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## Featured Bookshelf: 2019 Hispanic Heritage Month

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# Hispanic Heritage Featured Bookshelf



Hispanic Heritage Month, established in 1988, runs from September 15 through October 15. It recognizes and celebrates the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans have made to the United States. Florida in particular has a strong Hispanic legacy including the oldest inhabited city in the U.S., St. Augustine, which was founded in 1565 by the Spanish. UCF will also celebrate our new status as a Hispanic-serving institution which means more than 25% of our enrolled students identify as Hispanic.

Join the UCF Libraries as we celebrate our favorite Hispanic authors and books. Keep reading below to see the full list, descriptions, and catalog links for the featured Hispanic Heritage titles suggested by UCF Library employees. These 16 books plus many more are also on display on the 2nd (main) floor of the John C. Hitt Library next to the bank of two elevators.

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**[Costa Rica: a global studies handbook](#) by Meg Tyler Mitchell and Scott Pentze**

This work is a fascinating guide to one of Latin America's most stable and progressive nations, examining the country's development, unique features, and the challenges Costa Ricans face in the 21st century.

*Suggested by Sandy Avila, Research & Information Services*

**[Cuando era puertorriqueña](#) by Esmeralda Santiago**

La historia de Esmeralda Santiago comienza en la parte rural de Puerto Rico, donde sus padres y siete hermanos, en continuas luchas los unos con los otros, vivían una vida alborotada pero llena de amor y ternura. De niña, Esmeralda aprendió a apreciar cómo se come una guayaba, a distinguir la canción del coquí, a identificar los ingredientes en las morcillas y a ayudar a que el alma de un bebé muerto subiera al Cielo. Pero precisamente cuando Esmeralda parecía haberlo aprendido todo sobre su cultura, la llevaron a Nueva York, donde las reglas —y el idioma— eran no sólo diferentes, sino también desconcertantes. Cómo Esmeralda superó la adversidad, se ganó entrada a la Performing Arts High School y después continuó a Harvard, de donde se graduó con altos honores, es el relato de la tremenda trayectoria de una mujer verdaderamente extraordinaria.

*Suggested by Kryslynn Collazo, Scholarly Communication*

**[El mar y tú : otros poemas](#) by Julia de Burgos**

Published December 28, 1981 by Ediciones Huracan, one can feel the solace of the waves as her poem gently comforts you.

*Suggested by Jada Reyes, Research & Information Services*

**Futbolera: a history of women and sports in Latin America by Brenda Elsey and Joshua Nadel**

*Futbolera* charts the rise of physical education programs for girls, often driven by ideas of eugenics and proper motherhood, that laid the groundwork for women's sports clubs, which began to thrive beyond the confines of school systems. It examines how women challenged both their exclusion from national pastimes and their lack of access to leisure, bodily integrity, and public space. This vibrant history also examines women's sports through comparative case studies of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, and others.

*Suggested by Megan Haught, Teaching & Engagement/Research & Information Services*

**Hija de la fortuna by Isabel Allende**

*Hija de la fortuna* es un retrato papitante de una época marcada por la violencia y la codicia en la cual los protagonistas rescatan el amor, la amistad, la compasión y el valor. En esta su más ambiciosa novela, Isabel Allende presenta un universo fascinante, poblado de entrañables personajes que, como tantos otros de la autora, se quedan para siempre en la memoria y el corazón de los lectores.

*Suggested by Jada Reyes, Research & Information Services*

**Labyrinth Lost by Zoraida Cordova**

Alex is a bruja, the most powerful witch in a generation...and she hates magic. At her Deathday celebration, Alex performs a spell to rid herself of her power. But it backfires. Her whole family vanishes into thin air, leaving her alone with Nova, a brujo boy she's not sure she can trust, but who may be Alex's only chance at saving her family.

*Suggested by Sara Duff, Acquisitions & Collections*

**One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez**

*One Hundred Years of Solitude* tells the story of the rise and fall, birth and death of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buenda family. Inventive, amusing, magnetic, sad, and alive with unforgettable men and women -- brimming with truth, compassion, and a lyrical magic that strikes the soul -- this novel is a masterpiece in the art of fiction.

*Suggested by Rachel Edford, Teaching & Engagement*

**Sugar, Cigars, and Revolution: the making of Cuban New York by Lisandro Pérez**

More than one hundred years before the Cuban Revolution of 1959 sparked an exodus that created today's prominent Cuban American presence, Cubans were settling in New York City in what became largest community of Latin Americans in the nineteenth-century Northeast. This book brings this community to vivid life, tracing its formation and how it was shaped by both the sugar trade and the long struggle for independence from Spain. New York City's refineries bought vast quantities of raw sugar from Cuba,



ultimately creating an important center of commerce for Cuban émigrés as the island tumbled into the tumultuous decades that would close out the century and define Cuban nationhood and identity.

*Suggested by Megan Haught, Teaching & Engagement/Research & Information Services*

### **[The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao](#) by Junto Diaz**

Oscar is a sweet but disastrously overweight ghetto nerd who—from the New Jersey home he shares with his old world mother and rebellious sister—dreams of becoming the Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien and, most of all, finding love. But Oscar may never get what he wants. Blame the fukú—a curse that has haunted Oscar’s family for generations, following them on their epic journey from Santo Domingo to the USA.

*Suggested by Kryslynn Collazo, Scholarly Communication*

### **[The Costa Rica Reader: history, culture, politics](#) edited by Steven Palmer and Iván Molina**

This essential introduction to Costa Rica includes more than fifty texts related to the country’s history, culture, politics, and natural environment. Most of these newspaper accounts, histories, petitions, memoirs, poems, and essays are written by Costa Ricans. Many appear here in English for the first time. The authors are men and women, young and old, scholars, farmers, workers, and activists. *The Costa Rica Reader* is a necessary resource for scholars, students, and travelers alike.

*Suggested by Sandy Avila, Research & Information Services*

### **[The Line Becomes a River: dispatches from the border](#) by Francisco Cantú**

For Francisco Cantú, the border is in the blood: his mother, a park ranger and daughter of a Mexican immigrant, raised him in the scrublands of the Southwest. Driven to understand the hard realities of the landscape he loves, Cantú joins the Border Patrol. He and his partners learn to track other humans under blistering sun and through frigid nights. They haul in the dead and deliver to detention those they find alive. Plagued by a growing awareness of his complicity in a dehumanizing enterprise, he abandons the Patrol for civilian life. But when an immigrant friend travels to Mexico to visit his dying mother and does not return, Cantú discovers that the border has migrated with him, and now he must know the full extent of the violence it wreaks, on both sides of the line.

*Suggested by Kryslynn Collazo, Scholarly Communication*

### **[The Other Side = el otro lado](#) by Julia Alvarez**

These same qualities characterize her poetry—from the “Making Up the Past” poems, which explore a life of exile as lived by a young girl, to “The Joe Poems,” a series of beautifully sensual and funny love poems that celebrate a middle-aged romance. The collection culminates in the poem of the title: the twenty-one-part epic about the poet’s return to her native Dominican Republic, and to the internal affirmation of the conflict

and the last one that the trip caused. Innovation and bold invention, the interaction of sound, the senses, and the rhythm of two languages, all characterize Julia Alvarez's art in transforming precious memory into unforgettable poetry.

*Suggested by Jada Reyes, Research & Information Services*

**[The Assimilated Cuban's Guide to Quantum Santeria](#) by Carlos Hernandez**

Assimilation is founded on surrender and being broken. This collection of short stories features people who have assimilated, but are actively trying to reclaim their lives.

There is a concert pianist who defies death by uploading his soul into his piano. There is the person who draws his mother's ghost out of the bullet hole in the wall near where she was executed. Another character has a horn growing out of the center of his forehead--punishment for an affair. But he is too weak to end it, too much in love to be moral.

*Suggested by Sara Duff, Acquisitions & Collections*

**[The Best Bad Things](#) by Katrina Carrasco**

It is 1887, and Alma Rosales is on the hunt for stolen opium. Trained in espionage by the Pinkerton Detective Agency—but dismissed for bad behavior and a penchant for going undercover as a man—Alma now works for Delphine Beaumont, the seductive mastermind of a West Coast smuggling ring. A propulsive, sensual tour de force, *The Best Bad Things* introduces Katrina Carrasco, a bold new voice in crime fiction.

*Suggested by Sara Duff, Acquisitions & Collections*

**[The House on Mango Street](#) by Sandra Cisneros**

Acclaimed by critics, beloved by readers of all ages, taught everywhere from inner-city grade schools to universities across the country, and translated all over the world, *The House on Mango Street* is the remarkable story of Esperanza Cordero. Told in a series of vignettes – sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous – it is the story of a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become. Few other books in our time have touched so many readers.

*Suggested by Rachel Edford, Teaching & Engagement*

**[The Poetry of Pablo Neruda](#) edited by Ilan Stavans**

This selection of Neruda's poetry, the most comprehensive single volume available in English, presents nearly six hundred poems, scores of them in new and sometimes multiple translations, and many accompanied by the Spanish original. In his introduction, Ilan Stavans situates Neruda in his native milieu as well as in a contemporary English-language one, and a group of new translations by leading poets testifies to Neruda's enduring, vibrant legacy among English-speaking writers and readers today.

*Suggested by Rachel Edford, Teaching & Engagement*

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