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Featured Bookshelf: 2020 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 be celebrating our status as a Hispanic-serving institution (HSI) which means more than 25% of our enrolled students identify as Hispanic. Details on the [HSI Week events can be found through the UCF Events Calendar](#).

Join the UCF Libraries as we celebrate our favorite Hispanic authors and books. Click on the link below to see the full list, descriptions, and catalog links for the featured Hispanic Heritage titles suggested by UCF Library employees. These 10 books plus many more are also on display in the new 4th floor Reading Room in the John C. Hitt Library.

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[Alma y Cómo Obtuvo Su Nombre](#) by Juana Martínez-Neal

¿Cómo terminó Alma Sofia Esperanza José Pura Candela con un nombre tan largo?

Mientras Papi le cuenta la historia de cada uno de sus nombres, Alma comienza a sentir cómo cabe perfectamente en ellos.

Suggested by Amy Dovydaitis, Curriculum Materials Center

[An Unlikely Journey: waking up from my American dream](#) by Julián Castro

In the spirit of a young Barack Obama comes a candid and compelling memoir about race and poverty in America. In many ways, there was no reason Julian Castro would have been expected to be a success. Born to unmarried parents in a poverty-stricken neighborhood of a struggling city, his prospects of escaping his circumstance seemed bleak.

Suggested by Megan Haught, Student Learning & Engagement/Research & Information Services

[Don't Date Rosa Santos](#) by Nina Moreno

Rosa Santos, a Cuban American, works to save her Florida town, seeks admittance to study abroad in her homeland, and wonders if love can break her family's curse. Rosa Santos is cursed by the sea—at least, that's what they say. Dating her is bad news, especially if you're a boy with a boat. But Rosa feels more caught than cursed. As her college decision looms, Rosa collides -- literally -- with Alex Aquino, the mysterious boy with tattoos of the ocean whose family owns the marina. With her heart, her family, and her future on the line, can Rosa break a curse and find her place beyond the horizon?

Suggested by Amy Dovydaitis, Curriculum Materials Center

[Hispanic Serving Institutions \(HSIs\) in Practice: Defining Servingness at HSIs](#) edited by Gina Ann Garcia

As the general population of Latinxs in the United States burgeons, so does the population of college-going Latinx students. With more Latinxs entering college, the number of Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), which are not-for-profit, degree granting postsecondary institutions that enroll at least 25% Latinxs, also grows. But as they increase in number, the question remains: What does it mean to serve Latinx students? This edited book is ideal for higher education practitioners and scholars searching for best practices for HSIs in the United States. The book is essential as it provides a framework that simplifies the complex phenomenon known as servingness.

Suggested by Megan Haught, Student Learning & Engagement/Research & Information Services

[How to Build a Heart](#) by Maria Padian

Since her Marine father died in Iraq six years ago, Izzy Crawford and her mother have moved to a new town nearly every year. When their small family arrives in Virginia during her junior year, all Izzy's dreams start clicking into place. She likes her new school. And best of all: Izzy's family has been selected by Habitat for Humanity to build and move into a brand-new house. Izzy is this close to the community and permanence

she's been searching for... until all the secret pieces of her life begin to collide.
Suggested by Megan Haught, Student Learning & Engagement/Research & Information Services

[Laura Esquivel's Mexican fictions: Like Water for Chocolate, The Law of Love, Swift as Desire, Malinche: a novel](#) edited by Elizabeth Moore Willingham

This book is the first in-depth review and assessment of Laura Esquivel criticism. Outstanding essayists - from diverse critical perspectives in Latin American literature and film - explore Esquivel's critical reputation, contextualize her work in literary movements, and consider her four novels, as well as the film based on Like Water for Chocolate.

Suggested by Sandy Avila, Research & Information Services

[Mouthful of Birds: stories](#) by Samanta Schweblin

The brilliant stories burrow their way into your psyche and don't let go. Samanta Schweblin haunts and mesmerizes in this extraordinary collection featuring women on the edge, men turned upside down, the natural world at odds with reality. We think life is one way, but often, it's not -- our expectations for how people act, love, fear can all be upended.

Suggested by Megan Haught, Student Learning & Engagement/Research & Information Services

[Plenos Poderes](#) by Pablo Neruda

Widely held as one of the most profoundly influential of Latin-American writers, Nobel Prize winner Pablo Neruda regarded this collection as a particular favorite. These poems, which came out of a most fruitful period of his life, claim a place in any selection of Neruda's greatest work.

Suggested by Sandy Avila, Research & Information Services

[The House of Broken Angels](#) by Luis Alberto Urrea

In his final days, beloved and ailing patriarch Miguel Angel de La Cruz, affectionately called Big Angel, has summoned his entire clan for one last legendary birthday party. But as the party approaches, his mother, nearly one hundred, dies, transforming the weekend into a farewell doubleheader. Among the guests is Big Angel's half brother, known as Little Angel, who must reckon with the truth that although he shares a father with his siblings, he has not, as a half gringo, shared a life.

Suggested by Rachel Mulvihill, Downtown

[The Poet X](#) by Elizabeth Acevedo

Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do

the talking. But Xiomara has plenty she wants to say, and she pours her frustration onto the pages of a leather notebook, reciting the words to herself like prayers - especially after she catches feelings for a boy in her bio class. With Mami's determination to force her daughter to obey the laws of the church, Xiomara understands that her thoughts are best kept to herself. When she is invited to join her school's slam poetry club, she knows that she could never get around Mami's rules to attend, much less speak her words out loud. But still, she can't stop thinking about performing her poems. Because in spite of a world that may not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to be silent.
Suggested by Amy Dovydaitis, Curriculum Materials Center

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