" (LR); Daniel José Older, "Red Feather and Bone" (LR); Ana

Castillo, “Cowboy Medium” (LR); Richard B. Lynch, “Water Under the Bridge” (NWOW); Pauline Melville, “Erzulie”; Opal Palmer-Adisa, “Duppy Get Her”

WEEK#5 Plantation legacies; zombies; contagion, illness and plague

Readings: Junto Díaz, “Monstruo.” *The New Yorker*.

Online. <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2012/06/04/monstro>

Geoffrey Philp, “My Zombie Ex-Girlfriend and Me” <http://www.akashicbooks.com/my-ex-zombie-girlfriend-and-me-by-geoffrey-philp/>

Nalo Hopkinson, “The Glass Bottle Trick” (*Whispers*); Carlos Hernández, “The Macrobe Conservation Project” (TACGQS)

Film screening in class: *Juan of the Dead* (Cuba, 2012), Dir. Alejandro Bruges

WEEK#6 Myths, folk lore, legends, fables, changelings, magical or spiritual powers, and shapeshifters

Readings: Karen Lord, *Redemption in Indigo*

Edwidge Danticat, “1937”; Kevin Jared Hosein, “Maid of the Mud” (NWOW); Breanne McIvor, “Pray for us Sinners” <http://www.akashicbooks.com/pray-for-us-sinners-by-breanne-mc-ivor/>

Lelawatee Manoo-Rahming, “Naga” <http://www.akashicbooks.com/naga-by-lelawattee-manoo-rahming/>

Dionne Peart, “Rivah Mumma”

<http://www.akashicbooks.com/rivah-mumma-by-dionne-peart/>

Film screening in class: short film *La Diabliesse* (Trinidad, 2011), Dir. Jason Roger Phillips <https://youtu.be/-e9GJ94-CwQ>

WEEK#7 The near future: technological imperialism; labor relations; economic colonization; environmental resources; governance; Caribbean diaspora; spiritual integrity

Readings: Alex Hernández, “Caridad” (LR); Excerpts from the novel by Giannina Braschi, *United States of Banana*; Excerpts from the novel by Tobias Buckell, *Hurricane Fever*

Film screening in class: *Sleep Dealer* (México, 2009), Dir. Alex Rivera

Excerpts or film if available: *Brown Girl Begins* (Toronto, 2017), Dir. Sharon Lewis (Based on Nalo Hopkinson's novel *Brown Girl in the Ring*)

WEEK#8 Apocalypse and the post-apocalypse; environmental chaos; dystopia

Readings: H. K. Williams, "Cascadura" (NWOW)

Film screenings in class: *En Agosto* (Brazil, 2008), animated short movie written and directed by Andrés Barrientos and Carlos Andrés Reyes. Produced by Daniel García.

Children of Men (2006), Dir. Alfonso Cuarón

WEEK#9 Space is the place; science fiction; intergalactic relations and travel; Afro-futurism, computer technology, genetic engineering, robotics, A.I.

Readings: Tobias Buckell. *Crystal Rain; Ragamuffin*; Geoffrey Philp, "Uncle Obediah and the Alien" (*Whispers*); Pablo Brescia, "Code 51" (LR); ADÁL, "Coconauts in Space" (LR)

Film screening in class: *The Last Angel of History* (1997), Dir. John Akomfrah; scenes from Sun Ra's *Space is the Place* (1974)

Film screening outside of class time: *The Brother from Another Planet* (1984), Dir. John Sayles

WEEK#10 Quantum and Astrophysics in fiction

Readings: Wilson Harris, *The Four Banks of the River of Space*. Faber & Faber, 1990.

WEEK#11 [Research paper topics]

WEEK#12 Caribbean and Latin@ super heroes in comics, television and sci fi films:

Readings: **Edgardo Miranda-Rodriguez, *La Borinqueña* (comic book); Omar Casanova, "Bori-Girl"**

"Marvel's Puerto Rican Heroes and Villains." <https://comicvine.gamespot.com/profile/venommelendez/lists/marvels-puerto-rican-heroes-and-villains/34310/>

Film screening in class: Dir. Marcus Alqueires, short film *The Flying Man* (Brazil, 2013); Dir. Luiz Bolognesi, *Uma Historia de Amor e Furia* (Brazil, 2013).

If available: Scenes from Dir. Alain Bidard, *Battledream Chronicle* (Martinique, 2015)

Film screening outside of class: *Black Panther* (USA, 2018), Dir. Ryan Coogler