**Latinos & Community 01:595:299**

This interdisciplinary course examines historical and contemporary formations of Latin@ communities in the US. This class looks at the social, cultural, geographic, political, and symbolic developments and forces that shape Latin@ experiences, relationships, dislocations, conflicts, and cultural norms, particularly as they relate to the politics of race, ethnicity, nationality, class, gender, and sexuality. We also explore the connection between space, power, and Latin@ populations across the country, and the course highlights the ways in which Latin@ groups challenge social obstacles and re-shape their environments. In addition to engaging in community building praxis throughout the class, the course provides a space to expose the diverse forms of civic engagement and perspectives of social change currently take place locally, regionally, and beyond.

Course Objectives

* Explore the contemporary, historical, social, political, cultural, geographic, and symbolic formations of Latin@ communities
* Compare and contrast the diverse experiences of different Latin@ populations group formations
* Critically assess the relationship between race, space, and power in various contexts
* Analyze different approaches and methods to civic engagement and social change
* Participate in creative and interpersonal forms of praxis and community building

Evaluation/Grade

Attendance and participation 10

Activity 5

2 Response papers (10 points each) 20

3 exams 30

Community project outline 10

Final group project 20

Reflection paper 5

Total points 100

Readings will be available on Sakai. The course materials may consist of journal articles, legal documents, creative essays, text selections, and book chapters, etc.