

Winter 2007 Courses

Courses in LACS:

Latin Am 251: Introduction to Latino Studies

Instructor: Geraldine Franco

This class will explore the varied experiences of Latinas/os in the United States, past and present. Drawing from the disciplines of sociology, literature, women's 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. While the course assumes a shared ethnic identity label of "Latina/o," its approach is fundamentally comparative in order to understand both the importance of group identity, and the histories that shape this identity, while simultaneously recognizing the multiplicity of U.S. Latina/o experiences.

Courses in Other Departments:

English 365: Studies in Postcolonial Literature: Narratives of Haitian Revolution

Instructor: Paul Breslin

The Haitian Revolution (1791-1804) was, of the many slave revolts in the New World, the only one to succeed, bringing independence to Haiti in 1804, decades before the abolition of slavery by any of the colonial powers in the region. But because of Haiti's difficult history ever since, it has figured in the Afro-New World imagination as both a heroic triumph and a tragedy of missed opportunities. It has figured in the European and U.S. imagination as a strange absence, in contrast to the massive attention bestowed on the American and French revolutions of the same era. In telling the story of the revolution and its immediate aftermath, Caribbean playwrights, historians, and novelists are also implicitly writing their own interpretations of the contemporary Americas and how things came to be as they are—in Haiti particularly, but also elsewhere in the Caribbean and in the decolonizing world. We will examine some of the most famous twentieth-century representation of Haitian history from the beginning of the revolution in 1791 to the death of Henri Christophe in 1820.

History 392: Topics in History: Latina/os in the U.S.

Instructor: Victor Padilla

The presence of over forty-two million people of Latin American and Caribbean origins in the United States has profound implications for the political, economic, social, and cultural future of this country and the sending countries. This course explores the history of these diverse Latino/a populations in the United States, beginning with the nineteenth century wars that brought large portions of Mexico under U.S. control, and tracing the major waves of migration from Mexico, the Caribbean (Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, and Cuba), and Central America. Issues to be analyzed include: identity and community formation, resistance to discrimination, issues of labor, race, class and gender. By course's end, students should be able to: understand various frameworks scholars have used in describing the unique aspects of Latino history, be aware of questions that remain unaddressed and know how to incorporate this diverse group into the broader story of the U.S.

Span 261: Literature in Latin America since 1888

Instructor: Jorge Coronado

Survey of the modern period, including modernismo, the historical avant-garde, the "Boom," and recent literary trends. Authors such as Delmira Agustini, Jorge Luis Borges, Julio Cortázar, Rubén Darío, Gabriel García Márquez, José Martí, Pablo Neruda, Cristina Peri Rossi, and Elena Poniatowska.

Span 361: Citizenship and Urban Violence in Latin America

Instructor: Nathalie Bouzaglo

Among common and recurring associations with Latin America is the violence that underlies all phases of its history, particularly of its cities. We will investigate this connection throughout different moments in Latin American history with a focus on the present moment. Through fictional and theoretical texts, films, videos, music, cartoons and the visual arts... we will reflect on the variations, components and implications of this urban, violent projection.

Span 395: Junior Tutorial: The Culture of Modernity in the Andes

Instructor: Jorge Coronado

This seminar explores the various and peculiar expressions that Andean artists, intellectuals and other cultural producers have used to represent and negotiate the transition from traditional rural societies to modern and overwhelmingly urban ones over the course of the 20th century. We will focus on literature, visual culture, social and political theory, and music, with attention to the ways in which these cultural manifestations' circulation and political and social affiliations inflect their outlook on what it means to be modern. As such, this seminar will give special consideration to the roles that race, class, regional identity and autochthony play in the articulation of modernity in the Andes.