LATINA/O STUDIES

Director: Pepa Lago-Graña, Hispanic Studies
Advisory Committee: Michael Benitez, Dean of Diversity and Inclusion; Robin Jacobson, Politics and Government; Pepa Lago Graña, Hispanic Studies; Renee Simms, African American Studies

About the Program
The student of Latina/Latino Studies explores the historical, cultural, political, and socio-economic experiences of Latinos, the largest minoritized ethnic group in the United States. A key objective of Latina/o Studies is to integrate the body of knowledge pertaining to these populations into the United States’ understanding of itself. Taking an interdisciplinary methodology, the minor provides a comprehensive and in-depth approach to key issues, research, and cultural facets of the Latina/o experience. Students minoring in Latina/o Studies prepare themselves for graduate studies and careers in social and welfare policy, law, counseling, public policy, health care, education, advertising, journalism, and education.

General Requirements for the Minor
General university degree requirements stipulate that 1) three units of the minor be taken in residence at Puget Sound; 2) students earn a GPA of 2.0 in courses taken for the minor; and 3) all courses taken for a minor must be taken for graded credit. Any exceptions to these stipulations are indicated in the minor degree requirements listed below.

Requirements for the Minor
1. Completion of a minimum of five units, to include:
   a. LTS 200 Latina/o America: A Critical Introduction to Latino Studies (1 unit);
   b. Three courses from the following list (3 units);
      AFAM 401 Narratives of Race
      HIST 367 Immigration in the U.S.
      HIST 376 Cuba and the Cuban Diaspora
      HIST 378 History of Latinos in the United States
   c. LTS 300 Latina/o Literatures
   d. LTS 375 Queer-Latinx: Art, Sex, and Belonging in America
   e. LTS 400 Special Topics in Latina/o Studies
   f. PHIL 312 Latin American Philosophy
   g. PG 304 Race and American Politics
   h. PG 306 Immigration Politics and Policy in the U.S.
   i. PG 311 Politics of Detention: Criminal Justice, Immigration, and the War on Terror
   j. PG 346 Race in the American Political Imagination
   k. SOAN 215 Race and Ethnic Relations
   l. SOAN 303 Contemporary Immigration, Race, and Immigration Regimes in the U.S.
   m. SOAN 350 Border Crossings: Transnational Migration and Diaspora Studies
   n. SPAN 303 Hispanic Short Story (whenever the course includes significant Latina/o Studies content)
   o. SPAN 306 Latin American Film (whenever the course includes significant Latina/o Studies content)
   p. SPAN 307 Latin American and Latino Theatre
   q. SPAN 310 Special Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies (whenever the course includes significant Latina/o Studies content)
   r. SPAN 311 Migration Narratives
   s. A capstone experience (1 unit): LTS 400 Special Topics Seminar in Latina/o Studies or LTS 497 Internship Seminar
2. Proficiency in Spanish at a level equivalent to passing SPAN 202.

Course Offerings
Unless otherwise specified, each course carries 1 unit of credit and is offered at least once each academic year. Please see “Frequency of Course Offerings” on page 18.

200 Latina/o America: A Critical Introduction to Latina/o Studies
The United States is the second largest Spanish-speaking country in the world. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, this course explores the historical, social, political, and cultural configurations of this fact and of what has come to be known as Latina/o U.S.A. The course begins with a discussion on the roots of Spanish in the Americas. What are the historical and colonial relations of power leading to the presence of Spanish-speaking peoples and Latino cultures in the U.S.? In posing this question the course examines the nascent U.S. nation as a political and colonizing force throughout the 19th century; Manifest Destiny and its politics of colonization towards Native Americans, Mestizos, and people of Spanish and African descent through the annexation of Florida (1819), the Mexican American War (1846-1848), and the Spanish-American War (1898). Departing from these moments, the course then interrogates ongoing U.S. border politics and U.S. empire building throughout the American continent, further questioning the following: How do U.S. policies relate to the massive Latino migratory patterns to the U.S. during the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries? How do these shape the complexities of the Latina/o experience? Literature, film, historical accounts, and social science works serve to discuss the central issues of this course: migrations, racisms, language as a marginalizing and/or empowering tool, key political and social moments in the Latina/o experience, the entrenchment of neoliberal economic policies and immigration, deportations and U.S. immigration policies, Latino community building in the U.S., gender practices, heterogeneities of Latino populations, and politics of identity. Cross-listed with SPAN 210. This course is taught in English. Satisfies the Humanistic Approaches core requirement. Satisfies the Knowledge, Identity, and Power graduation requirement.

300 Latina/o Literatures
Latino literary and cultural productions have particularly provided a gateway into understanding the heterogeneity of Latino experiences in the U.S. While this course does not survey Latino literatures historically, it does introduce students to some of the most contemporary Latina/o literary productions and cultural expressions by situating these in their broader cultural, social, and political frameworks. Plays, short stories, novels, testimonies, poetry, autobiography, essays, and film serve to explore complex—and often silenced—histories, issues and realities in present-day Latina/o communities. In this manner, the course looks at literature and cultural productions as a platform for cultural, social, individual, historical, and political expositions; a place where ideologies are contested, debated and articulated; a site where subjectivities are problematizadas, enunciated, and made visible. Central to this course are questions pertaining to: the neoliberal market and the commodification of the Latino body; identity construction and/or destruction; the intersections of sexuality, gender, and class in informing discourse; racisms; discourses of privilege; language and art as a conduit for the erasure of invisibilities; the intersections of systems of power in the literary; border politics, death and violence in the Latina/o experience; conditions of exile and diaspora; U.S. immigration politics, and among others; defiant Latina/o sexualities. Cross-listed with SPAN 309. This course is taught in Spanish, with some readings in English and Spanglish. Prerequisites: Any one of SPAN 203, 204, 205, 210, 211, 212, or equivalent.
375 Queer-Latinx: Art, Sex, and Belonging in America  In this course, students develop an understanding of the main topics for Queer Latinx Studies, including current aesthetic, political, and theoretical frameworks to analyze Latinx art, cinema, literature, and performance. This course gives students the opportunity to study how queer Latinx artists are contesting civil and governmental oppression against non-heterosexual communities. Students understand the significance of dwelling and sexual embodiment for dissident art-ists and their political intervention in the public sphere. In this class, students will engage with questions of disability, immi-gration, legality, race, and sexuality in America. Cross-listed with SPAN 375.

400 Special Topics in Latina/o Studies  This special topics course is conducted as a seminar and varies in focus each time. The course offers students the opportunity to further examine, problematize, and research particular issues and forms of cultural productions as they re-late to Latina/o Studies and Latino communities in the United States. To this purpose, class sessions require students to explore the discursive specificities of assigned works as well as to consider and interrogate the critical and theoretical issues they raise. Students’ thoughtful engage-ment with the material and ability to participate in productive dialogue bear directly on the quality of the knowledge produced throughout the seminar. Cross-listed with SPAN 410. Prerequisites: any one of SPAN 300, 303, 306, 307, 311, LTS 300, or equivalent.