LATINA AND LATINO STUDIES

latinstudies.northwestern.edu

Latina and Latino Studies focuses on the historic and contemporary circumstances that shape Latina and Latino lives, spaces, subjectivities, and politics in the United States. This field encompasses diverse communities and nationalities while also offering critical attention to transnational dynamics or to how Latinas and Latinos relate and connect to cultural or geographical origins across the Americas. Similar to other race/ethnic studies fields, Latina and Latino Studies has origins outside of universities. To a large extent, it originated in social movements led by organizers, thinkers, artists, students, workers and teachers who were opposed to legacies of racial injustice, ethnic prejudice, exploitation, criminalization and neglect. Latina and Latino Studies represents the academic branch of this dynamic political culture. As an interdisciplinary field, it sustains this activist impulse by honoring the diverse mediums and methods through which Latinas and Latinos have advocated for social justice and dignity. Latina and Latino Studies produces ways of knowing and seeing that challenge normative and stereotypical representations of Latinas and Latinos in U.S. society. In solidarity with other race/ethnic studies interdisciplines, Latina and Latino Studies unsettles traditional and Eurocentric modes of knowledge production in order to recuperate, speculate and illuminate other possible worlds. Our courses particularly explore: political economies, decolonial thought, expressive cultures, histories, inter- and intra-group dynamics, social movements, race and racialization, critical analysis of gender and sexuality, transnational processes, electoral politics, indigeneity and settler colonialism, slavery and anti-blackness, nepantla and border thought, and critical interrogations of heteropatriarchy.

Majors and minors meet with the Advisor for advising, including review and approval of course selections and review of progress toward timely completion of the major or minor.

Programs of Study


LATINO 101-6 First-Year Seminar (1 Unit) Open to first-year students in Weinberg College. WCAS First-Year Seminar

LATINO 201-0 Introduction to Latina and Latino Studies (1 Unit) Introduction to major themes and debates shaping US Latina/o communities, such as history of colonization, diverse ethnicities, debates on immigration, racialization, assimilation, and cultural resistance. 


LATINO 203-0 Introduction to Latina & Latino Cultural Studies (1 Unit) Introduction to representations of identity and difference through literary theories and cultural studies. Draws on diverse cultural texts such as literature, popular music, folklore, journalism, media, visual culture, and performance arts. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

LATINO 218-0 Latina & Latino History (1 Unit) History of Latinas/os in the United States and in the context of US-Latin American relations from the 18th century to the present. HISTORY 218-0 and LATINO 218-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses. Historical Studies Distro Area

LATINO 222-0 Latina & Latino Youth in U.S. Cities (1 Unit) Cultural, social, and political contexts that shape the lives of Latina/o youth in US cities, as well as Latina/o youths’ ideas of self-identity and civic engagement. Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area

LATINO 277-0 Introduction to Latina and Latino Literature (1 Unit) Survey of major writers and movements from Spanish colonial era to the present, covering a range of genres and ethnicities. Taught with ENGLISH 277-0 and SPANISH 277-0; may receive credit for only 1 of these courses. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

LATINO 342-0 Latina and Latino Social Movements (1 Unit) Histories and ideologies of various US Latina/o social movements. Draws upon historical, ethnographic, autobiographical, and documentary accounts.


LATINO 391-0 Topics in Latina and Latino History (1 Unit) Historical approach to US Latina/o lives and communities, such as history of Latina/o Chicago, labor history, and immigration. Content varies; may be repeated for credit with different topic.

Historical Studies Distro Area

LATINO 392-0 Topics in Latina and Latino Social and Political Issues (1 Unit) Social and political issues affecting US Latina/o communities. May include quantitative or qualitative methods, or both. Topics may include electoral politics, immigration, and race and demography.


LATINO 393-0 Topics in Latina and Latino Text and Representation (1 Unit) The politics of representation in mainstream and Latina/o media, literature, visual culture, popular music, and performance arts. Content varies; may be repeated for credit with different topic.

Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

LATINO 395-0 Capstone Seminar in Latina & Latino Studies (1-3 Units) Advanced course synthesizing the state of current research. Questions the boundaries of Latina/o studies. Contextualizes research and topics in relation to other ethnic studies, gender/queer studies, and diaspora studies. Primarily for majors and graduate students. Prerequisite: consent of the program director.

LATINO 399-0 Independent Study in Latina and Latino Studies (1 Unit) Reading, research, and/or tutorials for students pursuing projects outside the context of regularly offered courses. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.