

FALL 2006

Courses in LACS:

Latin Am 251: Introduction to Latino Studies

Instructor: Beatriz Badakian Gartler

This interdisciplinary class will explore the varied experiences of Latinas/os in the United States, past and present. Drawing from the disciplines of anthropology, history, literature, women's studies, media studies and ethnic studies, this class will examine the historical roots of Latina/o subgroups Chicana/o, Puerto Rican, Cuban and Central American. We will explore questions of immigration/ transnationalism, family, gender, class, race, political economy, language and sexual identity in relation to public policy and Latina/os' struggles for place and power in American cities.

Latin Am 351: Topics in Latino Studies

Instructor: Geraldine Franco

An examination of the diverse social, economic, political, and cultural histories of Latinos in the United States, particularly the development of Latino communities in urban areas, also known as barrios. Barrios have long been characterized as urban spaces in decadence where crime and poverty abound and where Latino communities do not progress, but rather fall into what scholars call downward assimilation. In this course we will study the barrio from a sociological perspective and we will explore the barrio as an economic, cultural, and political space and will discuss alternative views on the barrio as some Latin communities thrive in the face of structural obstacles.

Courses in Other Departments:

Anthro 490: Topics in Anthropology: Amazonian and the Andes

Instructor: Mary Weismantel

This course will survey recent ethnographic studies of two regions of South America, the Andes and Amazonia, with a focus on indigenous peoples and cultures. We will look at the distinctive cultural traditions of the region as these affect perceptions of self and other, the body, gender and sexuality, and the relationship between human and non-human worlds, as well as contemporary issues including political and civil rights, ecological destruction and protests against it, tourism and its effects, and access to medical and other social services.

English 365: Studies in Postcolonial Literature: Postcolonial Novel

Instructor: Paul Stasi

What exactly is postcolonialism? Does it designate a historical period? Or is the term rather an ontological one, describing the identities produced by colonialism? How is it possible to construct a single history from the disparate histories of colonial countries? We will attempt to answer these questions by reading texts from India, Africa, and the Caribbean. We will contextualize these works by reading excerpts from British texts that treat colonialism directly, as well as some contemporary postcolonial scholarship.

Hist 360: The Formation of Latin American Society

Instructor: Frank R Safford

This course focuses on the historical roots of Latin American society during the colonial period. It gives attention to the Amerindian and Iberian backgrounds of Latin American culture and to the interaction among Iberians, Amerindians, and Africans in the formation of Iberoamerican societies and cultures. Among the topics addressed will be the instruments of colonial domination, economic and ecological change under European rule, development and characteristics of multi-ethnic societies, and patterns of gender relations and the family.

Hist 392: Topics in History: U.S. Imperialism in Caribbean

Instructor: Marygrace Tyrrell

The influence of the United States in the Caribbean extends beyond its military bases and its tourist-laden beaches.

This course seeks to discover how Caribbean nations and people responded to the United States' presence in their homeland. Students will begin to understand how government-level politics profoundly alters local cultures, which, in turn, changes the political landscape. This perspective on US foreign and domestic policy will also provide students with an insight into the motivations of US actions.

Poli Sci 353: Politics in Latin America

Instructor: Edward L. Gibson

This is an introductory course on the politics of Latin America. It provides a historical perspective on the broad patterns of political change in the region, and considers alternative explanations about the causes of authoritarianism, socioeconomic conflict, and democratization. We will also look at politics during the current period of democratic change and free market reform. The course will examine both general themes and the politics of specific countries. Countries to be studied include Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, and Chile.

Span 105-6: Freshman Sem: Who are you: Words, Paint & Identity

Instructor: Heather Colburn

As artists, our creative expression is affected by many factors—our place of birth, where we were raised, our religion, our ethnicity, our socio-economic class, our gender, etc. In this course, we will explore the relationship between creativity and identity. We will examine artistic production from contemporary Latin America and the United States.

Span 211: Icons, Legends, and Myths in Latin America

Instructor: Lucille Kerr

The course will focus on Eva Perón/Evita (1919-1952), a historical figure from the twentieth century who has achieved iconic status in her own country, Argentina, and around the globe. Revered and reviled during her lifetime, sanctified and profaned after her death, Eva Perón/Evita might best be approached as a cultural artifact, a figure constructed, if not manipulated, by writers, film makers, photographers, musical directors, historians, politicians, and the people.

Span 260: Literature in Latin American before 1888

Instructor: Yari M Pérez Marín

Survey of pre-Hispanic, colonial, and Romantic traditions in Latin America. Focus on authors and texts such as Popul Vuh, Cristóbal Colón, Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Domingo Faustino Sarmiento, and Martín Fierro.

Span 342: Region and Rootedness in Latin America

Instructor: Jorge Coronado

This course explores the ends to which figures of autochthony have been put in different traditions in modern Latin American literature. We will read narrative and criticism, and in particular we will be attentive to the deployments of representations of subaltern figures such as animals, gauchos, women, indios, and mestizos and the ways in which these representations significantly structure conceptualizations of the province, region, nation and area. Two dominant traditions from the late 19th century to the middle of 20th century, regionalism and indigenismo, as well as their revisionings, will be our focus.

Span 397: Topics in Hispanic Literatures and Cultures

Instructor: Yari M Pérez Marín

The Literature of Possession: Discovery and Conquest in Latin America. This seminar will look at voyage accounts and exploration narratives written by subjects of the Spanish Crown, chronicling their experiences in the New World, from 1492 to the middle of the seventeenth century. The texts penned by figures like Columbus, Cortés, and Bernal Díaz and Catalina de Erauso, among others, will inform our thinking as we examine the agency of the written word in the larger enterprise of conquest, the uses of a "marvelous" representation of reality, and the intersections between history and fiction.

