Latina/o/x Studies

Interim Director, Division of Interdisciplinary Programs
• Kristy Nabhan-Warren

Director, Latina/o/x Studies
• Rene R. Rocha (Interdisciplinary Programs/Political Science)

Associate Director, Latina/o/x Studies
• Karmen Berger

Undergraduate minor: Latina/o/x Studies
Faculty: https://latinxstudies.uiowa.edu/people
Website: https://latinxstudies.uiowa.edu/

Latina/o/x studies offers an interdisciplinary perspective on the history, culture, politics, and experiences of the Latina/o/x population in the United States. This population is now the largest minority group in the United States, and by the year 2060, it is expected that approximately one third of the U.S. population will be Latina/o/x. Courses in Latina/o/x studies introduce the peoples who have had a long-term presence in the United States and in the Midwest and who are increasingly neighbors, classmates, and coworkers.

The Latina/o/x studies minor helps to prepare undergraduates for careers in medicine, public health, social work, business, education, and the arts, and to respond to the changing demographics of the United States.

Latina/o/x studies is one of the academic units in the Division of Interdisciplinary Programs.

Cocurricular Activities

Latino Native American Cultural Center
Latina/o/x studies collaborates with the Latino Native American Cultural Center (LNACC). LNACC was founded in 1971 and is the home to important University of Iowa student organizations which sponsor conferences, pow-wows, study groups and educational programs.

Unidos Living Learning Community
Latina/o/x studies works with University Housing and Dining to support the Unidos Living Learning Community. Founded in 2020, Unidos welcomes all Latinx-identifying students and those who seek to learn and engage more in the cultural background. Unidos members are required to enroll in a Latina/o/x studies course which introduces them to the minor.

Community Engagement

In addition to their instructional activity, Latina/o/x studies faculty participate in a range of public programming activities each semester, such as film series, conferences, round table discussions, and lectures. Most recently, Latina/o/x studies faculty have contributed to events for Latinx/a/o Heritage Month, the Latinx Excellence in the Midwest Conference, and the “Imagining Latinidades” Mellon Sawyer Seminar.

Programs

Undergraduate Program of Study Minor
• Minor in Latina/o/x Studies

Courses

Latina/o/x Studies Courses

LATS:1000 First-Year Seminar 1 s.h.
Small discussion class taught by a faculty member; topics chosen by instructor; may include outside activities (e.g., films, lectures, performances, readings, field trips). Requirements: first- or second-semester standing.

LATS:1700 Latina/o/x Literature in the United States 3 s.h.
Introduction to growing cultural production of varied Latina/o/x communities (e.g., Chicano, Puerto Rican American/ Nuyorican, Cuban American) that have a strong presence in the United States; recent cultural production from borderland transcultural spaces with physical, cultural, economic, political, and mythical elements; visions of the United States from contemporary Latin American writers who recently have become U.S. residents. Taught in English. GE: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; Values and Culture. Same as SPAN:1700.

LATS:1765 U.S. Latina/o/x Religions 3 s.h.
Beliefs and practices of U.S. Latina/o/x, ways that their beliefs and practices are unique and where they overlap with mainstream U.S. society; beliefs, symbols, and practices among U.S. Latina/o/x on national and local level; field visits to local churches and religious sites; class visitors share insights. Same as RELS:1765.

LATS:1898 Introduction to Latina/o/x Communication and Culture 3 s.h.
Introduction to fundamentals of communication by and about Latina/o/x in the U.S.; Latina/o/x as one of the fastest growing demographics; how Latina/o/x history, politics, and culture remain little understood despite a longstanding and growing presence in Iowa and across the nation; historical orientation; Latina/o/x social movement and protest (e.g., Chicana/o/x movements, Young Lords Organization), institutional discourses (e.g., congressional, presidential, legal discourses), and Latina/o/x in popular culture (film, television, music, sports). GE: Diversity and Inclusion. Same as COMM:1898.

LATS:2280 Introduction to Latina/o/x Studies 3 s.h.
Introduction to field of Latina/o/x studies through interdisciplinary readings from literature, history, sociology, political science, urban studies, and anthropology; commonalities and differences among long-standing Latina/o/x populations (i.e., Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, Cuban Americans); challenges faced by newer arrivals (i.e., Dominican Americans, Salvadoran Americans, Guatemalan Americans, Central and South American immigrants). Taught in English. GE: Diversity and Inclusion. Same as HIST:2280, SPAN:2280.
LATS:2400 Health Disparities and Intersectionality with U.S. Latina/o/x Peoples 3 s.h.
Exploration of intersectionality—related to gender, immigration status, and more—and U.S. health disparities, particularly as they impact U.S. Latina/o/x peoples; Latina/o/x as a heterogeneous group originating from a variety of countries, with families that may have mixed immigration, education, class, and/or nationality status; public health approaches and concepts; intersectionality, social determinants of health, the Social Ecological Model, Ecosocial Theory, and Critical Race Theory; examination of various levels of racism, sexism, and other forms of intersectional discrimination. Same as CPH:2240, GWSS:2400.

LATS:3104 Immigration Politics 3 s.h.
United States immigration policy and political consequences of Latina/o/x population growth; contrast of political experiences of Latina/o/x with groups and ideals of democratic political systems; analyses of past immigration policies; studies of public opinion, voter turnout, and campaign tactics. Same as LAS:3104, POLI:3104.

LATS:3217 Latina/o/x Immigration 3 s.h.
Immigration experiences of people arriving in the United States from other regions of the Americas (e.g., Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, South America); what has fueled immigration—social, political, and economic developments in the United States and other nations; territorial conquest, colonialism, real and imagined borders, chain migration, formation of immigrant communities, acculturation, circular migration, social networks; how migration restructures gender relations; immigrant communities and pan-Latina/o/x identity in the United States. Same as HIST:3217, LAS:3217.

LATS:3400 Chicano Literature and Culture 3 s.h.
Recent fiction and poetry by Chicano and Chicana writers; readings in Spanish and English. Taught in English. Requirements: satisfaction of GE CLAS Core Interpretation of Literature, or LATS:2280 or SPAN:2280 or HIST:2280. Same as SPAN:3400.

LATS:3410 Undocumented America: Citizenship, Race, and Immigration 3 s.h.
Examination of how literature and culture responds to and rearticulates culture, history, legal logic, and economic parameters that frame who is "illegal" and "illegal" and how undocumented immigrants document and contest their lack of rights; how designations of immigrant's illegal or undocumented status depend on and maintain U.S. discourse about race and ethnicity. Same as AMST:3410.

LATS:3415 Latina/o/x Protest, Movement, Resistance 3 s.h.
Examination of history, form, and function of protest, social movement, and resistance by Latina/o/x peoples in the United States; wide historical and regional scope, generally including exemplars such as the Young Lords, Chicana/o/x Movement, United Farm Workers, and local activism at the University of Iowa.

LATS:3420 Latinas/os/x and the Law 3 s.h.
Introduction and survey of Latina/o/x legal history; topics include segregation, educational rights, immigration, voting rights, citizenship, and the criminal justice system. Same as AMST:3420, POLI:3427, SJUS:3420.