

winter 2009 courses

Courses in LACS:

LACS 251: Introduction to Latina/o Studies

Instructor: Jonathan Rosa

This course seeks to introduce students to the range of issues and analytical approaches that form the foundation of Latina/o studies. By tracing the history of the “Latina/o” concept in relation to key elements of sociocultural life, such as time, space, identity, community, power, language, nation, and rights, students will develop understandings of the particular ways in which Latina/o studies takes shape as an intellectual and political enterprise. On a practical level, this course aims to balance depth and breadth in its study of the variety of perspectives and experiences that come to be understood as Latina/o. Thus, we will analyze the histories of predominant Latina/o sub-groups, such as Mexicans/Chicanas/os and Puerto Ricans, while also incorporating broader considerations of the ways in which Central America, South America, and the Caribbean play crucial roles in constituting Latinidad.

LACS 351: Topics in Latina/o Studies: History of Latinas/os in Chicago

Instructor: Angelica Rivera

The purpose of this course is to explore the history of Latina/Latino migration/immigration of Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and Cubans to Chicago since the twentieth century. Why did Latinos come to Chicago? When did they come and where did they form community/ies? Did they stay in Chicago? Where were they employed? What shaped their educational experiences? Have they been involved in politics or larger social movements? These are some of the questions that we will be discussing throughout this course. Issues regarding race, identity, language, class, education, politics and community displacement will also be discussed. This course will make use of film, academic articles and books, as well as literature. Latina/o studies is an interdisciplinary program grounded in complex histories, multiple identities and diverse communities.

Courses in Other Departments:

AF_AM_ST 381: Topics in Transnational Black Culture: Comparative Anti-Colonialisms
- Azatlan, Borinquen and Rastafari

Instructor: Marquez

ANTH 378-20: Law and Culture: Justice, Health & Human Rights

Instructor: Smith

What is the role of humanitarian programs and international institutions in responding to violence, natural disaster, and health epidemics? Through a series of case studies, this course explores key questions in medical anthropology and global health like access to

pharmaceuticals, violence and mental health, and poverty and infectious disease with a special attention to questions of social justice and international law.

ART_HIST 390-0: Undergraduate Seminar: Latin American Modernism
Instructor: Reyes

Utopian Modernisms: The Avant-Garde in Latin America 1900-1945. This undergraduate seminar studies avant-garde and artistic practices in relation to historical context and social uses of art. Following the Argentine art critic, Marta Traba's concept of "open societies," such as Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil, vs. "closed societies," such as Mexico, Peru, and Colombia, this seminar problematizes paradigms of Nationalism / Indigenism vs. Internationalism / Universalism. The primary goal is the development of students' ability to engage with complex ties between visual material, primary texts, and historical information in the construction of a cohesive argument.

ENGLISH 365: Studies in Postcolonial Lit: Caribbean Lit
Instructor: Breslin

Caribbean drama is remarkable for its energetic fusion of music, dance, and widely varied language, and for its inventive syntheses of Caribbean oral culture with influences from Europe, Africa—and beyond. The plays we will read were written—some in English, some in French—during the period of widespread decolonization following World War II. Theater, as a communal art form, was important in conceiving of Caribbean identity, especially as a broad cultural continuity uniting the separate islands of the archipelago. We will consider the poems both as literary texts and as scripts intended for the theater, with excerpts performed by students in class.

FRENCH 364-0: Caribbean African Literatures and Cultures
Instructor: Garraway

On January 1 1804, Jean-Jacques Dessalines declared the independence of Haiti, thus bringing an end to the most important slave revolution in history, and transforming the colony of Saint-Domingue into the second independent state in the Western hemisphere. Insofar as it challenged European colonialism and the racial order of colonial slavery, the Haitian Revolution is now regarded as the most radical political movement in the Age of Enlightenment, the defining test of the French Revolution's rhetorical embrace of universal liberty, and the founding moment of Haitian literature. Yet, the revolution was long silenced in Western historiography and its legacy in French and Francophone Caribbean literature has been fraught with ambivalence. This course examines the significance of the Haitian Revolution as a political and discursive movement, as well as the ways in which it has been represented in the literatures of France and the Francophone world from the postrevolutionary period to the present. In particular, we explore how the revolution has stimulated reflection on issues ranging from revolutionary heroism, Enlightenment universalism, race as a political discourse, the possibilities and limitations of anticolonialism, and the legacies of colonial slavery. Authors may include Dessalines, Juste Chanlatte, Victor Hugo, Alphonse de Lamartine, Aimé Césaire, Jacques

Roumain, René Depestre, Marie Chauvet, accompanied by historical and theoretical readings.

HISTORY 369-0: Development and Inequality in Modern Latin American Studies
Instructor: Fischer

Few issues have defined Latin America's modern history so much as the region's quest for economic development. This class is a critical historical examination of the various development models adopted by Latin American countries over the course of the 20th century, exploring the cultural, social, political, and economic roots of such policies and the impact of their practical application on the lives of the region's poorest and most marginalized populations. Through case studies focused mainly on Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Guatemala, and Mexico, the course seeks to explain why many Latin American countries have become increasingly unequal even as they have become more "developed," and to understand the social, cultural, and environmental consequences of 20th and early 21st-century development policies. Course materials will include film, autobiography, and primary source documents, as well as academic texts.

HISTORY 392-21: Brazil in the 19th Century
Instructor: K. Grinberg

American culture has always played an important role in global affairs and in the global imagination. From the legacy of the Declaration of Independence overseas to the observations of European travelers in the United States to the story of American popular culture's reception in other lands, the transnational tale of the United States deserves a place alongside the domestic narratives we tell about the nation. In this seminar, we will probe the long history of American culture's circulations around the globe to gain a deeper understanding of the United States in the world. Students will read primary and secondary sources, watch films and listen to music, contribute to an online discussion group, complete short book reviews, and complete one longer essay.

POLI_SCI 390-20: Latino Politics
Instructor: DeFrancesco Soto

The focus of this course is to examine the United States Latino population in the context of the 2008 Election. In the wake of the 2008 elections we will examine the political behavior of the largest minority group, Latinos together with larger campaign dynamics. More generally, this course will consider the nature of campaigns in today's modern racially and ethnically diverse American political environment. This course will review research in American campaigns and elections, provide a historical review of Latinos, and examine an array of 2008 election material.

PORT 210-0: Icons, Legends, and Myths in Brazil
Instructor: Ana Teixeira

Representations of historical, literary, and popular figures who live in the national imagination. The course focuses on graphic materials, documentaries, film, theater, folklore, narrative fiction, and popular music.

SPANISH 261: Literature in Latin America since 1888

Instructor: Bouzaglou

A 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, Elena Poniatowska.

SPANISH 343: Latin American Avant-Garde

Instructor: Tarica

Poetry, prose, and visual art by major figures and groups in 20th-century vanguard movements. Works by authors such as Roberto Arlt, Jorge Luis Borges, Alejo Carpentier, Nicolás Guillén, Felisberto Hernández, Vicente Huidobro, Manuel Maples Arce, and César Vallejo.

SPANISH 344: Jorge Luis Borges

Instructor: Tarica

The poetry essays, and short fiction of Jorge Luis Borges