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

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

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
Dorothy Knight-Mosby, Professor of Spanish
Nieves Romero-Díaz, Professor of Spanish on the Alumnae Foundation, On Leave 2019-2020
Justin Crumbaugh, Associate Professor of Spanish, Latina/o and Latin American Studies
David Hernández, Associate Professor of Spanish, Latina/o, Latin American Studies, Teaching Fall Only
Adriana Pitetta, Assistant Professor of Spanish
Vanessa Rosa, Assistant Professor of Latina/o Studies
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

Requirements for the Minor

A minimum of 20 credits:

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

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.)

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 citizenship, 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-182 Introduction to Latinx History
Fall. Credits: 4
Introduction to Latinx History is a general and broad survey of the historical and cultural experiences of Latinx in the United States from conquest to the present. Through readings, lectures, film/documentaries, and class discussion we will examine the complex intersections between race/ethnicity, gender, sexuality and other social dimensions, such as age, education, language, and citizenship within the varied histories of the Latinx community. Studying Latinx history provides a deeper understanding of the social, economic, cultural, and political dimensions of U.S. history. By the end of the course, there will be no doubt that Latinx history is U.S. history.
Crosslisted as: HIST-182LX
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
S. Huezo
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-250CA Topics in the Recent History of the United States: 'Voices of the Central American Diaspora'
Fall. Credits: 4
Guatemalan scholar Arturo Arias argues that Central American communities in the U.S. have lived on the murky margins of Mexican-Americans and other larger Latinx groups. This course focuses on diasporic U.S. Central Americans to understand this invisibility and create spaces of visibility. By putting Central American immigrants and their children's voices at the forefront of our discussions, we will gain a critical understanding of the socio-political structures that inhibit ideas of belonging in the U.S. while exploring how this diasporic community has established and maintained roots in the both U.S. and Central America.
Crosslisted as: HIST-283CA
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
S. Huezo

LATST-250LR Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'Latina/o/x Urbanism'
Fall. 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-250PB Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'The Politics of Borders'
Spring. Credits: 4
This course interrogates the normative construction and meaning of nation-state borders. We do so from the United States/Mexico border, and utilize a comparative approach, relating Latinx Studies to critical Indigenous feminist perspectives. While focused mainly on the United States landmass the course also critically foregrounds Native/Indigenous land and sovereignty to re-conceptualize the United States as a settler colonial, imperial state. Utilizing the knowledges of Latinx and Indigenous thinkers, students will trace the construction of modern borders and will productively re-frame assumptions around immigration/migration, citizenship, nationalism and indigeneity/Indigeneity.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
R. Gonzalez Madrigal
Restrictions: This course is limited to first-years, sophomores, and juniors

LATST-250SP Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'Scholarly Pathways: Research, College Achievement and Post-Baccalaureate Futures'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course demystifies college by focusing on three areas: 1) benefits of undergraduate research, 2) how to capitalize on the college experience, and 3) how to prepare for post-baccalaureate opportunities. Specifically, this course will teach students the elements of a research proposal by guiding them with original research. Moreover, students will learn strategies to thrive as undergraduates by exploring interests as means to finding their passion. In addition, this course will decipher the graduate/professional school application process. The overall goal of this course is to encourage and empower students to take their education and pre-professional experience into their own hands and equip them with the necessary tools to be successful.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
A. Soltero López
LATST-250YE Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'The Undocumented Latina/o Youth Experience: Struggles, Resiliency, and Futures'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course provides an overview of the immigrant rights movement, emphasizing diverse undocumented Latina/o students throughout the K20 pipeline. Readings and discussions will address the socio-political construction of "illegality"; critically examine the creation and implementation of pro- and anti-immigrant legislation, particularly policies that impact undocumented students; survey the challenges and resiliency of the undocumented youth movement as it pertains to education, social mobility, and health; and deconstruct the legislative, political, economic, and cultural factors that impact the undocumented community in the U.S.
Crosslisted as: CST-249YE
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
A. Soltero López

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

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/college-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
V. Rosa
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'
Spring. 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 significant importance 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-350RT Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'Critical Race Theory in Education'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course focuses on Critical Race Theory, its history and application in the field of Education. Through course readings and assignments, students will explore and discuss key issues such as race/racism, class/classism, gender/sexism among other "isms" and how they impact the teaching and learning experiences of students of color. This course is specifically designed to challenge students and make them think critically about their multiple identities, privileges and challenges as students and future leaders. The goal is gain a critical understanding of the connection between theory, research, and practice in order to better understand educational structures, processes, and discourses.
Crosslisted as: CST-349RT
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
A. Soltero López
Notes: Students interested in careers within Education are highly encouraged to enroll.

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
Spring. 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-333UJ, CST-349UJ
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
Not Scheduled for This Year. 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.
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.