

U.S. LATINO/A STUDIES PROGRAM

Latinos/as/x are the largest and fastest growing culturally diverse population in the United States, representing dynamic and thriving American realities.

U.S. Latino/a Studies at Iowa State University is a cross-disciplinary, coalition-building program that offers well-structured and creative coursework to students interested in the arts, cultures, economies, histories, politics, religions, and literatures of Latino/a/x communities throughout the United States. It facilitates the study of a vast array of communities and individuals with roots in the Caribbean and Latin America, and long-established U.S. citizen communities such as Chicanos/as, Mexican Americans, Tejanos, Californios, Cuban-Americans, Dominican-Americans, and Puerto Ricans on the island and on the mainland.

The program aims to serve as a hub that connects classes, service and outreach opportunities across colleges, schools, and departments.

Consequently, students can discover a stimulating field of critical and academic research, engage in an exciting platform on which to link different fields of study, and become part of outreach/community networks in which they will grow to become outstanding, conscientious leaders in their respective careers.

The Program in U.S. Latino/a Studies is well suited to careers in Education, Psychology, History, Sociology, Business, Journalism, Spanish Language and Cultures, Women's and Gender Studies, and Agriculture. A U.S. Latino/a Studies minor, or a double major with a Latino/a Studies track in Interdisciplinary Studies, strengthens student profiles as they compete for jobs on the global market because they have attained an in-depth experience of local and global experiences of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as a sophisticated understanding of diversity and inclusion.

The US LS Program offers course work that meets the ISU U.S. Diversity requirement and also offers a 15 credit Minor (<https://usls.las.iastate.edu/minor/>).

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

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 including US LS 211 (Introduction to U.S. Latino/a Studies) and an experiential learning course (US LS 325 or US LS 499). 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. Students can work with the US LS program director and an Interdisciplinary Studies advisor to explore options within this individualized major program.

Required Courses (36 credits)

US LS 211	Introduction to U.S. Latino/a Studies	3
One Experiential Learning course in US LS		
US LS 325	Culture and Community: Iowa and Midwest Latino/as	3
or US LS 499	Internship in US Latino/a Studies	
Two of the following Historical Foundations of US LS		6
US LS 372	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 343	Latin American Government and Politics	
US LS 347	U.S. Latino/a Psychology	
US LS 473	Civil Rights and Ethnic Power	
ANTHR 323	Topics in Latin American Anthropology	
SOC 332	The Latino/Latina Experience in U.S. Society	
SPAN 322	Latin American Civilization	
SPAN 324	Latin America Today	
Two of the following Literature and Language in US LS		6
US LS 342	Religion and U.S. Latino/a Literature	
ENGL 344	U.S. Latino/a Literature	
SPAN 304	Spanish for Global Professionals	
SPAN 445	Seminar on the Literatures and Cultures of Latin America	
And twelve additional credits from any US LS, US LS cross-listed, or other course listed above		12
Total Credits		36

Notes

1. The list of acceptable courses may include courses not currently listed. Contact the Director of US Latino/a Studies for information on eligible courses.
2. The student must have an average grade of C in courses applied to the major.
3. Fulfillment of the world language requirement with Spanish is strongly recommended, but not required. Students pursuing multiple majors can apply up to nine (9) credits of approved Spanish courses (304, 322, 324, 445) to both the US LS and their other major.

U.S. Latino/a Studies Minor

The minor in US Latino/a Studies requires a minimum of 15 credit hours including US LS 211 (Introduction to U.S. Latino/a Studies) and an experiential learning course (US LS 325 or US LS 499). University policy indicates that minors must include at least 9 credits that are not applied to any other degree requirement.

Required course work

US LS 211	Introduction to U.S. Latino/a Studies	3
US LS 325	Culture and Community: Iowa and Midwest Latino/as	3
or US LS 499	Internship in US Latino/a Studies	
And nine credits from any US LS or US LS cross-listed course		9
Total Credits		15

Notes:

1. A limit of six (6) credits of approved Spanish courses (304, 322, 324, 445) may be substituted for US LS courses.
2. 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 305: Spanish for Heritage Speakers

(Cross-listed with SPAN). Cr. 3.

Prereq: Native or Heritage Speaker or Permission of Instructor.

Intensive study and application of grammar concepts in the development of writing and reading skills in a dynamic cultural context centered on Hispanics in the U.S. Designed for native or heritage Spanish speakers with oral proficiency in Spanish but with little or no formal academic training in the language. Taught exclusively in Spanish.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

US LS 323: Topics in Latin American Anthropology

(Cross-listed with ANTHR). (3-0) Cr. 3. Repeatable, maximum of 9 credits. S.

Prereq: ANTHR 201 or ANTHR 306 recommended

Exploration of key contemporary and historical issues in Latin American Anthropology; discussion of current anthropological approaches to studying Latin American social issues in a global context. Topics vary each time offered.

US LS 323A: Latin American Anthropology: Violence and Memory

(Cross-listed with ANTHR). (3-0) Cr. 3. Repeatable, maximum of 9 credits. S.

Prereq: ANTHR 201 or ANTHR 306 recommended

Exploration of key contemporary and historical issues in Latin American Anthropology; discussion of current anthropological approaches to studying Latin American social issues in a global context. Topics vary each time offered.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

US LS 323B: Latin American Anthropology: Social movements and Democracy

(Cross-listed with ANTHR). (3-0) Cr. 3. Repeatable, maximum of 9 credits. S.

Prereq: ANTHR 201 or ANTHR 306 recommended

Exploration of key contemporary and historical issues in Latin American Anthropology; discussion of current anthropological approaches to studying Latin American social issues in a global context. Topics vary each time offered.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

US LS 323C: Latin American Anthropology: Race, Class and Gender

(Cross-listed with ANTHR). (3-0) Cr. 3. Repeatable, maximum of 9 credits. S.

Prereq: ANTHR 201 or ANTHR 306 recommended

Exploration of key contemporary and historical issues in Latin American Anthropology; discussion of current anthropological approaches to studying Latin American social issues in a global context. Topics vary each time offered.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

US LS 323D: Latin American Anthropology: Regional Focus

(Cross-listed with ANTHR). (3-0) Cr. 3. Repeatable, maximum of 9 credits. S.

Prereq: ANTHR 201 or ANTHR 306 recommended

Exploration of key contemporary and historical issues in Latin American Anthropology; discussion of current anthropological approaches to studying Latin American social issues in a global context. Topics vary each time offered.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

US LS 323E: Latin American Anthropology: Culture and Sport.

(Cross-listed with ANTHR). (3-0) Cr. 3. Repeatable, maximum of 9 credits.

Prereq: ANTHR 201 or ANTHR 306 recommended

Exploration of key contemporary and historical issues in Latin American Anthropology; discussion of current anthropological approaches to studying Latin American social issues in a global context. Topics vary each time offered.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

US LS 325: Culture and Community: Iowa and Midwest Latino/as

(Cross-listed with SPAN). Cr. 3. S.

Prereq: US LS 211

Analysis and discussion of interdisciplinary texts examining the local and regional Latino/a immigration experience. Exploring Latino/a culture through participation in a community project. Assessed service learning component.

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. S.

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.

Meets International Perspectives 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 with Latino/a people in the U.S. Unique aspects of psychological functioning particular to Latino/a people in the U.S.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

US LS 371: Mexican American History

(Cross-listed with HIST). (3-0) Cr. 3. Alt. F., offered even-numbered years.

Prereq: 3 credits of 200-level HIST at Iowa State and sophomore classification.

History of the Mexican American community in the U.S. from the 1820s to the present. Topics include community development, employment, social marginalization, racism/discrimination, depression and world wars, civil rights, ethnic power and politics.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

US LS 372: 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 420: Bilingualism & The Education of Latinx Youth

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

Prereq: EDUC 405 or EDUC 406

Introduction to research on bilingualism and examination of the social, historical, and political contexts of Spanish/English education in the U.S. Attention to policy environment, school program structure, mode of classroom instruction, family and community context, and attainment of bilingualism and biculturalism for Latinx youth.

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.

US LS 499: Internship in US Latino/a Studies

Cr. 1-3. Repeatable, maximum of 6 credits. F.S.SS.

Prereq: US LS 211 or permission of program director.

Supervised practice working with US Latino/a communities in the public or private sector, combined with academic work under faculty supervision. Offered on a satisfactory-fail basis only. Up to 3 credits may apply toward US LS minor.