

# U.S. LATINO/A STUDIES PROGRAM

U.S. Latino/a Studies is devoted to the study of Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, Cuban Americans and other groups of people living in the United States who trace their ancestry to the Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America, and who comprise the largest and fastest growing ethnic groups in the United States. U.S. Latino/a Studies is to be distinguished from Latin American Studies; the latter focuses on people living in Latin America. The methodologies of study in U.S. Latino/a Studies are cross-disciplinary, drawing from the methods established in psychology, anthropology, sociology, political science, economics, religion, philosophy, history, literary studies, and other fields.

The minor in U.S. Latino/a Studies is an excellent addition to any major. Virtually any professional, in any field, working throughout the United States, can benefit from a greater understanding of the Latino/a communities in our nation.

Students can also build a major in U.S. Latino/a Studies within the Interdisciplinary Studies major administered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

## Interdisciplinary Studies Major, Track in U.S. Latino/a Studies

Students can work with the US LS program director and the Interdisciplinary Studies adviser to develop an individualized major program. In addition to meeting the general requirements for the Interdisciplinary Studies major, students wishing to complete a track in U.S. Latino/a Studies must complete a minimum of 36 credits in the area of U.S. Latino/a Studies. At least 15 of the 36 credits must be in courses numbered 300 and above and 6 credit hours must be earned at the 400-level. Students must also meet the upper-level communication proficiency requirement by taking English 302 or 314.

### Required Courses (36 credits)

Prerequisite for all US LS courses: (3 credit hours):

US LS 211	Introduction to U.S. Latino/a Studies	3
Two of the following Historical Foundations of US LS		6
US LS 240	Latina/o History	
HIST 340	History of Latin America I	
HIST 341	History of Latin America II	
Two of the following Social Science Foundations of US LS		6
US LS 332	The Latino/Latina Experience in U.S. Society	
US LS 347	U.S. Latino/a Psychology	
ANTHR 323	Topics in Latin American Anthropology	
SPAN 322	Latin American Civilization	
SPAN 324	Latin America Today	
Two of the following Political Foundations of US LS		3
US LS 343	Latin American Government and Politics	
US LS 473	Civil Rights and Ethnic Power	
Two of the following Literature and Language in US LS		6
US LS 342	Religion and U.S. Latino/a Literature	
US LS 344	U.S. Latino/a Literature	

SPAN 445	Seminar on the Literatures and Cultures of Latin America	
SPAN 304	Spanish for Global Professionals	
Special Topics in US LS (Optional; maximum of 3 credit hours per semester up to 9 credit hours total)		3-9
US LS 490	Independent Study	
Additional Credits for the Major (if not taken to satisfy areas above; four of the following courses)		12
US LS 240	Latina/o History	
US LS 332	The Latino/Latina Experience in U.S. Society	
US LS 342	Religion and U.S. Latino/a Literature	
US LS 343	Latin American Government and Politics	
US LS 344	U.S. Latino/a Literature	
US LS 347	U.S. Latino/a Psychology	
US LS 473	Civil Rights and Ethnic Power	
US LS 490	Independent Study	
ANTHR 323	Topics in Latin American Anthropology	
HIST 340	History of Latin America I	
HIST 341	History of Latin America II	
SPAN 322	Latin American Civilization	
SPAN 324	Latin America Today	
SPAN 445	Seminar on the Literatures and Cultures of Latin America	

### Notes

1. The list of acceptable courses may include courses not currently listed above. Contact the Director of US Latino/a Studies for information on eligible courses.
2. The student must have an average grade of C in the required courses of the major.
3. Fulfillment of the foreign language requirement with Spanish is strongly recommended, but not required. A limit of six (6) credits of approved Spanish courses (304, 322, 324, 445) may be used as supporting courses for the major. Spanish course credits counted toward the major may not be applied to any other degree requirement.

## US Latino/a Studies Minor

The minor in US Latino/a Studies requires a minimum of 15 credit hours. University policy indicates that minors must include at least 9 credits that are not applied to any other degree requirement.

### Required course work in core courses (9 credits total):

US LS 211	Introduction to U.S. Latino/a Studies	3
And six credits from the following:		6
US LS 240	Latina/o History	
US LS 332	The Latino/Latina Experience in U.S. Society	
US LS 342	Religion and U.S. Latino/a Literature	
US LS 343	Latin American Government and Politics	
US LS 344	U.S. Latino/a Literature	
US LS 347	U.S. Latino/a Psychology	
US LS 473	Civil Rights and Ethnic Power	
US LS 490	Independent Study	

**Total Credits**

**9**

### Six (6) additional credits from the following list (if not taken to satisfy area above):

US LS 240	Latina/o History	3
US LS 332	The Latino/Latina Experience in U.S. Society	3
US LS 342	Religion and U.S. Latino/a Literature	3
US LS 343	Latin American Government and Politics	3
US LS 344	U.S. Latino/a Literature	3
US LS 347	U.S. Latino/a Psychology	3
US LS 473	Civil Rights and Ethnic Power	3
US LS 490	Independent Study	1-3
ANTHR 323	Topics in Latin American Anthropology	3
HIST 340	History of Latin America I	3
HIST 341	History of Latin America II	3
SPAN 304	Spanish for Global Professionals	3
SPAN 322	Latin American Civilization	3
SPAN 324	Latin America Today	3
SPAN 445	Seminar on the Literatures and Cultures of Latin America	3

#### Notes:

1. The list of acceptable courses may include courses not currently listed above. Contact the Director of US Latino/a Studies for information on eligible courses.
2. A limit of six (6) credits of approved Spanish courses (304, 322, 324, 445) may be used as supporting courses for the minor. Spanish course credits counted toward the minor may not be applied to any other degree requirement.
3. A maximum of 3 credit hours of US LS 490 (Independent Study) may be applied toward the minor.

#### Courses primarily for undergraduates:

##### US LS 211: Introduction to U.S. Latino/a Studies

(3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.

History and current lives of the Latino/a peoples in the United States, including Mexican, Cuban, Puerto Rican, Dominican, and South and Central Americans, as well as information specific to Iowa Latino/as, will be covered. Through readings, class discussions, writing assignments, and guest speakers, students will acquire accurate information and a solid understanding of the US Latino/a population and cultural perspectives. Elements of Latino/a culture to be covered include historical, sociological, educational, psychological, economic, and political facets.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

##### US LS 240: Latina/o History

(Cross-listed with HIST). (3-0) Cr. 3.

Historical and cultural heritage of Latinas/os in the United States. The histories of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, and other Latin American peoples in the U.S. emphasizing political and cultural convergence and congruencies.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

##### US LS 332: The Latino/Latina Experience in U.S. Society

(Cross-listed with SOC). (3-0) Cr. 3. F.

*Prereq:* SOC 134

Examination of the social, historical, economic and political experience of varied Latino ethnic groups in the U.S. - primarily focusing on Mexican, Puerto Ricans, and Cubans.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

##### US LS 342: Religion and U.S. Latino/a Literature

(Cross-listed with RELIG). (3-0) Cr. 3. Alt. S., offered odd-numbered years.

A study of the religious behavior and attitudes expressed in the literature of Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, Cuban Americans and other groups of people living in the U.S. who trace their ancestry to the Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

##### US LS 343: Latin American Government and Politics

(Cross-listed with POL S). (3-0) Cr. 3.

Political institutions, processes, and contemporary issues. Selected countries examined intensively to illustrate generalizations. Role of parties, military, church, human rights, women, environmental issues, interest groups, ideology, and globalization.

##### US LS 344: U.S. Latino/a Literature

(Cross-listed with ENGL). (3-0) Cr. 3. S.

*Prereq:* ENGL 250

An introduction to the literature of Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, Cuban Americans and other Latino/a sub-groups. Special emphasis on themes such as ethnic relations and comparisons with EuroAmerican literary traditions.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

##### US LS 347: U.S. Latino/a Psychology

(Cross-listed with PSYCH). (3-0) Cr. 3. S.

*Prereq:* Two courses in Psychology including PSYCH 101

Historical, political, and social contexts of psychological and mental health constructs in terms of their validity and utility for use in Latino/a people in the U.S. Unique aspects of psychological functioning particular to Latino/a peoples in the U.S.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

##### US LS 473: Civil Rights and Ethnic Power

(Cross-listed with AF AM, HIST). (3-0) Cr. 3.

*Prereq:* Sophomore classification

Comparative history of the civil rights and ethnic power movements (African American, Chicano, American Indian, Puerto Rican, among others) in the U.S. from World War II to the present. Topics include institutional foundations, leadership, gender and racial dynamics, and the convergences and divergences of these differing ethnic struggles for rights.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

##### US LS 490: Independent Study

Cr. 1-3. Repeatable, maximum of 9 credits.

*Prereq:* permission of instructor

Independent study under supervision of instructor. No more than 3 credits may count towards the U.S. Latino/a Studies certificate.