

Latina/o Studies

FEATURED COURSES Fall 2019

LATINOAM 213: Intro to Latinx Studies

4 Credits

Monday, Wednesday 2:30-4:00

This class offers such skills and information for students interested in careers in health, education, law, media, business, and politics. It offers an interdisciplinary and practical approach to the study of Mexican-American (Chicana/o or Chicana/x), Puerto Rican, Cuban-American, Dominican-American, Central American-American, and other U.S. Latin American communities in the United States. Students understand not only the interconnections among these diverse communities but also the differences that sometimes divide them.

LATINOAM 301.001: Literature of the Undocumented

3 Credits

Tuesday, Thursday 10:00-11:30

This class is about the politics and literature of visibility in narratives that reveal undocumented lives. The texts we will study illuminate the people and circumstances behind undocumented immigration, the policies that make documentation precarious and out of reach, and the sweeping generalizations and dehumanization behind terms like “illegal alien.”

LATINOAM 301.002: Day I Met El Chapo

3 Credits

Monday, Wednesday 11:30-1:00

The point of departure for this course is the documentary series *The Day I Met El Chapo*, which is representative of Netflix’s heavy reliance on narco-trafficking for various genres of programming. The course is intended to provide a historical and media industrial context for the recent explosion of such productions, including the creation and distribution of media between the U.S. and Latin America; narco cinema and the Mexican film industry; gender, class, race, and transnational stardom; visualizations of the U.S/Mexico border; drug trafficking narratives; the history of Latina/o media representation; the historical and contemporary immigration debate; and the digital and industrial landscape that has fostered the proliferation of narco-related content.

LATINOAM 311.001: Latina/o Theatre for Social Change

3 Credits

Tuesday, Thursday 1:00-2:30

This course follows the history of a select number of U.S. Latina/o and Latin American paradigms of using theatre for social change. Students in this class will learn about Augusto Boal’s *Theatre of the Oppressed*, the actos of the Chicana/o Movement, guerilla theatre in forms used throughout Latin America, and activist U.S. Latina/o plays in mainstream theatres. Students in this course will develop their own actos or guerilla theatre skits at the end of the class and hold performances (hopefully both on campus and in a community-oriented venue) at the end of the semester.

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LATINOAM 313: Cuba and its Diaspora

3 Credits

Tuesday 1:00-4:00

This course examines Cuban history, literature, and culture since the Revolution, both on the island and in the United States diaspora. In political and cultural essays, personal narratives, fiction, poetry, drama, visual art, music, and film, we will seek a comprehensive and diverse view of how Cubans on the island and Cubans in the diaspora understand their situation as people of the same nation divided for fifty years by the Cold War, revolution, and exile.

LATINOAM 404: Latina/os in the U.S.

3 Credits

Tuesday, Thursday 2:30-4:00

In this course, we consider some of the major groups: Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, Central Americans, Venezuelans, Colombians. We examine their contrasting social characteristics (social class of origin, race/ethnicity, gender, legal status) that are the result of their different reasons for migration; different processes of incorporation; and different social outcomes in the U. S. We particularly look at the various histories that led them to come to the U.S., the impact the legal system had on their processes of incorporation (as undocumented migrants vs. refugees vs. professional migrants), and the opportunities available to them in various regions of the country during the historical moment when they arrived in the U.S. "

LATINOAM 420: Latin American Film Studies

3 Credits

Monday, Wednesday 2:30- 4:00

This class is a study of Latin American movies, short novels, short stories, and poetry, focusing on gender, race and state violence. The focus will be on the cinematographic texts, but the short novels and short stories will allow us to better understand state violence and/or terrorism and its relationship with gender and race discrimination. We will analyze the films in relation to questions of history, gender, race, social and political issues and national subjectivities. Through filmic, cultural and theoretical readings on film and culture, the class will examine the role of film and literature in history and society.

LATINOAM 440: Lit and Culture of Borderlands

3 Credits

Monday, Wednesday 1:00-2:30

This course is an exploration of Latinx literature and culture in the United States, with a special focus on the Chicana or Mexican-American, Nuyorican/Puerto Rican, Dominican-American, Cuban-American, and Central American-American experience. In this class, we will examine film, literature, music, performance, and video, and see the use of Spanish, English, Spanglish, Pachuco Caló, and other language varieties, and how language proficiency affects the social experience. Practices such as code-switching will receive particular attention. Analysis will focus on the role of age, class, ethnicity, family, gender, generational differences, geographical location, historical period, immigrant status, place of birth, race, and sexual orientation as these relate to linguistic usage in the works studied, and on the specific effects and uses of language in cultural productions.