LATINA/O STUDIES

Overview and Contact Information

The Latina/o Studies minor provides an interdisciplinary exploration of the history, culture, and experiences of Latinas/os in the United States. With a presence in the Americas spanning seven centuries, Latinas/os are the largest "minority" in the U.S. and reflect a cultural complexity that includes mode of incorporation to the U.S., cultural productions, political agency, and heterogeneous racial, gender, sexual, class backgrounds and citizenship statuses. Courses in Latina/o Studies place a premium on critical thinking, comparative analyses, and historical and contemporary engagement with society.

Contact Information
Nieves Romero-Díaz, Chair
Cara Lapenas, Academic Department Coordinator
105 Ciruti Language Center
413-538-2347
https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/spanish/latina/o-studies-us

Learning Goals

The three areas of the Spanish, Latina/o/x and Latin American Studies department share the following common learning goals:

- Recognize, examine, and interrogate the past, current state, and emerging realities and histories of the societies and cultures of Latin America, Spain, the Caribbean, and the US Latina/o/x population.
- Describe and interpret the character of their relations with each other and with the wider world.
- Distinguish among and employ multi/interdisciplinary, transnational, and cross-border perspectives.
- Analyze critically and articulate with logical arguments the diverse configurations and varying experiences of (classic, post, and neo) colonialism and diaspora in and among the regions, nations, and populations of our concern.
- Develop the ability to write, read, speak, and conduct research in the primary languages of our area(s) of coverage, particularly English and Spanish.
- Creatively contribute to the advancement and dissemination of knowledge through different modalities individually and collectively.
- Engage with and maintain a sustained contact with the local Latina/o/x communities.

Faculty

This area of study is administered by the Department of Spanish, Latina/o, and Latin American Studies:
Lowell Gudmundson, Professor of Latin American Studies and History, Teaching Spring Only
Dorothy Knight-Mosby, Professor of Spanish; Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty
Nieves Romero-Díaz, Professor of Spanish on the Alumnae Foundation
Justin Crumbaugh, Associate Professor of Spanish, Latina/o and Latin American Studies, On Leave 2020-2021

Requirements for the Minor

A minimum of 20 credits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LATST-180</td>
<td>Introduction to Latina/o Studies: Structural Inequalities</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>At least one Latina/o Studies course at the 300 level</td>
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<td>Three other Latina/o Studies courses at the 200 or 300 level</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>Total Credits</td>
<td>20</td>
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Additional Specifications

- At least one course must include a Community-Based Learning component.
- Students are encouraged to take Latina/o Studies courses offered across the Five Colleges, per department faculty approval.
- Four Independent Study credits may be included in the minor (LATST-295, LATST-395).
- Courses in a student’s major field may not be used to fulfill the minimum requirements of the minor. (For example, a Latin American Studies major may not count a Latina/o Studies course towards both the major and the Latina/o Studies minor.)

David Hernández, Associate Professor of Spanish, Latina/o, Latin American Studies; SAW Faculty Director
Adriana Pitetta, Assistant Professor of Spanish
Vanessa Rosa, Class of 1929 Dr. Virginia Apgar Assistant Professor of Latina/o Studies, On Leave 2020-2021
Esther Castro, Senior Lecturer in Spanish; Spanish Language Program Director
Dimaris Barrios-Beltrán, Visiting Language Instructor in Spanish
Flávia Cunha, Language Instructor in Spanish
Elena García Frazier, Language Instructor in Spanish
Antonio Illescas, Language Instructor in Spanish
Megan Saltzman, Visiting Associate Professor of Spanish
Raquel Madrigal, Mount Holyoke Fellow and Visiting Lecturer in Spanish, Latina/o and Latin American Studies
Joel Arce, Visiting Instructor in Spanish, Latina/o and Latin American Studies; UMass Teaching Associate

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Course Offerings

LATST-180 Introduction to Latina/o Studies: Structural Inequalities
Fall. Credits: 4
The course provides an overview of current and past social conditions of Latinas and Latinos within the U.S. We will address laws, policies and institutions that shape the complexity of Latinas/os' social location and serve as critical sites of resistance. The course addresses legal constructions of race and gender, nomenclature, border politics, public health, education, and labor. We will consider the critical intersections of class, gender and sexuality as well as inequality in relation to other persons of color. Students will develop a firm sense of the importance and breadth of the Latina/o political agenda and acquire skills to think across social issues.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives

LATST-250 Special Topics in Latina/o Studies

LATST-250AN Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'Aliens, Anti-Citizens, and Identities'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
The course will examine marginal and "alien" citizenship statuses in the United States. Whereas the Declaration of Independence asserts that "all men are created equal," we will interrogate that statement by studying identities and personages that are explicitly treated unequally in the law and society. From immigrants to gang members, from tipped workers to queer persons, from presumed terrorists to disenfranchised ex-cons, we will examine the deliberate incorporation and maintenance of people in society into lower classes and statuses.
Crosslisted as: CST-249AN
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
D. Hernández
Notes: This class will be jointly taught with students from Holyoke Community College (HCC). Please reserve one hour before and after class time for travel to and from HCC for part of the semester. MHC will provide transportation.

LATST-250PB Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'The Politics of Borders'
Fall. Credits: 4
This course examines the landscape of American theater and its relationship to the politics of diversity in the United States. We will study the theater work of Latina/os in the U.S. to broaden our understanding of multicultural theater. In addition to studying dramatic texts, we will consider the political implications of the work and its relationship to social activism. We will look at theater companies whose primary missions are to produce Latino/a theater and at the history of the representation of Latinos on stage in this country. We will draw upon theory from fields such as cultural studies, feminist studies and dramatic criticism as we think and write about the creative work in this course.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
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LATST-250LR Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'Latina/o/x Urbanism'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course examines the relationship between the urban and Latina/o/x placemaking, identities and culture(s). Urban scholars have long studied the "evolving" city-this course explores the changing city in relation to Latina/o/x populations and urban social change movements. We examine historical and contemporary conditions and cover a broad range of topics including: urbanization, urban planning, "new urbanism," placemaking, gentrification, migration/immigration, segregation, and more. The readings in this course aim to provoke a consideration of the dynamic between space and place, as well as how urban life, culture, and form impacts Latina/o/x populations and vice versa.
Crosslisted as: CST-249LR
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
V. Rosa

LATST-250MT Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'Multicultural Theater and Latina/o Experience'
Spring. Credits: 4
This course examines the landscape of American theater and its relationship to the politics of diversity in the United States. We will study the theater work of Latina/os in the U.S. to broaden our understanding of multicultural theater. In addition to studying dramatic texts, we will consider the political implications of the work and its relationship to social activism. We will look at theater companies whose primary missions are to produce Latino/a theater and at the history of the representation of Latinos on stage in this country. We will draw upon theory from fields such as cultural studies, feminist studies and dramatic criticism as we think and write about the creative work in this course.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
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LATST-250CR Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'Critical Latinx/Indigenieties'
Fall. Credits: 4
As an evolving field, Latina/o Studies has begun to critically and comparatively question the terms of Indigenity in relation to Native communities in the U.S. land mass. This course seeks to understand the emergence of critical Latinx/Indigenous perspectives as they relate to Latinas/os/xes in the United States, and their uneven connections to various transnational forms of Indigeneity rooted in ancestral land-based ties in the United States, Mexico, and Central and South America. We will examine current discussions of Chicanidad, migrant Indigeneity, colonialisms, empire, and Indigenous sovereignty.
Crosslisted as: GNDST-204CR
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Community-Based Learning, Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
R. Gonzalez Madrigal
LATST-250RP Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'Race, Racism, and Power'
Fall. Credits: 4
This course analyzes the concepts of race and racism from an interdisciplinary perspective, with focus on Latinas/os/x in the United States. It explores the sociocultural, political, economic, and historical forces that interact with each other in the production of racial categories and racial "difference." In particular, we focus on racial ideologies, racial formation theory, and processes of racialization, as well as the relationship between race and ethnicity. The course examines racial inequality from a historical perspective and investigates how racial categories evolve and form across contexts. The analysis that develops will ultimately allow us to think rigorously about social inequality, resistance and liberation.
Crosslisted as: CST-249RP, GNDST-204RP
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
J. Arce

Spring. Credits: 4
This course introduces students to the key concepts and central questions informing the field of Ethnic Studies in K-12 educational settings. Despite the radical origins of Ethnic Studies, the field must navigate mainstream education reform efforts, which continues to rely on dominant conceptualizations of literacy and knowledge as well as acritical visions for nation-building and global citizenship. The course will explore the socio-political conditions that underscore the urgency for Ethnic Studies and outline the pedagogical orientation of Ethnic Studies programs. It also carves a space for reflection on the role that educators and teacher-activists can play in the movement to transform K-12 schools.
Crosslisted as: EDUST-250TH
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
J. Arce

LATST-295 Independent Study
Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 4
The department
Instructor permission required.

LATST-350 Special Topics in Latina/o Studies

LATST-350AC Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'Latina/o/x Studies in Action'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
Latina/o/x Studies in Action explores university/college-community partnerships and civic engagement with/in Latina/o/x communities in the United States. Drawing from the field of Latina/o/x Studies, the course explores and interrogates "traditional" academic understandings of knowledge production, research, and service learning. Focusing on questions of power, inequality, and social change, this course will examine how university/community partnerships can be based on reciprocity, exchange, and the centering of community assets, needs, and voices.
Crosslisted as: CST-349AC
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Community-Based Learning
V. Rosa

LATST-350FM Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'Latina Feminism(s)'
Fall. Credits: 4
What is Latina Feminism? How does it differ from and/or intersect with "other" feminisms? In this seminar, we will explore the relationship between Latina feminist theory, knowledge production, and social change in the United States. This interdisciplinary course explores Latina feminism in relation to methodology and epistemology through a historical lens. This will help us to better understand how Latina feminist approaches can inform our research questions, allow us to analyze women's experiences and women's history, and challenge patriarchy and gender inequality. We will explore topics related to knowledge production, philosophies of the "self," positionality, inequality, the body, reproductive justice, representation, and community. Our approach in this class will employ an intersectional approach to feminist theory that understands the interconnectedness between multiple forms of oppression, including race, class, sexuality, and ability. Our goal is to develop a robust understanding of how Latina feminist methodologies and epistemologies can be tools for social change.
Crosslisted as: GNDST-333FM, CST-349FM
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
R. Madrigal
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors

LATST-350MC Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'Latinas/os/x and Housing: Mi Casa Is Not Su Casa'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
Housing is closely tied to quality of life and the health of neighborhoods and communities. As a main goal of the "American Dream," homeownership has important significance on an individual and societal level. For immigrants, this goal is often out of reach as a result of racism and discriminatory housing policies. This interdisciplinary seminar explores Latinas/os/x relationship to housing and homeownership by examining: 1. the history of housing policy in the United States; 2. national identity, assimilation, and housing; and 3. discriminatory housing policies/programs and housing inequality. We explore topics including immigration, housing policy, public housing, segregation, gentrification, the suburbs, homelessness, eviction, affordability, and community building. Exploring this range of topics will help us develop a clearer understanding of why housing is one of the most pressing issues for Latinas/os/x today.
Crosslisted as: CST-349MC, GNDST-333MC
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Community-Based Learning, Speaking-Intensive
V. Rosa
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Notes: This course will be linked with Professor Preston Smith’s Social Housing course (POLIT-254). Students from both courses will share a classroom for speakers and films. They will also jointly engage in community-based research on affordable housing in communities in the Pioneer Valley.
LATST-350VN Special Topics in Latin American Studies: ‘Visualizing Immigrant Narratives: Migration in Film’

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4

This course offers an interrogation of overt and embedded narratives of migrants and the migration process in popular and documentary film, paying specific attention to cinematic representations of non-citizen bodies confronting migration, deportation, labor, acculturation, and anti-immigrant hysteria. Film screenings and class discussions comprise the interpretative lens through which students will examine the aesthetic, cultural, economic, gendered, historical, political, racial and sexual dimensions of cultural texts. The course is supplemented with readings about immigration policies and histories.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

D. Hernández

LATST-360 Latina/o Immigration

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4

The course provides an historical and topical overview of Latina/o migration to the United States. We will examine the economic, political, and social antecedents to Latin American migration, and the historical impact of the migration process in the U.S. Considering migration from Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean, we will discuss the social construction of race, the gendered nature of migration, migrant labor struggles, Latin American-U.S. Latino relations, immigration policy, and border life and enforcement. Notions of citizenship, race, class, gender, and sexuality will be central to our understanding of the complexity at work in the migration process.

Crosslisted as: GNDST-333UU, CST-349UU

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives

Other Attribute(s): Community-Based Learning

R. Madrigal

Notes: Community-based learning is optional in this class.

LATST-365 Disposable People: A History of Deportation

Spring. Credits: 4

Taught in English, the course explores comparative racial and ethnic politics in the U.S. during the 20th century. We will analyze the creation and maintenance of structural inequalities through laws and policies targeted at persons of color in the areas of healthcare, transportation, immigration, labor, racial segregation, and education. Through readings, lectures and films, we will discuss critical histories of community struggle against social inequality, registering the central impact that race, class, gender, sexuality, and citizenship have had on efforts toward social justice. The course also offers an optional Community-Based Learning (CBL) component.

Crosslisted as: CST-349HD

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives

Other Attribute(s): Community-Based Learning

D. Hernández

LATST-395 Independent Study

Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 4

The department

Instructor permission required.