Latina/o and Latin American Studies

The Latina/o and Latin American Studies (LLAS) Program of Northeastern Illinois University provides academic and experiential opportunities to foster a comprehensive understanding of Latino, Latin American and Caribbean peoples and their relationship to each other, the United States, and the world. The program builds on the University’s commitment to diversity and community partnerships as it promotes pride in the values of diverse ethnic heritages. Through the coordination of diverse offerings of various departments, the program fosters an interdisciplinary approach to provide students with concepts and skills to interact effectively and constructively in a multicultural context.

- Major in Latina/o & Latin American Studies (http://catalog.neiu.edu/arts-sciences/latino-latin-american-studies/latino-latin-american-studies)
- Minor in Latina/o & Latin American Studies (http://catalog.neiu.edu/arts-sciences/latino-latin-american-studies/minor-latino-latin-american-studies)

Andreas G. Savas-Kourvetaris, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Chair
Brandon Bisbey, Ph.D., Associate Professor, World Languages and Cultures, Program Coordinator

Core Faculty
Christina Bueno, Ph.D., Associate Professor, History
Gabriel Cortez, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Literacy, Leadership and Development
Maria De La Torre, Ph. D., Associate Professor, Justice Studies
Emily Garcia, Ph.D., Associate Professor, English
Francisco X. Gaytan, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Literacy, Leadership and Development
Richard Grossman, Instructor, History
Jon B. Hageman, Ph.D., Professor, Anthropology
Timothy Libretti, Ph.D., Professor, English
Jose Lopez, Instructor, Latina/o and Latin American Studies
Ana Nieves, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Art
Victor Ortiz, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Sociology
Isaura Pulido, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Educational Inquiry and Curriculum Studies
Milka Ramirez, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Social Work
Patricio Rizzo-Vast, Instructor, World Languages and Cultures
Brett C. Stockdill, Ph.D., Professor

LLAS-101. Introduction To Latino & Latin American Studies. 3 Hours.
This course is an introduction to Latino and Latin American Studies. It explores the diverse origins and conditions of the multiple groups encompassed by the terms “Latino” and/or “Hispanic.” The course traces connections with ancestral Latin America in terms of its pre-Hispanic and colonial past, as well as its post-colonial present.

LLAS-109. FYE:Art, Thought, And Revolution In Chicago. 3 Hours.
An introduction to the cultural life of Chicago Latino youth with its regional differences with key themes/symbols and cultural norms created by the historical interaction between Latinos and American society as expressed in literature, art, music, and folklore. Attention will also be given to change and continuity in Latino cultural norms on the basis of historical events.
This class explores the history of art and its role in the civilizations from Modernism, the Mural Renaissance and the Civil Rights Movement. Using the rich artistic legacy of this area, the class examines the way art functions across borders and how borders have been constructed, debated and lived through in the art of the past.

LLAS-201. Writing Intensive Program: Culture & History Of Latinos. 3 Hours.
Culture and History of Latinos is intended to insure that Latino and Latin American Studies students understand the religious, social, economic and political aspects of Latino groups. It explores their roles and conditions in the new demographic context of the United States as its largest ethnic minority group.
Prerequisite: ENGL-101 minimum grade of C.

LLAS-224. The Chicano Movement. 3 Hours.
This course is an analytical overview of stories and histories of and about people of Mexican ancestry or origin in the United States of America. The course examines involvements, events, and conditions directly affecting the fates and opportunities of this constituency through time. The course focuses on regional, class and gender particularities as well as symbolic and epistemological characteristics.

LLAS-225. Puerto Ricans & The Caribbean. 3 Hours.
This course is an overview of people in the Caribbean and/or in the U.S. with ancestral or migratory ties to the Caribbean.

LLAS-290. Research Methods In Latino And Latin American Studies. 3 Hours.
The course provides an introduction to the theories and processes of critical inquiry in the social sciences and humanities. Each student conducts a focused review of the literature in response to a specific, identified issue and is introduced to the elements of scholarly writing. The course creates a learning community of scholars working to explore meaningful solutions to identified research questions in Latino and Latin American Studies humanities and social sciences area.
Prerequisites: LLAS-101 minimum grade of D and LLAS-201 minimum grade of D.
LLAS-301. Field Seminar In Latino & Latin American Studies. 3 Hours.
The course aims towards the formulation of a sophisticated understanding of social and political life of Latinos in the current context. It combines theoretical insights and documentary information to examine the assets and current challenges of these communities. This course serves as the capstone course for LLAS minors.
**Prerequisites:** LLAS-101 minimum grade of C or MCS-101 minimum grade of C and LLAS-201 minimum grade of C or MCS-201 minimum grade of C.

LLAS-312. Introduction To The Barrio. 3 Hours.
Students do research on their residential neighborhoods using historical and demographic data, along with political and theoretical insights from the social sciences and the students’ experiences.

LLAS-345. Race, Class, Gender & Latinos. 3 Hours.
This course is an analytical overview of the complexity of Latino community/ies. The course aims towards the formulation of a sophisticated understanding of social and political life of Latinos in the current context. It combines theoretical insights and documentary information to examine the assets and current challenges of these communities.

LLAS-346. Introduction To Oral History For Communities. 3 Hours.
This course introduces students to oral history, a practice that has expanded to many disciplines for its ability to providing information on aspects of life missing from documentary sources and offering different perspectives on historical events and processes. Notably, oral history is used in recovering the experiences of ordinary people. Students will gain knowledge and skills for engaging people in communities in telling their own stories. Students will learn the principles of oral history methodology by analyzing theoretical, ethical, and practical challenges interviewers and researchers face. Students will also learn basic skills on interviewing, transcribing, and abstracting oral histories.
**Prerequisite:** LLAS-290 minimum grade of C or JUST-241 minimum grade of C.

LLAS-351. Latinos And Immigration. 3 Hours.
The course examines social and cultural dimensions of the arrival and incorporation of Latin American immigrants to the United States. It reviews migratory flows across time and regions of the country. Through a discussion-based class, students explore immigration through diverse readings from a wide variety of fields (i.e. history, political science, sociology). The readings provide a comparative range of immigrant experiences from different Latin American countries and different time periods. This comparison will provide a broad exposure of the topic from which students will select a specific topic pertinent to personal and professional interest for their individual assignments.

LLAS-353. Latino Diversities. 3 Hours.
Latinos, the largest ethnic minority of the country, are far from comprising a homogeneous or cohesive group. This course examines various ways in which members of this umbrella group differ in their respective histories in this country, their integration processes, and potential outlooks. The examination goes beyond the distinction related to migratory or ancestral ties to Latin American countries to ascertain contrasts within and among groups. Thus, beyond contrast among Mexicans and Salvadorans, for example, students will explore differences within each of these two groups. Topics such as social mobility, educational attainments, labor force participation, and political involvement are some of many options students will be able to select for their research projects.

LLAS-361. Queer Latin American Narrative And Film. 3 Hours.
This course explores the representation of sexual diversity and gender nonconformity in Latin American cultural production (narrative and film) from a perspective informed by feminist theory, LGBT studies and queer theory. Students critically engage these theoretical paradigms while developing research skills and proficiency in oral and written expression through class assignments, including a final research paper.
**Prerequisite:** ENGL-101 minimum grade of C.

LLAS-391. Internship In Latina/o & Latin American Studies. 3 Hours.
This capstone course is an opportunity for students to culminate their Latino studies concentration with an internship tailored to enhance their understanding of social and political life of Latinos. The internship will be an intense course that will give students the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills developed over the course of their undergraduate career to an actual work setting. Students should expect to work closely with site supervisor, others at internship site, seminar classmates, and Professor.
**Prerequisites:** LLAS-101 minimum grade of C and LLAS-201 minimum grade of C and LLAS-290 minimum grade of C.

LLAS-392. Internship In Latin American Studies. 3 Hours.
This capstone course is an opportunity for students to culminate their Latin American studies concentration with an internship tailored to enhance their understanding of social and political life of Latin Americans. The internship will be an intense course that will give students the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills developed over the course of their undergraduate career to an actual work setting. Students should expect to work closely with site supervisor, others at internship site, seminar classmates, and Professor.
**Prerequisites:** LLAS-101 minimum grade of C and LLAS-201 minimum grade of C and LLAS-290 minimum grade of C.

LLAS-393. Independent Studies In Latino & Latin American Studies. 3 Hours.
Academic credit for special research project student conducts with individual guidance from a faculty member. Projects that could be completed in an established course are not appropriate for Independent Study. Student must submit project proposal to the faculty member in the semester prior to the one in which the project is to be conducted. Independent Study requires approval of instructor, coordinator of program, department chair and college dean.
**Prerequisites:** LLAS-101 minimum grade of C and LLAS-201 minimum grade of C and LLAS-290 minimum grade of C.