

SPRING 2008 LACS COURSES

Courses in LACS:

LACS 351-0 Topics in Latino Studies: Latino Images in the Media
Instructor: Beatriz Badikian Gartler

The image of Latinos/Latinas in the media – be it Hollywood films, television sitcoms, or newspapers -- has gone through a remarkable trajectory that often, if not always, includes some form of stereotyping. In this course we will study the trajectory of Latinos and Latinas in and on the media in the United States. To this effect, we will read and discuss relevant essays and watch films and other visual texts as they correspond to the written materials as well as watch and discuss television programming. The course will be loosely organized chronologically in order to work against a historico/politico/sociological background, although our focus will be the last few decades of the 20th century and the first years of the 21st.

Courses in Other Departments:

AF_AM_ST 101-6 20 The Browning (Latinization) of America
Instructor: John Marquez

Seven of the nine largest U.S. cities achieved a “majority-minority” population for the first time ever during the past decade. The major reason for this shift was the exponential growth of the U.S. Latino/a population. This growth has been spurred, primarily, by an epic wave of poor immigrants from Latin America. There are two particularly notable effects of the Latino/a boom that are central to this course. The first is that Latinos/as have surpassed African Americans as the largest group of color in the U.S. More significantly, this shift has taken place in cities where African Americans have historically predominated and have heavily influenced the contours of urban culture and racial politics. Hence, the fact that Latinos/as are not only the largest but also one of the most aggrieved groups of color verifies the need to look beyond black-white relations when analyzing the social salience of race in many urban locales. The second notable effect of the Latino/a boom is that the U.S. Latino/a population is now more diverse than ever before. Relatedly, it is also more linked to and influenced by histories, cultures, and conditions in Latin America. This enhanced transnationality is important considering the uniform assumptions about Latinos/as that often underlie discussions about their political (im)mobility. Bearing all of these conditions in mind, this course examines how the recent “Browning of America” has structured spaces, identities, and relations of power in U.S. cities.

AF_AM_ST 320-0 The Social Meaning of Race
Instructor: John Marquez

Race as a social concept and recurrent cause of differentiation in multiracial societies. Impact of race on social, cultural, economic, and political institutions. Discussion of prejudice, racism, and discrimination.

AF_AM_ST 342-0 Comparative Slavery
Instructor: Sherwin Bryant

Traces slavery across historical epochs and geographic contexts, with an emphasis on Latin America, the Caribbean, and the territories that became the United States.

AF_AM_ST 348-0 Africans in Colonial Latin America
Instructor: Sherwin Bryant

Explores the history of African-descended people throughout Latin America during the period from 1492 to 1800, emphasizing the varied experiences of slavery and freedom, the emergence of race and colonial categories of difference, and the gendered lives of racialized colonial subjects.

ANTHRO 368 Latino Ethnography
Instructor: Monica Russel y Rodriguez

Sociocultural analysis of U.S. Latino communities. Examines ethnographies by and about Latinos based in the United States. Draws on a broad disciplinary basis, including Latino studies and ethnic studies, to critique and elaborate on ethnographic methods and epistemologies. Prerequisite: 211, Latin AM 251, or consent of instructor.

ANTHRO 390-0 21 Topics in Anthropology: Contemporary Immigration to the US
Instructor: Ana Aparicio

Advanced work in areas of developing interest and special significance. Can be repeated for credit with a different topic. Specific Course Description TBA.

ANTHRO 390-0 22 Topics in Anthropology: Latino Youth
Instructor: Ana Aparicio

Advanced work in areas of developing interest and special significance. Can be repeated for credit with a different topic. Specific Course Description TBA.

COMM_ST 369 Revolution and Dictatorship in Theater of the Americas
Instructor: Ana Elena Puga
Course Description TBA

HIST 215 Western Hemisphere Environments from 1492 to the Present
Instructor: Josef Barton

Environmental change is a grand theme in the history of North and South America. From the great plague of sheep that ate its way across Mexico through the rubber boom that hit the Brazilian Amazon to the green revolution that claimed to feed everybody, many forces have shaped many new worlds in the Western Hemisphere. Running throughout this five-century long history is a central theme: the conquest, exploitation, and restoration of the commons -- of the natural resources of land, water, timber, and air that once belonged to all and still do. This lecture course takes up this great story in four segments. First, the course will spend two weeks on the migration to frontiers, beginning with New England and New Spain in the 15th and 16th centuries and running through Alaska and Patagonia in the 1960s. For the second section, the course will confront an often forgotten kind of environmental change, the 19th-century filling up of two continents. In the third part, the course will consider the great 20th-century selling-off of natural resources to private owners. And, finally, in the fourth segment, the course will seek to understand more recent efforts to restore public access to and control of common resources, in movements ranging from clean water to sustainable agriculture.

POLI_SCI 395 Latina/o Politics in the US

Instructor: Victoria DeFrancesco Soto

This course will examine the political behavior and attitudes of Latinos in the United States, both at the pan-ethnic and Latino sub-group level. Emphasis will be placed on understanding how ethnicity as an identity comes to influence participation and attitudes. The course will begin with a review of the historical experiences of Latino groups in the United States. The remaining part of the course will treat issues of participation, both formal and informal, and issues such as the Voting Rights Act, immigration, and inter-minority relations.

POLI_SCI 390-22 Diversity in American Cities: Redefining the Urban Paradigm

Instructor: Jaime Dominguez

Traditionally, the study of urban context has been placed in a black-white paradigm. But, in the last thirty years, major cities have undergone profound demographic changes that have brought about a new pattern of population diversity. The manner in which this diversity unfolds challenges social scientists to rethink the future of urban politics. Thus, this course is designed to allow students to place research which examines some of the basic urban problems that confront American society within the context of select theories of urban politics. In the first part of the course, we will critically review some of the more interesting contemporary theoretical and empirical works in the field. In addition, we will explore the ways in which race and ethnicity, from historical and contemporary perspectives have shaped the urban experience. The second part of the course will draw on the applicability of these theories to help us analyze and understand select urban problems. Some of these include but are not limited to public housing, gangs, and the underclass. Also, we will debate key public policies that have been introduced to promote equal opportunity. Lastly, we will explore the current conditions and prospects of inter-minority relations and future alliance building in the urban context.

Span 201-1: Reading & Speaking I
Instructor: Penny Nichols Fahey

Students in Spanish 201-1 explore the theme of Human Rights in the Southern Cone Region--specifically Chile and Argentina from the 1970's to present day through the study of literature: poetry, essay, short story, novels and plays, as well as historical readings and film. Students participate in both formal and informal conversation with the additional aim of mastery of the subjunctive mode--all of which seeks to increase their translanguaging and transcultural competence as per the recent MLA report on second language acquisition. Readings include works by Cortázar, Dorfman, Skármeta, Timerman, Partnoy, Isabel and Violeta Parra and others. Films range from *Machuca* and *Historia oficial* to *Burnt Oranges*. The course includes both individual and group presentations on the cultural and historical impact of the military coups of the 70's, subsequent repressive dictatorships, the repercussions of these regimens--with particular emphasis on human rights violations--and the eventual restoration of democracy.

Span 201-2: Reading & Speaking II
Instructor: Elisa Baena

The primary goal of this course is to develop advanced (ACTFL, 1999) oral proficiency in Spanish through the study of current social effects of globalization in Mexico. The course focuses on the *maquiladoras*, femicide in Juárez and on Mexican immigration into the U.S. Texts include *Las hijas de Juárez*, chapters from *Espaldas Mojadas*, current journalistic readings, and other relevant texts. The documentary films *Maquilopolis*; *Señorita Extraviada*; *En el Borde*; *Wetback: The Undocumented Documentary*; and *Made in L.A.* will further enhance the students' discovery of the topics. In addition to formal presentations, debates and round tables, students will journal about their experiences volunteering at the non-profit community center, Centro Romero where they will assist teachers of a citizenship class and help Hispanic students prepare for their citizenship exam. The course will culminate with individual presentations based on the student's experiences at Centro Romero and the immigration stories they also gathered there.

SPAN 211-0 Icons, Legends and Myths in Latin America
Instructor: María Alejandra Uslenghi

Diverse representations of historical, literary, and popular figures in Latin America, such as the conquistador, the dictator, the gaucho, Simón Bolívar, Che Guevara, Evita, La Malinche, Carlos Gardel. Focus on forms of representation such as films, documentaries, musical theater, biography, narrative fiction, poetry, commercial art. Prerequisite: 201-1 or 201-2; 202-1 (or 207); and 202-2 (which may be taken concurrently with 211).

SPAN 260-0 Literature in Latin America before 1888

Instructor: Jorge Coronado

A 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, Martín Fierro. Prerequisite: 220-0 (may be taken concurrently with 260).

SPAN 341-0 Latin American Modernismo

Instructor: María Alejandra Uslenghi

This class will work comparatively with texts from Latin American *modernismo* and European traditions to elaborate on different conceptualizations of the modern imagination. *Modernismo* characterizes by its strategies of cultural appropriation on one side, and of cultural exhibition on the other, as it marks the moment of most intense traffic of symbolic and material goods and at the same time it claims its cultural autonomy that portrays in exhibitions, chronicles, journalism and its poetry. We will then analyze particular forms and instances of “the world-as-exhibition:” how travel writing and chronicles concurrently with photography and the staging of universal exhibitions organized and grasped the world as though it were an exhibition; how these spectacles meant to render cultural difference in ‘objective’ form. We will trace the emergence of modern visual culture through the poetic representation of the street; the organization of urban leisure; the poetics of the city at night; the metropolitan fascination with subaltern cultures and debates on the production and consumption of mass urban culture.

SPAN 343-0 Latin American Avant-Garde

Instructor: Jorge Coronado

Poetry, prose, and visual art by major figures and groups in twentieth-century vanguard movements. Works by Roberto Arlt, Jorge Luis Borges, Alejo Carpentier, Nicolás Guillén, Felisberto Hernández, Vicente Huidobro, Manuel Maples Arce, César Vallejo. Prerequisite: 1 course chosen from 250, 251, 260, 261. LEC TTh 12:30-1:50.