

William Paterson University
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Department of Women's and Gender Studies
Course Outline

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

Delgado, Richard and Jean Stefancic. 2010. *The Latino/a Condition: A Critical Reader (Second Edition)*. New York: NYU Press.

Flores, Juan and Renato Rosaldo, eds. 2007. *A Companion to Latina/o Studies*. Malden: Blackwell.

Morin, Jose Luis. 2005. *Latino/a Rights and Justice in the United States: Perspectives and Approaches*. Durham: Carolina Academic Press.

Rodriguez, Havidan, Rogelio Saenz and Cecilia Menjivar, eds. 2007. *Latinas/os in the United States: Changing the Face of America*. Springer.

Romero, Mary, Pierrette Hondagneu Sotelo and Vilma Ortiz (eds.). 1997. *Challenging Fronteras: Structuring Latina and Latino Lives in the U.S.* New York: Routledge

10. Bibliography of Supportive Texts and Other Materials

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Acosta-Belen, Edna and Carlos E. Santiago. 2006. *Puerto Ricans in the United States: A Contemporary Portrait*. Boulder: Lynn Rienner Publishers.

Acuña, Rodolfo. 1999. *Occupied America: A History of Chicanos, fourth edition*. Pearson Education.

Akers Chacon, Justin and Mike Davis. 2006. *No One is Illegal: Fighting Violence and State Repression on the U.S. – Mexico Border*. Chicago: Haymarket.

Allatson, Paul. 2002. *Latino Dreams: Transcultural Traffic and the U.S. National Imaginary*, Amsterdam and New York: Rodopi Press.

Allatson, Paul. 2007. *Key Terms in Latino/a Cultural and Literary Studies*, Malden, MA and Oxford: Blackwell Press.

Anzaldúa, Gloria. 1987. *Borderlands: The New Mestiza/La Frontera*. San Francisco: Aunt Lute Books.

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- Aparicio, Frances. 1998. *Listening to Salsa: Gender, Latin Popular Music, and Puerto Rican Cultures* CT: Wesleyan.
- Aranda, Elizabeth. 2007. *Emotional Bridges to Puerto Rico: Migration, Return Migration and the Struggles of Incorporation*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.
- Beltran, Mary C. 2009. *Latina/o Stars in U.S. Eyes: The Making and Meanings of Film and TV Stardom*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press.
- Brotherton, David C. and Philip Kretsedemas, eds. 2008. *Keeping Out the Other: A Critical Introduction to Immigration Enforcement Today*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Caminero-Santangelo, Marta. 2007. *On Latinidad: U.S. Latino Literature and the Construction of Ethnicity*. FL: University Press of Florida.
- Candelario, Ginetta. 2007. *Black behind the Ears: Dominican Racial Identity from Museums to Beauty Shops*. Duke University Press Books
- Cruz-Malave, Arnaldo. 2007. *Queer Latino Testimonio, Keith Haring, and Juanito Xtravaganza: Hard Tails*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Chávez Candelaria, Cordelia, et al., eds. 2004. *Encyclopedia of Latino Popular Culture*, 2 vols. Westport, CT, and London: Greenwood Press.
- Chavez, Leo R. 2008. *The Latino Threat: Constructing Immigrants, Citizens and the Nation*. Stanford: University Press.
- Cobas, Jose A., Jorge Duany, and Joe R. Feagin. 2009. *How the United States Racializes Latinos: White Hegemony and its Consequences*. Paradigm Publishers
- Dalleo, Raphael, and Elena Machado Sáez. 2007. *The Latino/a Canon and the Emergence of Post-Sixties Literature*, NY: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Davila, Arlene. 2001. *Latinos, Inc.: The Marketing and Making of a People*, Berkeley CA: University of California Press.
- Davila, Arlene. 2008. *Latino Spin: Public Image and the Whitewashing of Race*. New York: NYU Press.
- Davis, Mike. 2000. *Magical Urbanism: Latinos Reinvent the US Big City*. New York, Verso.
- De Genova, Nicholas. 2005. *Working the Boundaries: Race, Space, and "Illegality" in Mexican Chicago*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- De Genova, Nicholas and Ana Y. Ramos-Zayas. 2003. *Latino Crossings: Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and the Politics of Race and Citizenship*. New York: Routledge.

- De la Campa, Roman. 2000. *Cuba on my mind: Journeys to a Severed Nation*. New York: Verso.
- Dzidzienyo, Anani and Suzanne Oboler, eds. 2005. *Neither Enemies nor Friends: Latinos, Blacks, Afro-Latinos*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Eckstein, Susan. 2009. *The Immigrant Divide: How Cuban Americans Changed the U.S. and their Homeland*. New York: Routledge.
- 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.
- Flores, Juan. 2000. *From Bomba to Hip-Hop*, NY: Columbia University Press.
- Gandara, Patricia and Frances Contreras. 2010. *The Latino Education Crisis: The Consequences of Failed Social Policies*. Harvard University Press.
- Gonzalez, Juan. 2001. *Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America*. New York: Penguin Books.
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- Itzigsohn, José. 2009. *Encountering American Faultlines: Race, Class, And Dominican Experience In Providence*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation Publications.
- Jasso, Guillermina, Douglas S. Massey, Mark R. Rosenzweig, and James P. Smith. 2008. "From Illegal to Legal: Estimating Previous Illegal Experience among New Legal Immigrants to the United States." *IMR*. Volume 42 Number 4 (Winter 2008):803–843.
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- Levitt, Peggy. 2001. *The Transnational Villagers*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

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- Martinez, Ruben. 2001. *Crossing Over: A Mexican Family on the Migrant Trail*. New York: Picador.
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- Negron-Muntaner, Frances. 2004. *Boricua Pop*. New York: NYU Press.
- Nevins, Joseph. 2002. *Operation Gatekeeper: The Rise of the "Illegal Alien" and the Making of the U.S.-Mexico Boundary*. New York: Routledge.
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- Perez-Firmat, Gustavo. 1994. *Life on the Hyphen: The Cuban-American Way*. TX: University of Texas Press.
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- Stavans, Ilan. 1995. *The Hispanic Condition: The Power of a People*. NY: Harper Perennial.
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- Whalen, Carmen Teresa. 2001. *From Puerto Rico to Philadelphia: Puerto Rican Workers and Postwar Economies*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

11. Preparer's Name and Date

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13. Reviser's Name and Date

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