

Department of Latino and Hispanic Caribbean Studies
Course synopsis
Research Methods in Latino and Caribbean Studies (NB)**

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TTh Period 4, 1:40-3 pm (LSH-A266)

How do we study U.S. Latino and Caribbean populations and cultures? Some read literature, watch a film, read a history book... and others conduct interviews, do field work to identify and describe social and cultural practices, or collect oral histories and traditions. Are you interested in learning how to use different sources and methods to learn more about ethnic communities in the United States? What is the contribution of ethnic studies to our knowledge about migrant and underrepresented populations and their cultural manifestations?

This class is a basic introduction to cultural and social science research methods with a focus on Caribbean and Latino Studies. Course guides each student to explore a topic of interest through different approaches until you find the methods that are more informative and interesting for you. **No previous research training is needed or expected to take this class.**

Course includes library workshops, and class visits by professors and students who will discuss how they use different methods in their research and teaching.

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

- 1-identify a research question produce a research proposal with a hypothesis
- 2-identify and evaluate the appropriate methods and methodology for your research question
- 3-complete a literature review addressing your chosen theme/question conduct preliminary primary research
- 4-write an exploration paper presenting a research question and considering at least 3 different approaches to your research question. This final project builds on the previous methods discussion papers.

Required Readings:

All readings available on sakai. Readings discuss research methods relevant for Latino, Caribbean, Africana, Ethnic and Native American Studies. Selections of readings from the following authors: Gloria Anzaldúa, Ginetta Candelario, Aimé Césaire, Frantz Fanon, María Lugones, Audre Lorde, Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui, Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Cornell West, Barbara Christian and Sylvia Wynter. (Reading per week: 25-45 pages)

Requirements and Grading:

Identify a problem (200 words) 10% week 2

Identify a hypothesis (500 words) 10% week 3

Methods discussion papers (500-600 words) (50%) weeks 4-11

Methods Exploration Paper Draft (using previous methods discussion papers) (2,000 words) 10% week 12

Methods Exploration Paper Final (2500 words) 20% Date of final exam

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