1. Title of Course and Course Number

Latinas and Latinos in the United States (WGS 202; LAS 202)

2. Course Description

This course will analyze the historical and contemporary experiences of Latinos and Latinas in the United States. Latina/os in the U.S. are the largest minority group and constitute 16% of the nation’s total population. The course will use a gendered perspective to examine the social, economic, political and cultural conditions that have shaped the lives of Latinas and Latinos in U.S. history and society. It will explore the diversity of Latina/os in the United States, by drawing on the comparative histories of Chicanos and Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Cubans, and Central and South Americans to understand how different groups negotiate their presence in this country. Emphasis will be placed on broader issues such as Latina/o identity and its relationship to intersecting categories of class, race/ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and language.

3. Course Prerequisites

None

4. Course Objectives

a.) To develop an understanding of Latina/o diversity in the United States by looking at the distinct national origin of populations under the umbrella term of Latino/a.

b.) To explain the common and particular themes that contribute to the categorization of Latina/os as a single ethnoracial group.

c). To understand the diversity of Latino/as’ gendered experiences through the examination of cross-border realities and issues facing the Latina/o population today.

d.) To identify major social, economic and political trends affecting the Latina/o population in the United States.

e). To critically examine the extent to which Latina/os constitute a marginalized population.
f.) To prepare students for effective citizenship in today’s society.

5. **Student Learning Outcomes**

Students will be able to:

a) Recognize the historical, political, social, economic, and cultural diversity of the single largest ethnic population in the United States and its significant contribution to U.S. society (Area SLO #4.1)

b) Analyze the history of U.S.-Latin American relations to understand the connection to past and contemporary dynamics of immigration and immigration policy that have shaped the inclusion and exclusion in U.S. society of the various groups that comprise the Latina/o population. (Area SLO #4.2)

c) Articulate the struggles by Latinas and Latinos for political, economic, social, and cultural equality in the U.S. (Area SLO #4.3)

d) Identify the politics of sex, gender, race and class as intersecting systems of oppression within the Latina/o community. (Area SLO #4.4)

e) Promote the importance of validating equal political, economic and social rights to the Latina/o population as a tool to achieve equality and justice in U.S. society (Area SLO #4.5)

6. **Topical Outline for Course Content**

I. Demographics of the Latina/o population

II. Conquest, colonialism, and politics

III. Ethnic labels and the construction of Latina/o identity: The Gendered “Other”

IV. The formation of Latina/o communities in the United States: An overview

   Borderlands: Mexicans and Chicanas/os

   Citizens yet “Foreigners”: Puerto Ricans

   The Politics of Exile: Cuban Americans

   Transnational belonging?: Dominican Americans

   Temporary Protected Status: Central Americans:

   The Other Latin Americans: South Americans

V. The Latino/a Family: Gender and Sexuality

   Gender Ideology: Machismo and Marianismo
Domestic Violence against Latinas
Latina Sexuality: Reproduction and Fertility

VI. Gender and Class Disparity in Latina/o Education

VIII. Bilingualism vs. English only: Language Rights in the United States
IX. Legal vs. Undocumented Status: Engendering Immigration
X. Gendered Patterns in the Labor Market
XI. Latino/a Rights and Justice in the United States: Gendered Trends and Numbers
XII. Testimonios
   The Power of Women’s Words
   Queer Latino Representation and Shame

XII. Cultural Diversity and Latina/o Representations in the Media

7. Guidelines/Suggestions for Teaching Methods and Student Learning Activities
   Lectures
   Group discussions
   Individual and group projects
   Films
   Guest speakers
   Service learning projects

8. Guidelines/Suggestions for Methods of Student Evaluation
   1. UCC Area SLO # 4a will be evaluated by class participation, exams, essays, and/or response papers
   2. UCC Area SLO #4b will be evaluated by informal and formal writing assignments and research papers
   3. UCC Area SLO #4c will be evaluated by group projects, debates, discussion boards, and essays
   4. UCC Area SLO #4d will be evaluated by class discussions, exams, research papers and service learning projects
9. Suggested Readings, Texts, Objects of Study


10. Bibliography of Supportive Texts and Other Materials


Falconi, Jose Luis and Jose Antonio Mazzotti, eds. 2008. The Other Latinos: Central and South Americans in the United States. David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies.


11. Preparer’s Name and Date

Elena Sabogal
February 15, 2011
12. Original Department Approval Date: February 27, 2011
13. Reviser’s Name and Date
14. Department Revision Approval Date