

Latino History (LCS 01:595:369 / History 01:512:360)

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SAS Core Goals [HST] [WCd]

Fulfills Upper-Level Elective for LCS Major and Minor

Latino, Latina and Latinx peoples have been prominent in the public sphere in popular culture, the media, and especially around discussions of immigration. Though individuals with a tapestry of Spanish-Indian-African ancestry (who may be described as “Latinas/os” “Hispanics” or “Latinxs” today) explored the lands of present-day Florida and New Mexico long before English colonizers reached Plymouth Rock, they are continually seen as foreigners, immigrants, and “newcomers” to American society. This course places Latina/o populations in the United States within historical context. Who are Latinas/os in the U.S. and how did they become part of the American nation-state? How have they participated in American society and how have they been perceived over time? Topics include conquest and colonization, immigration, labor recruitment, education, politics, popular culture, and social movements. The course emphasizes a comparative approach aiming to engage histories from the Southwest, Midwest, and Eastern United States and across national origin groups—Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, Dominicans, Central Americans, and South Americans. We will analyze concepts of race, class, identity, gender, nation, ethnicity, and sexuality as we explore primary and secondary sources.

Course Learning Goals

Upon completion of the course, students will:

- become familiar with the main themes of Latino social, political, and economic history
- understand the origins and causes of large-scale migration and incorporation of ethnic Mexicans, Dominicans, Cubans, Puerto Ricans and other Latinx communities
- form a repertoire of policies, historical players, and concepts for thinking and writing about Latinos and their varied experiences
- understand the complex and varying racializations of Latinos/as in the U.S. as well as consider gender, class, and ethnic identities
- distinguish between distinct regional Latinx experiences within the U.S.
- appreciate the changes in Hispanic family structure, demographics, and language patterns from second to third generations
- connect Latino historical struggles and activism to contemporary debates
- foster writing skills that are coherent and reflective, as well as analytical, creative, and grammatically correct
- create a respectful and intellectual learning community in which to exchange ideas and benefit from peer feedback

Required Reading*

Readings and additional materials are in Canvas.

Consult Rutgers Barnes & Noble for current books for the course.

Evaluation*

Four Quizzes and Attendance / Class Participation	= 25%
Three Papers (4-6 pages)	= 25%
Final Assignment (Abstract and Presentation)	= 50%

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