

Topics in Latino and Caribbean Studies (LCS 01:595:281)

“Fiesta! Latino Festival Traditions in the United States”

Instructor: Carlos A. Fernández

1.5 credit course that meets during the second seven weeks of the semester.

This course surveys Latino festival in the United States as practiced by longstanding and recent immigrant communities originating in Latin America and the Caribbean. Drawing from sources in the fields of anthropology, folklore, theatre, music and literature, the course focuses on structure, form and meaning of public contemporary practices such as parades, civic and religious festivals and political rallies of Latino communities in the U.S. Through readings, analyses of various textual and audiovisual forms, and discussions, and participation in out of class events, students will gain appreciation and knowledge about the history, structure, function and meaning of these public spectacles and their relationship to contemporary Latino/a identities.

Course Learning Goals

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Gain knowledge about the recent history of Latin American and Caribbean migration and settlement in the United States, cultural traditions and artistic practices within specific communities, and the work of particular artists
- Develop understanding of Latino festival from various theoretical perspectives and analytical approaches in comparative literature, musicology and anthropology
- Learn to interact effectively in a group environment
- Enhance ability to write expressively and articulate sound arguments through weekly written critiques of the reading and responses to artistic events
- Improve public speaking skills through informal conversations and formal class presentations

Required Reading and Audio Visual Materials*

Required readings are available electronically through the course Sakai site. When possible audio visual materials will be screened during class session. They will also be placed on reserve at Douglass Library Media Center for continued access throughout the course.

Evaluation*

Class Participation = 30%

Four Short (600-word) Essays (10% each) = 40%

In-Class Presentation = 10%

Final Exam = 20%

*This synopsis is intended for informative purposes only; it is provisional and subject to change before the beginning of the semester.