LATINA/O STUDIES (Div II)
Chair: Professor Mérida M. Rúa

Professors: M. E. Cepeda, O. Chavoya, M. Rúa, C. Whalen. Associate Professor: J. Hidalgo. Affiliated Faculty: Assistant Professor G. Mitchell.

On leave Fall/Spring: Associate Professor J. Hidalgo.
On leave Spring only: Professor O. Chavoya.

Latina/o Studies is an interdisciplinary and comparative field of study that explores the histories, representations, and experiences of Latinas and Latinos in the United States. Latinas and Latinos include peoples who come from or whose ancestors come from Latin America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean. The program seeks to cover the widest range of experiences, encompassing Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, and Dominicans, as well as more recent migrations from a wide variety of Central and South American countries. Courses, most of which use a comparative approach, seek to provide students with the tools to continue their work in areas of their particular interest. Focusing on a diverse group with a long history in the United States, which is also one of the fastest growing populations in the contemporary era, provides an opportunity to explore complex dynamics globally and within the context of the United States. The program examines topics such as the political and economic causes of migration, the impact of globalization, economic incorporation, racialization, the formation and reformulations of identities and communities, the uses of urban spaces, inter-ethnic relations, artistic expression, aesthetics, and visual and popular culture.

THE CONCENTRATION

The concentration in Latina/o Studies requires five courses. Students are required to take the introductory course (LATS 105), one 400-level Latina/o Studies seminar, and three electives. Two electives must be core electives, and one elective can be a related course in Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies or in Countries of Origin and Transnationalism. The three electives must include two different areas of study, and at least one elective must be at the 300 or 400 level. Additional courses may be approved by the Chair. Students, especially those considering graduate work or professional careers in the field, are encouraged to enroll in Spanish language courses at Williams.

Required course:
LATS 105 Latina/o Identities: Constructions, Contestations, and Expressions

One of the following 400-level seminars:
- ARTH 464/LATS 464 Latina/o Visual Culture: Histories, Identities, and Representation
- LATS 408/AMST 408 Envisioning Urban Life: Objects, Subjects, and Everyday People
- LATS 409/AMST 411/WGSS 409 Transnationalism and Difference: Comparative Perspectives
- LATS 420/ENVI 421 Latinx Ecologies
- LATS 427/AMST 327/REL 314/AFR 427 Racial and Religious Mixture
- LATS 471/HIST 471 Comparative Latina/o Migrations

Two of the following core electives:
- LATS 106/AMST 106 Coming of Age in the City: Growing Up and Growing Older in Communities of Color
- LATS 112 Caribbean Diasporic Aesthetic
- LATS 203/ARTH 203/WGSS 203/AMST 205 Chicana/o Film and Video
- LATS 208/AMST 207/COMP 211/ENGL 251 Introduction to Latina/o Literatures
- LATS 209/RLSP 209 Spanish for Heritage Speakers: Introduction to Latina/o Cultural Production
- LATS 220/AMST 221/ENVI 221 Introduction to Urban Studies: Shaping and Living the City
- LATS 222 Ficciones
- LATS 224/AMST 224/REL 224 U.S. Latina/o Religions
- LATS 228 AFR 328/AMST 329/REL 223 Revolt and Revelation in 20th Century Americas
LATS 231 /AMST231/WGSS232 Approaches to Media Studies: Analyzing Mediated Difference
LATS 240/AMST 240/COMP 210 Latina/o Language Politics: Hybrid Voices
LATS 246/AMST 246 Aesthetics and Place-making in Latina/o New York
LATS 252 Puerto Rico and its Diaspora
LATS 358/ARTH 358 Latina/o Installation and Site Specific Art
LATS 286/HIST 286 Latina/o History, 1848 to the Present
LATS 312/AMST 312/ENVI 313 Chicago
LATS 313/AMST 313/WGSS 313/AFR 326 Gender, Race, and the Power of Personal Aesthetics (D)
LATS 316 The Graphic Narrative
LATS 318/AMST 318/REL 318/COMP 328/ENVI 318 California: Myths, Peoples, Places
LATS 330 DNA + Latinx
LATS 338/AMST 339/WGSS 338 Latina/o Musical Cultures: Sounding Out Gender, Race, and Sexuality
LATS 340 U.S. Afro-Latinidades
LATS 346/AMST 346 Latinas/os and the Media: From Production to Consumption
LATS 385 Politics, Activism, and Everyday Life
LATS 382/HIST 382/WGSS 382 Latina/o Politics
LATS 386/HIST 386/WGSS 386 Latinas in the Global Economy: Work, Migration, and Households
LATS 397 Independent Study
LATS 398 Independent Study
REL 227/LATS 227/AMST 227/ENVI 227 Utopias and Americas
REL 309/AFR 309/LATS 309 Scriptures and Race
REL 326/LATS 426/WGSS 326/COMP 326 Queer Temporalities

One additional related course from either of the following subcategories OR from the core electives above:

**Countries of Origin and Transnationalism**
AFR 248/HIST 248 The Caribbean: From Slavery to Independence
ARTH 110 Introduction to Latin American and Latina/o Art
ARTH 271/COMP 272 The Brazilian Avant-garde of the 1960s
ARTH 440/LATS 440 Contemporary Exhibitions: Los Angeles and Latin America
ENVI 239/COMP 238 Introduction to Ecocriticism: North South Dialogues on Nature and Culture
HIST 143 Soccer and History in Latin America: Making the Beautiful Game
HIST 243 Modern Latin America, 1822 to the Present
HIST 245/AFR 346 History of Modern Brazil
HIST 343/LATS 343 Conquistadors in the New World
HIST 347 Democracy and Dictatorship in Latin America
HIST 492 Revolutionary Thought in Latin America
MUS 126 Cuban Popular Music and Culture
PSCI 266 The United States and Latin America
PSCI 349 Cuba and the United States
Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies

AFR 200 Introduction to Africana Studies
AMST 245/ANTH 245/LATS 245/WGSS 247 Introduction to Native American and Indigenous Studies
AMST 403/COMP 375/ENGL 375/AFR 403/LATS 403 New Asian American, African American, Native American, and Latina/o Writing
ARTH 462/AMST 462/LATS 462/ARTH 562 Art of California: Pacific Standard Time
HIST 380 Comparative American Immigration History
WGSS 240/AMST 241/LATS 241/THEA 241 Performing Masculinity in Global Popular Culture
WGSS 306/AMST 306/AFR 306/LATS 306/COMP 304 Queer of Color Critique: Race, Sex, and Urban Life

Students can check with the program chair to see if other courses not listed here might count as electives.

THE DEGREE WITH HONORS

Honors in Latina/o Studies may be granted to concentrators after an approved candidate completes an honors project, delivers a public presentation of the work, and is awarded an honors grade by her/his advisor and two other faculty readers. In consultation with the advisor and the chair, faculty readers may be from outside the Latina/o Studies Program.

The honors project will be completed over one semester plus winter study. It may consist of a conventional research thesis of 40-70 pages or of other forms of presentation (e.g., video, art, theater). It may also combine a shorter research thesis with another medium.

To be accepted as a candidate for honors in Latina/o Studies, a student must meet these criteria:

Submit and earn approval of a project proposal in April of the junior year. The proposal should be no longer than 5 pages and should lay out the project’s aim and methodology, identify the student’s advisor for the work, and include evidence of competence in the necessary media for projects that include non-thesis forms.

Achieve a grade point average generally of at least 3.33 in LATS courses at the time of application.

Students admitted to the honors program must submit a 5-to 8-page revised proposal, with an annotated bibliography, by the second week of classes in the fall semester of her/his senior year. They should register either for LATS 493 in the fall semester and LATS 031 in Winter Study, or for LATS 031 in Winter Study and LATS 494 in the spring semester. These courses will be in addition to the 5 courses that make up the regular concentration.

STUDY ABROAD

Study abroad and other off-campus programs offer excellent opportunities for students to build on, and expand, the intellectual interests they develop as part of the Latina/o Studies concentration. Through their connections to various institutions in the U.S. and other nations, Latina/o Studies faculty can help place students in U.S. borderlands programs as well as programs in Mexico, Cuba, and other “countries of origin.” Any student seeking to include courses as part of a concentration in Latina/o Studies should feel free to contact the Program chair or other faculty. A maximum of 1 course taken away from Williams can count (as an elective) toward the completion of the concentration.

FAQ

Students MUST contact departments/programs BEFORE assuming study away credit will be granted toward the major or concentration.

Can your department or program typically pre-approve courses for major/concentration credit?

Yes, in some cases, if appropriate course information is available in advance (e.g. syllabi and/or course descriptions), though students should be sure to contact the department.

What criteria will typically be used/required to determine whether a student may receive major/concentration credit for a course taken while on study away?

Course title and description. Although syllabus and description, including readings and assignments, would be preferable.
Does your department/program place restrictions on the number of major/concentration credits that a student might earn through study away?
Yes. 1 of 5 for the concentration and can only count as an elective.

Does your department/program place restrictions on the types of courses that can be awarded credit towards your major?
No.

Are there specific major requirements that cannot be fulfilled while on study away?
Yes. Requirements that cannot be fulfilled: Intro Course, Senior Seminar, 2 Core Electives.

Are there specific major requirements in your department/program that students should be particularly aware of when weighing study away options? (Some examples might include a required course that is always taught in one semester, laboratory requirements.)
No.

Give examples in which students thought or assumed that courses taken away would count toward the major or concentration and then learned they wouldn’t:
None to date.

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**LATS 16 (W) True and Wild Tales: Argentine Cinema after 1985**

Crosslistings: ARTH16 / LATS16

*Secondary Crosslisting*

The Argentine film industry is one of the most developed in the Spanish-speaking world. It is rich in genres and production scales, and in the issues raised by the films themselves. This immersive course encourages dynamic engagement with these issues, as we watch films that grapple with the country’s painful legacy of dictatorial rule, coming-of-age road movies, familial dramas, and riotous comedies that feature that distinctive, biting Argentine humor. Our meetings consist of three mandatory screenings per week, two of which are followed by class discussion. In addition to learning about the Argentine context, we will learn vocabulary and tools for discussing and writing about film. No previous coursework in film, or fluency in Spanish required (the films are subtitled)--only an interest in contemporary Argentine cinema and culture.

**Class Format:** afternoons

**Requirements/Evaluation:** 2- to 3-page paper; 3 mandatory screenings each week

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** preference will be given to Art Studio and Art History majors, as well as students concentrating in Latino/a Studies

**Materials/Lab Fee:** cost of books

Winter 2019

LEC Section: 01 MTR 1:00 pm - 3:50 pm PORG 1:00 pm - 3:50 pm Mari Rodríguez Binnie

**LATS 31 (W) Senior Thesis: Latina/o Studies**

Students must register for this course to complete an honors project begun in the fall or begin one to be finished in the spring.

**Class Format:** thesis

**Prerequisites:** approval of program chair

**Enrollment Preferences:** limited to senior honors candidates

**Distributions:** (D2)

Winter 2019

HON Section: 01 TBA Mérida Rúa
LATS 99 (W) Independent Study: Latina/o Studies
Open to upperclass students. Students interested in doing an independent project (99) during Winter Study must make prior arrangements with a faculty sponsor. The student and professor then complete the independent study proposal form available online. The deadline is typically in late September. Proposals are reviewed by the pertinent department and the Winter Study Committee. Students will be notified if their proposal is approved prior to the Winter Study registration period.

Class Format: independent study

Winter 2019
IND Section: 01 TBA Mérida Rúa

LATS 105 (F) Latina/o Identities: Constructions, Contestations, and Expressions
What, or who, is a Hispanic or Latina/o? At present, individuals living in the United States who are classified as such number approximately 57 million, constituting the country's largest "minority" group. In this course, we will study the interdisciplinary field that has emerged in response to this growing population, as we focus on the complex nature of "identity." Viewing identities as historically and socially constructed, we begin with a brief assessment of how racial, ethnic, class, and gendered identities take shape in the Hispanic Caribbean and Latin America. We then examine the impact of (im)migration and the rearticulation of identities in the United States, as we compare each group's unique history, settlement patterns, and transnational activity. Identity is also a contested terrain. As immigrants and migrants arrive, the United States' policymakers, the media, and others seek to define the "newcomers" along with long-term Latina/o citizens. At the same time, Latinas/os rearticulate, live, assert, and express their own sense of identity. In this light, we conclude the course with an exploration of these diverse expressions as they relate to questions of class, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and national origins.

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation to be based on student participation and several short papers (1-5 pages) throughout the semester

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: Latina/o Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 20

Department Notes: required course for concentration in Latina/o Studies

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora;

Fall 2018
LEC Section: 01 TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am Mérida Rúa, Carmen T. Whalen

LATS 106 (S) Coming of Age in the City: Growing up and Growing Older in Communities of Color (DPE) (WI)
This tutorial examines urban life in communities of color through the lens of aging. We will focus on the political and economic dimensions of cities that have profoundly affected the daily collective lives of certain populations from childhood to elderhood. In so doing, we will also consider how age and age relations are highly differentiated by race, class, and gender, as well as how cities are organized and arranged to create and recreate categories and ideas associated with age.

Class Format: tutorial

Requirements/Evaluation: five to six 5-page papers, five to six 2-page responses, oral presentations of papers; discussion

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: first- and second-years, students considering an American Studies major or Latina/o Studies concentration

Expected Class Size: 10

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WI)
DPE: This DPE tutorial foregrounds the significance of age, as it crosscuts with race, class, and gender, in explorations of urban inequality in the United States.

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora; AMST Space and Place Electives; LATS Core Electives;

Spring 2019

TUT Section: T1  Cancelled

LATS 112 (F) Caribbean Diasporic Aesthetics: An Introduction

This course explores how aesthetics can serve as an organizing principle for the critique, analysis, and theorizing of racial and diasporic formations across the 20th century, with a specific focus on Caribbean diasporic populations and their cultural production. We will think about aesthetics as literary, visual, and sonic representations authored by and about communities of color in response to the uneven processes of racialization, migration, colonization, and nation-state formation that inflect how identity is shaped and experienced across time and space. Engaging the work of artists like Hew Locke, María Magdalena Campos-Pons, Kara Walker, and Miguel Luciano in conversation with Stuart Hall, José Quiroga, Krista Thompson, and Michelle Ann Stephens among others will illuminate these inquiries. The circuits of culture, goods, ideas, labor, and peoples that flow between the archipelagos of the Caribbean and the metropoles such as Miami, New York, and London will serve as critical sites to map our interventions.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and class participation, short writing assignments, a 4- to 5-page midterm paper, and a 10-page final paper

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students and Latina/o Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 18

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: LATS Core Electives

Fall 2018

SEM Section: 01  MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm  Sebastian Perez

LATS 203 (F) Chicana/o Film and Video

Crosslistings: LATS203 / ARTH203 / AMST205 / WGSS203

Primary Crosslisting

Hollywood cinema has long been fascinated with the border between the United States and Mexico. This course will examine representations of the U.S.-Mexico border, Mexican Americans, and Chicana/os in both Hollywood film and independent media. We will consider how positions on nationalism, race, gender, identity, migration, and history are represented and negotiated through film. We will begin by analyzing Hollywood "border" and gang films before approaching Chicana/o-produced features, independent narratives, and experimental work. This course will explore issues of film and ideology, genre and representation, nationalist resistance and feminist critiques, queer theory and the performative aspects of identity. Through a focus on Chicana/o representation, the course explores a wide spectrum of film history (from the silent era to the present) and considers numerous genres.

Class Format: film screenings will be scheduled as a lab

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on one short paper, mid-term exam, final exam and take home essays

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 30

Expected Class Size: 20

Distributions: (D2)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under AMST, LATS or WGSS; meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ARTH
LATS 208 (F) Introduction to Latina/o Literatures
Crosslistings: AMST207 / ENGL251 / LATS208 / COMP211

Primary Crosslisting

This discussion course serves as an introduction; the reading list is not meant to be exhaustive or comprehensive, but will rather provide a sampling or range of texts for students to engage. We will explore a number of readings across different genres (the novel, play, poem, short story, graphic novel). Students will endeavor to understand how each author defines Latinidad. What characterizes Latina/os for each of these writers and how do their works articulate the historical conditions out of which they emerge? How is Latina/o literature marked by notions of language, nationality, gender, sexuality, class, race, politics, form, and genre? The readings will provide both a survey of general ideas in the study of Latina/o literatures as well as specific case studies and historical examples from which we will extrapolate about the larger field. Readings include works by Tómas Rivera, Cristina García, Cristy C. Road, Oscar Zeta Acosta, Junot Díaz, Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez, and more.

Class Format: lecture

Requirements/Evaluation: students will be evaluated based on weekly online discussion forum posts, two short papers, a midterm exam, a final comprehensive project, as well as classroom participation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 30

Enrollment Preferences: Latina/o Studies concentrators, American Studies and Comparative Literature majors

Expected Class Size: 20

Distributions: (D2)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under COMP or ENGL; meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under AMST or LATS

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives; AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora; LATS Core Electives

Not offered current academic year

LATS 220 (F) Introduction to Urban Studies: Shaping and Living the City
Crosslistings: LATS220 / AMST221 / ENVI221

Primary Crosslisting

Generally, cities have been described either as vibrant commercial and cultural centers or as violent and decaying urban slums. In an effort to begin to think more critically about cities, this course introduces important topics in the interdisciplinary field of Urban Studies. Specifically, we will discuss concepts and theories used to examine the peoples and structures that make up cities: In what ways do socio-cultural, economic, and political factors affect urban life and development? How are cities planned and used by various stakeholders (politicians, developers, businesses, and residents)? How do people make meaning of the places they inhabit? We will pay particular attention to the roles of race, ethnicity, class, and gender in understanding and interpreting urban communities. Texts include works by anthropologists, historians, sociologists, cultural critics, cultural geographers, and literary writers.

Class Format: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on attendance and class participation, several short writing assignments (1-2 pages), two creative group projects and presentations, a midterm essay (6-7 pages) and final essay (8-10 pages)

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis, not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: first and second year students as well as American Studies majors and Latina/o Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 20
LATS 222 (F)  Ficciones: A Writing Workshop  (DPE) (WI)
Crosslistings: ENGL252 / LATS222

Primary Crosslisting

This course is focused on the art and practice of writing fiction. Sessions are divided into workshop and seminar. Workshop: Students will present short fiction or novel excerpts for peer critique and the editorial advice of the instructor. Seminar: We will study published fiction by Latina/o, Latin American, Afro-Diasporic, and other writers, paying close attention to how each author employs narrative elements--characterization, plotting, structure, dialogue mechanics, setting, tone, theme--as well as the values and visions expressed. Regular assignments and in-class exercises will help students further strengthen their narrative skills.

Class Format: studio/workshop

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and class participation, writing exercises, 4- to 5-page midterm paper (close-reading a text), 10- to 15-page final writing portfolio

Extra Info: not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Latina/o Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 12

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WI)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under LATS; meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ENGL DPE: Student work will encourage personal and cultural expression, with the opportunity to analyze the shaping of social differences, dynamics of unequal power, and processes of change WI: Requires minimum 30 pages of writing, close reading by peers and instructor, and final portfolio of revisions

Attributes: LATS Core Electives;

Fall 2018
STU Section: 01    TR 8:30 am - 9:45 am    Nelly A. Rosario

Spring 2019
STU Section: 01    M 7:00 pm - 9:40 pm    Nelly A. Rosario

LATS 224 (S)  U.S. Latinx Religions
Crosslistings: REL224 / AMST224 / LATS224

Primary Crosslisting

In this course, we will engage aspects of Latinx religious experiences, practices, and expressions in the United States of America. We examine moments where religious expressions intersect with politics, popular culture, and daily life in the U.S.A. Given the plurality of Latinx communities and religious lives in the U.S.A., we will engage certain selected religious traditions and practices --such as popular Catholic devotions to Guadalupe, crypto-Judaism, curanderismo, Latinx Muslims, and Santeria--by focusing on particular moments of religious expression as elucidated in specific historiographies, ethnographies, art, literature, and film. We will also consider, though more briefly, questions of how one studies Latinx religions.

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: based upon class participation, short writing exercises, a 5-page essay, and an 8-12-page final review essay

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Expected Class Size: 15

Distributions: (D2)
LATS 228 (F) Revolt and Revelation in 20th-Century Americas

Crosslistings: AMST228 / AFR228 / LATS228 / REL223

Writing in 1971, Dominican priest and Peruvian theologian Gustavo Gutierrez asked “Is the Church fulfilling a purely religious role when by its silence or friendly relationships it lends legitimacy to dictatorial and oppressive government?” Such a question encapsulates the sometimes agonistic and other times deeply intertwined relationships between religious institutions, religious thought, and movements for political transformation in the 20th century Americas. This course examines those forms of “God-talk” broadly termed "liberation theologies" that responded to and challenged social relationships of class, colonization, race, culture, gender, sexuality, (dis)ability, and ecology. These theologies were borne out of and in turn deeply shaped struggles against oppressive regimes and structures in the Americas, and as such we will focus on some specific theological writings--such as those of Gutierrez--and their relationship to distinct social movements and struggles over land, economy, and political power, especially in Brazil, El Salvador, Perú, and the United States of America between 1960-2000.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: participation, short writing exercises, a 5- to 6-page take-home midterm essay, and an 8- to 12-page final review essay

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: majors and concentrators

Expected Class Size: 12

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: LATS Core Electives

Not offered current academic year

LATS 231 (S) Approaches to Media Studies: Analyzing Mediated Difference

Crosslistings: LATS231 / AMST231 / WGSS232

Media’s influence in 21st century life is pervasive, and encompasses visual, sonic, and discursive formats. This course introduces students to a variety of qualitative approaches to the study of contemporary media. Simultaneously, we will explore questions of ethno-racial identity, gender, and sexuality. Structured around a series of hand-on exercises designed to provide experience in the areas of textual analysis, in-depth interviews, virtual ethnography and participant observation, this class will provide students with interdisciplinary training that enhances their understanding of everyday media and its interaction with multiple categories of identity. This course is a comparative Ethnic Media Studies class that encourages students to employ media as a lens for theorizing the intersections between ethno-racial identity, gender, and sexuality. We review materials focusing on a wide range of minoritarian communities.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: participation; four 3- to 5-page papers; student papers will be based on hands-on exercises using various current Media Studies methods

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Latina/o Studies concentrators, American Studies and Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies majors by seniority

Expected Class Size: 10

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives; AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora; FMST Core Courses; LATS Core Electives; WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses

Not offered current academic year
We the People in the Stacks: Democracy and Literatures of Archives

Crosslistings: ENGL232 / LATS232

"Archives have never been neutral they are the creation of human beings, who have politics in their nature. Centering the goals of liberation is at the heart of the issue." --Jarrett Drake, former digital archivist at Mudd Manuscript Library, Princeton University

This literature and writing course will examine the concept of archives through the lens of democratic ideals. A primary focus will be on how works of literature engage archives—their creation and deletions, their contents and omissions, their revelations and concealments. We will also look at the lives of archivists like Arturo Alfonso Schomburg. Readings include: "The Library of Babel" by Jorge Luis Borges; Important Artifacts and Personal Property From the Collection of Lenore Doolan and Harold Morris, Including Books, Street Fashion and Jewelry by Leanne Shapton; and All the Names by José Saramago. Drawing from the values explored in class, students will have opportunities to contribute to existing archives and to curate their own.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on attendance and class participation, short writing exercises, midterm project, final creative project

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: LATS concentrators

Expected Class Size: 12-15

Distributions: (D2)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under LATS; meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ENGL

Not offered current academic year

Latina/o Language Politics: Hybrid Voices

Crosslistings: AMST240 / LATS240 / COMP210

In this course we will focus on issues of language and identity in the contemporary cultural production and lived experience of various Latina/o communities. As such, how are cultural values and material conditions expressed through Latina/o language and literature? How does Latina/o identity challenge traditional notions of the relationship between language, culture, and nation? In what ways might Latina/o literary and linguistic practices serve as tools for social change? Departing from an overview of common linguistic phenomena such as code-switching (popularly known as "Spanglish") and Latina/o English, we will examine bilingual education, recent linguistic legislation, and the English Only movement. Throughout the course we will survey texts culled from a variety of literary genres as well, including theatre, autobiography, novels, and poetry. Both directly and/or indirectly, these texts address Latina/o language politics, as well as the broader themes of power, community, ethno-racial identity, gender, sexuality, class, and hybridity.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: participation, two essays, final take-home examination

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Latina/o Studies concentrators, American Studies majors, Comparative Literature majors by seniority

Expected Class Size: 12

Distributions: (D2)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under LATS or AMST; meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under COMP

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives; AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora; LATS Core Electives
LATS 241 (F) Performing Masculinity in Global Popular Culture
Crosslistings: LATS241 / SOC240 / WGSS240 / AMST241 / THEA241

Secondary Crosslisting
This course examines popular cultural contexts, asking what it means to be a man in contemporary societies. We focus on the manufacture and marketing of masculinity in advertising, fashion, TV/film, theater, popular music, and the shifting contours of masculinity in everyday life, asking: how does political economy change the ideal shape, appearance, and performance of men? How have products - ranging from beer to deodorant to cigarettes -- had their use value articulated in gendered ways? Why must masculinity be the purview of "males" at all; how can we change discourses to better include performances of female masculinities, butch-identified women, and trans* men? We will pay particular attention to racialized, queer, and subaltern masculinities. Some of our case studies include: the short half-life of the boy band in the US and in Asia (e.g., J/K-Pop), hip hop masculinities and the curious blend of chastity and homoeroticism that constitutes masculinity in the contemporary vampire genre. Through these and other examples, we learn to recognize masculinity as a performance shaped by the political economy of a given culture. The course includes a field trip to a drag performance in Northampton.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: masculinity journal, mid-term essay, visual analyses of pop culture artifact, choice of final essay or 12 page final paper
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: in the event of over-enrollment, a short statement of interest will be solicited
Expected Class Size: 20
Distributions: (D2)
Distribution Notes: meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under AMST, LATS, SOC or WGSS; meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under THEA
Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses; FMST Related Courses; LATS Comparative Race + Ethnic Studies Electives
Not offered current academic year

LATS 246 (S) Aesthetics and Place-making in Latina/o New York
Crosslistings: AMST246 / LATS246

Primary Crosslisting
New York City has long served as a nexus of Latina/o migration and settlement since the late nineteenth century. From the New York sound of Afro-Cuban and Puerto Rican salsa to the poetics of slam poetry forged in the Nuyorican Poets Cafe, New York’s Latinas/os have defined and developed numerous forms of Latina/o popular expression. This course examines the aesthetic foundations of Latina/o New York, remaining attentive to the numerous diasporas that have migrated to and made the city their home. Student will engage with a multiplicity of popular cultural genres including memoirs, literature, poetry, sound, visual art, and photography in the context of the history of the city while focusing on key themes of racial formation, the politics of space and place, and the labor of culture.

Class Format: lecture/discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and class participation, short writing exercises, 4- to 5-page midterm paper close-reading a text, and a 10- to 15-page final paper
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: LATS concentrators and AMST majors
Expected Class Size: 15
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora; AMST Space and Place Electives; LATS Core Electives
Not offered current academic year

LATS 247 (S) Race and Religion in the American West
Crosslistings: LATS247 / ENVI247 / REL247 / AMST247
Secondary Crosslisting

From the "Land of Enchantment" of New Mexico in the far reaches of the desert to the sacred temples on the West Coast that overlook Pacific Ocean, this course examines the peoples and the "sacrosapes" of the American West. Historian Patricia Limerick regards this region as an extraordinary site of convergence and one of "the greatest meeting places on the planet." The region is a site of cultural complexity where Penitentes maintained a sacred order, Pentecostals attracted a global audience, Native Americans forged legal/protected definitions of "religion," and Asian immigrants built the first Buddhist and Sikh temples. Until recently, standard surveys of religious history in North America have devoted minimal attention to the distinctive role of religion in the American West. They have focused on religious history in the flow of events westward from the Plymouth Rock landing and Puritan establishment while generally overlooking the Pueblo Revolt in modern-day New Mexico which occurred in that same century and marked the temporary suspension of Spanish encroachment. How do scholars of religion and history account for these renditions between the past and present? Most mainstream religious histories treat religious experience and identity in the U.S. West as additive rather than complementary to or constitutive of its mainstream narratives. Contemporary historians of religion note the need for new "sights," "cites," and "sites" in order to deconstruct and reconstruct this incomplete meta-narrative, taking into account such factors as migration, gender, region, and the environment.

Class Format: seminar/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: student participation, weekly reflection papers (up to half page), midterm primary source paper (up to 5 pages), and a final research paper on Religion and the Environment (8-10 page paper with a media/visual component)

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Extra Info 2: course is part of the 2016-17 Climate Change Initiative

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: none

Department Notes: religion: Elective Course

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora; ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives; LATS Comparative Race + Ethnic Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

LATS 252 (S) Puerto Rico and its Diaspora

Crosslistings: AMST252 / LATS252

Primary Crosslisting

On September 20, 2018, Maria---a category four hurricane made landfall on Puerto Rico. The most powerful storm to hit the island since 1932, Maria caused widespread catastrophic damage on a land already suffering from the devastating effects of a decades-long economic recession. Three months after the hurricane, half the island remained without power, water service yet to be reestablished in many areas, and aid distribution inadequate and inconsistent. The hurricane and its aftermath brought mainstream U.S. attention to Puerto Rico and its diaspora, while simultaneously calling attention to the island's status and relationship to the United States. This hybrid onsite-Skype-travel course is for students interested in learning about the historical, social, and political relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States. We will examine, for example, the political status of Puerto Rico, migration, race, social movements, and expressive cultural forms that have emerged as a result of this asymmetrical relationship.

Through the study of the impact and legacy of U.S. policies on the island, we will also consider how the fiscal and humanitarian crisis and proposed solutions affect the daily collective lives of the people in the U.S. territory and the diaspora. This course is a unique collaboration between Vassar, Williams, and the UPR. To enroll in this course, students must commit to participating in an alternative spring break/community engagement project in Puerto Rico and flexible with possible changes in class time when Skyping with students from the University of Puerto Rico. We will gather in Puerto Rico to meet with peers from UPR and for an alternative spring break collaboration, interfacing with various community organizations that have taken up vital social, medical, and economic roles vacated by the United States. Taller Salud, PECES, and Casa Pueblo are among the organizations in Puerto Rico that students may work with as a part of the course's community engagement component.

Class Format: seminar; to enroll in this course, students must commit to participating in an alternative spring break/community engagement learning project in Puerto Rico

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, short writing exercises, group work/project, a midterm essay (5-7 pages), and a final essay (10-12 pages)

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: students should have some fluency with the Spanish language

Enrollment Limit: 8

Enrollment Preferences: should be first- and second-years, students considering an American Studies major or Latina/o Studies concentration; AMST majors and LATS concentrators.

Expected Class Size: 8

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora; AMST Space and Place Electives; EXPE Experiential Education Courses; LATS Core Electives

Spring 2019

SEM Section: 01 MWF 8:30 am - 9:45 am Mérida Rúa

LATS 286 (F) Latina/o History, 1848 to the Present

Crosslistings: HIST286 / LATS286

Primary Crosslisting

From 1848 to the present, Latina/o communities have taken shape in the United States through conquest and migration. Why and when have distinct Latina/o groups come to have sizeable communities in different regions of the United States? U.S. imperialism and foreign policies, as well military, political and economic ties between the United States and the various countries of origin define the political and economic contexts in which people leave their homes to come to the United States. In their search for low-wage labor, U.S. employers have recruited workers from Latin America and the Hispanic Caribbean. Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, Dominicans, Guatemalans, and Salvadorans, as well as others, have responded to labor recruitment and have also relied on networks of family and friends to seek a better life in the United States. What do the histories of these distinct Latina/o groups share and where do their experiences diverge?

Class Format: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on class participation and group presentations, short writing assignments, two short essays, and a final essay

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 40

Expected Class Size: 20

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora; HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada; LATS Core Electives

Fall 2018

LEC Section: 01 MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Carmen T. Whalen

LATS 309 (S) Scriptures and Race

Crosslistings: AFR309 / LATS309 / REL309

Secondary Crosslisting

This course focuses on the relationships between constructions of race in the post-1492 American world and “Christian scriptures.” The big questions of the course examine the ways that contestations of power are intertwined with the making of, interpretation, and transformation of sacred texts. Both scriptures and race are conceptual constellations of human social imagination, and yet their conceptualization has often been embroiled in the hopes and traumas of everyday life in the Americas. How and why did these two terms come to have any relationship to each other? How and why do peoples engage “scriptures”? In what ways have “scriptures” informed how people imagine themselves, their communities, and their relationship to religious and racial “others”? How did “scriptures” and “race” inform each other in modern colonialisms and imperialisms? In this course, we will examine the ways that scriptures have been employed in order to understand and develop notions of race, and we will examine how ideas about and lived experiences of race have informed the concept of scriptures as well as practices of scriptural interpretation.

Class Format: tutorial

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation based upon participation, short writing exercises, a 5- to 8-page take-home midterm essay, and a 10- to
LATS 312 (S) Chicago
Crosslistings: LATS312 / AMST312 / ENVI313
Primary Crosslisting
"The city of big shoulders has plenty of room for diversity," reads the official visitor's website for the City of Chicago. Focusing on this claim, this course asks students to think critically about what kind room has been made for diversity--social, spatial, and ideological. Additionally we examine the ways in which diverse social actors have shouldered their way into the imagined and physical landscape of the city. Working with ethnography, history, literature, critical essays, and popular culture, we will explore the material and discursive constructions of Chi-Town and urban life among its residents. Appreciating these constructions we also consider how Chicago has served as a key site for understandings of urbanity within a broader national and global context.

Class Format: discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on attendance and class participation, group presentations and discussions, 5 critical briefs (2-pages) and a book review essay (15 pages)
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 10
Enrollment Preferences: American Studies majors, Latina/o Studies concentrators and students who have taken LATS 220/AMST 221/ENVI 221
Expected Class Size: 10
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: LATS Core Electives
Not offered current academic year

LATS 313 (F) Gender, Race, and the Power of Personal Aesthetics
Crosslistings: AFR326 / AMST313 / WGSS313 / LATS313
Primary Crosslisting
This course focuses on the politics of personal style among women of color in an era of viral video clips, the 24-hour news cycle, and e-commerce sites dedicated to the dermatological concerns of "minority" females. With a comparative, transnational emphasis on the ways in which gender, sexuality, ethno-racial identity, and class inform standards of beauty, we will examine a variety of materials including commercial websites, histories, personal narratives, ethnographies, sociological case studies, and feminist theory. Departing from the assumption that personal aesthetics are intimately tied to issues of power and privilege, we will engage the following questions: What are the everyday functions of personal style among women of color? Is it feasible to assert that an easily identifiable "African American," "Latina," "Arab American" or "Asian American" female aesthetic exists? What role do transnational media play in the development and circulation of popular aesthetic forms? How might the belief in personal style as activist strategy challenge traditional understandings of feminist political activity?

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: participation, one student-led discussion period, two written essays of 5-7 pages, final take-home exam
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis
Prerequisites: LATS 105, AMST 201, WGSS 101 or permission of instructor; first year students are not permitted to take this course
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: Latina/o Studies concentrators, American Studies majors, and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies majors by seniority
Expected Class Size: 12
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora; ASAM Related Courses; LATS Core Electives; WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses; WGSS Theory Courses

Fall 2018
SEM Section: 01    TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm     Maria Elena Cepeda

LATS 316 (F) The Graphic Narrative: A "Global South" Perspective (DPE)
"[I]n a media-saturated world in which a huge preponderance of the world's news images are controlled and diffused by a handful of men' a stream of comic book images and words, assertively etched' can provide a remarkable antidote." --Edward Said, Introduction to Palestine by Joe Sacco. This course examines graphic narratives (and related texts and film) rooted in the "Global South," with particular emphasis on Latina/o and Latin American experiences. We will focus on how each author/artist deploys visual and narrative elements to express social, political, economic, and cultural realities. Regular assignments will offer students opportunities to create their own graphic narratives.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and class participation, short writing exercises, 4- to 5-page midterm paper (close-reading a text), 10- to 15-page final creative paper
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: Latina/o Studies concentrators
Expected Class Size: 15
Distributions: (D2) (DPE)
Distribution Notes: DPE: Readings in the course offer students the opportunity to analyze the shaping of social differences, dynamics of unequal power, and processes of change
Attributes: LATS Core Electives

Fall 2018
SEM Section: 01    TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm     Nelly A. Rosario

LATS 318 (F) California: Myths, Peoples, Places (WI)
Crosslistings: ENVI318 / LATS318 / REL318 / AMST318 / COMP328
Primary Crosslisting
Crosslisting Between Paradise and Hell, between environmental disaster and agricultural wonderland, between Reagan and Berkeley, between a land of all nations and a land of multiracial enmity, a diversity of myths have been inscribed onto and pursued within the space we call California. How did certain narratives of California come to be, who has imagined California in certain ways, and why? What is the relationship between certain myths, the peoples who have imagined them, and the other peoples who have shared California dreams? In this course, we will examine some of the myths that surround California by looking at a few specific moments of interaction between the peoples who have come to make California home and the specific places in which they have interacted with each other. Of special interest will be imaginations of the Spanish missions, the Gold Rush, agricultural California, wilderness California, California as "sprawling multicultural dystopia," and California as "west of the west."

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: this course will be mostly discussion oriented, with grading based upon participation, short writing exercises, one 3-page review essay with mandatory revision, one 5- to 8-page midterm review essay, and a final 10- to 15-page comparative review essay
Prerequisites: none
LATS 330 (S) DNA + Latinx: Decoding the "Cosmic Race" (DPE)

Scientists working to assemble maps of the human genome have found a goldmine in the DNA of Latinx, Latin American, and other populations that derive ancestry from multiple continents. In this interdisciplinary course, we will explore Latinidades through a genealogical lens: What culture-specific issues emerge around history, identity, ethics, forensics, immigration, commerce, surveillance, art, science, and medicine? Readings will include The Cosmic Race by José Vasconcelos, The Cosmic Serpent by Jeremy Narby, Bird of Paradise: How I Became Latina by Raquel Cepeda, and The Social Life of DNA: Race, Reparations, and Reconciliation After the Genome by Alondra Nelson.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and class participation, writing exercises, 4- to 5-page midterm paper (close-reading a text), 10- to 15-page final writing portfolio

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Latina/o Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 15

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

Distribution Notes: DPE: Readings and class discussion offer students the opportunity to analyze the shaping of social differences, dynamics of unequal power, and processes of change

Attributes: LATS Core Electives

Spring 2019

SEM Section: 01 MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Nelly A. Rosario

LATS 335 (S) Race, Gender, and Performance from Literature to Social Media

Crosslistings: COMP339 / THEA322 / AMST332 / LATS335 / WGSS330

Secondary Crosslisting

How can contemporary performance expand ideas and practices of belonging in the United States, as figured through race, gender, and sexuality? This spring course will begin with readings of dramatic literature including Suzan-Lori Parks's Venus, David Henry Hwang's M. Butterfly, and Young Jean Lee's The Shipment to analyze literary and staged performance, then continue to discussions and readings on the performance of everyday life via the work of performance artists including Adrian Piper, Nao Bustamante, and Yoko Ono. We will develop shared vocabulary and methodologies of performance studies, including readings by scholars including J.L. Austin, Judith Butler, and José Esteban Muñoz. This course will engage foundational texts to performance studies and offer an interdisciplinary approach to scholarship in gender and sexuality studies, critical ethnic studies, and performance studies from the 1970s to the present. This course recognizes a suspicion for diversity discourses that universalize human experience and asks: how do we resist normativizing forces without reinforcing the regulating logics of those forces?

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: in-class participation, partnered presentation, weekly reading responses, performance analysis, final paper

Extra Info: not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: none
LATS 338 (S) Latina/o Musical Cultures: Sounding out Gender, Race, and Sexuality  (WI)
Crosslistings: LATS338 / WGSS338 / AMST339
Primary Crosslisting
In this class we will investigate a wide variety of Latina/o popular musical and dance forms, with particular emphasis on questions of gender, sexuality, and ethno-racial identity. Employing interdisciplinary materials and approaches, this course focuses on the sonic and visual analysis of contemporary Latina/o popular music and the identities of its producers, performers, and audiences. We will focus on the following questions, among others: How are the various facets of Latina/o identities expressed through popular music and dance? In what ways do gender, sexuality, and ethno-racial identity inform the performance and interpretation of particular Latina/o musical forms? What unique role does sound play in our understanding of popular music and identity?
Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, one semester-long original research project conducted in stages
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis
Prerequisites: prior courses in AMST, LATS, or WGSS; not open to first-year students
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: Latina/o Studies concentrators, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies majors, and American Studies majors by seniority
Expected Class Size: 12
Distributions: (D2) (WI)
Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives; AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora; AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives; GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives; LATS Core Electives; WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses; WGSS Theory Courses

LATS 340 (S) U.S. Afro-Latinidades
This course takes an interdisciplinary approach to examine the history, lived experiences, and cultural productions of Afro-Latinx in the United States. Discussions in the course will center on three related questions: What is Afro-Latinidad? How does Blackness in Latin America differ from its articulation among Afro-Latinx in the United States? And, how have migration and sociopolitical processes impacted the lives of U.S. Afro-Latinx and our collective understanding of Afro-Latinidad? Throughout the course, we will draw on literature in the social sciences and humanities to examine the transnational nature of race and Blackness across the Americas, as well as the intersection between these identities and gender, sexuality, and class. We will also examine several media and cultural productions of U.S. Afro-Latinx (poems, novels, documentary films, blogs, and social media sites) and critically analyze their articulation of the Afro-Latinx experience.
Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation based on participation, reading reflections, leading discussion, a 5- to 8-page midterm essay, and a 12- to 15-page final essay or a final collaborative project
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: Latina/o Studies concentrators
LATS 346 (F) Latinas/os and the Media: From Production to Consumption  (WI)
Crosslistings: LATS346 / AMST346

This interdisciplinary course focuses on the areas of Latina/o media production, policy, content, and consumption in an attempt to answer the following questions, among others: How do Latinas/os construct identity (and have their identities constructed for them) through the media? How can we best understand the complex relationship between consumer, producer, and media text? How are Latina/o stereotypes constructed and circulated in mass media? Where do issues of Latina/o consumer agency come into play? In what ways does popular media impact our understanding of ethno-racial identities, gender, sexuality, class, language, and nation?

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation to be based on student participation, one 2- to 3-page close reading exercise, and an original 10- to 12 page research paper conducted in stages
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: LATS 105 or permission of the instructor; no first-year students are permitted to take this course
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: Latina/o Studies concentrators or American Studies majors by seniority
Expected Class Size: 12

LATS 348 (F) Graphic Narratives as Democratic Ideals
Crosslistings: COMP348 / LATS348 / AMST348

This course examines the graphic narrative in terms of how each author/illustrator employs narrative elements (plotting, structure, characterization, text, and visuals) to express social realities within the context of democratic ideals. The primary focus will be on texts that explore themes of democracy and Latinidades. We will also discuss the "graphic activism" of artists like Sharon Lee De La Cruz of Digital Citizens Lab, a design collective with a focus on civic technology. Throughout the course, students will have the opportunity to create their own graphic narratives, either digitally or in print. Possible guest speaker: comic book artist Ivan Vélez (Planet Bronx, 2015 Creative Capital Award in Visual Arts).

Class Format: seminar/workshop
Requirements/Evaluation: based on attendance and class participation, short writing exercises, 4-5 page midterm paper (close-reading a text), 10-15 page final creative paper
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: LATS concentrators
Expected Class Size: 15
LATS 358 (S) Latina/o Installation and Site-Specific Art

Crosslistings: ARTH358 / LATS358

Primary Crosslisting

This course will explore the various forms of installation and site-specific artworks created by Latina/o artists for both museums and public space. We will examine the ways in which Latina/o artists have used space as a material in the production of artworks and how this impacts the works' meanings and the viewer's experience. Within the context of U.S. Latina/o culture and history, we will connect notions of space with ideas about cultural citizenship, civil rights, and social justice. A variety of art forms will be studied, from traditional to experimental, including murals, sculpture, performance, video, and several multimedia, interactive, or participatory projects. While establishing a historical lineage and theoretical frameworks for analyzing this growing genre, we will pay particular attention to how these works engage urban space and often challenge the institutional assumptions of museums and curatorial practice. Likewise, we will examine the important debates associated with various public art and museum installation controversies.

Class Format: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: two short papers, periodic research reports, final research paper, and presentation

Prerequisites: LATS 105 or ARTH 102 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Latina/o Studies concentrators and Art majors

Expected Class Size: 12

Distributions: (D2)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under LATS; meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ARTH

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives; AMST Space and Place Electives; LATS Core Electives

Not offered current academic year

LATS 385 (S) Politics, Activism, and Everyday Life: Latinas/os in New York City and the Northeast

Crosslistings: HIST385 / LATS385

Secondary Crosslisting

This course explores how everyday life has shaped the politics and activism of Latinas/os in New York City and the Northeast from the post-World War II era to the present. Arriving in larger numbers in the 1940s and 1950s, Puerto Ricans sought to define a place for themselves in the region. In ensuing decades, Cubans, Dominicans, Central and South Americans, and Mexicans increasingly settled in the city and the region. Addressing the issues stemming from their everyday lives, politics and activism took a wide variety of forms from community building to meet immediate needs, to social service approaches and community-based organizing during the War on Poverty in the early 1960s, to the radical political and social movements of the late 1960s and the 1970s, to electoral politics throughout the decades to the present. Activists organized around a wide variety of often intersecting issues including education, workers’ rights, women’s rights and feminism, legal status, and LBGTQ+ visibility and rights. At times, politics and activism were rooted in one national origin group, while other efforts were intentionally and explicitly Latinx. This course will draw on autobiographies and other primary materials, as well as documentaries to help in making the connections between everyday life and politics. For final projects, students will have the option of delving deeper into autobiographies and other narrative sources OR of engaging in community based learning throughout the semester and using these experiences as the foundation for their final projects.

Class Format: lecture

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, two essays of 3- to 5-pages each, final project of 7- to 10-pages, and final presentation, option of community based learning

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25
Enrollment Preferences: History majors and Latina/o Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 25

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada; LATS Core Electives

Spring 2019
LEC Section: 01    Cancelled

LATS 386 (S)  Latinas in the Global Economy: Work, Migration, and Households
Crosslistings: LATS386 / HIST386 / WGSS386

Primary Crosslisting
An increasingly global economy, from 1945 to the present, has affected Latinas in their home countries and in the United States. The garment industry, one of the first industries to go global, has relied extensively on Latina workers in their home countries and in the United States. Domestic work, a traditional field of women’s work, also crosses borders. Challenging the myth that labor migration is a male phenomenon and that women simply follow the men, this course explores how the global economy makes Latinas labor migrants. What impact has the global economy and economic development had on Latinas’ work and their households in their home countries? How have economic changes and government policies shaped Latinas’ migrations and their incorporation in the changing U.S. economy? How have Puerto Rican, Mexican, Cuban, Dominican, Salvadoran, and Guatemalan women confronted the challenges created by a globalizing economy and balanced demands to meet their households’ needs?

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation based on class participation and group presentations, short writing assignments, two short essays, and a final paper that will be presented to the class

Prerequisites: open to first-year students with instructor's permission

Enrollment Limit: 25

Expected Class Size: 15

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora; GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives; HIST Group D Electives - Latin America + Caribbean; HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada; LATS Core Electives; WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses

Spring 2019
SEM Section: 01    MWF 11:00 am - 12:15 pm    Carmen T. Whalen

LATS 397 (F)  Independent Study: Latina/o Studies
Latina/o Studies independent study.

Class Format: independent study

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: LATS Core Electives

Fall 2018
IND Section: 01    TBA    Mérida Rúa

LATS 398 (S)  Independent Study: Latina/o Studies
Latina/o Studies independent study.

Class Format: independent study

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: LATS Core Electives
LATS 408 (F) Envisioning Urban Life: Objects, Subjects, and Everyday People (WI)
Crosslistings: LATS408 / AMST408
Primary Crosslisting

What is the relationship between real life in urban communities and the multiple ways in which they are imagined? What does it mean to be "urban," to live in an "urban community," or to be the product of an "urban environment"? Who do we think the people are who populate these spaces? This course takes a critical look at specific populations, periods, and problems that have come to dominate and characterize our conceptions of the quality, form, and function of U.S. urban life. A few of the topics we may cover include historical accounts of the varied ways in which poverty and "urban culture" have been studied; race, class, and housing; the spatial practices of urban youth and the urban elderly; and gendered perspectives on social mobility and community activism. Finally, this course will explore how diverse social actors negotiate responses to their socio-spatial and economic circumstances, and, in the process, help envision and create different dimensions of the urban experience.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on class participation, a short essay, a series of writing exercises, and a semester-long final project
Prerequisites: prior courses in AMST, LATS, or permission of instructor; not open to first year students
Enrollment Limit: 14
Enrollment Preferences: senior Latina/o Studies concentrators and senior American Studies majors
Expected Class Size: 14
Distributions: (D2) (WI)
Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora; AMST 400-level Senior Seminars; AMST Space and Place Electives; ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives; LATS 400-level Seminars;

Fall 2018
SEM Section: 01  W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm  Mérida  Rúa

LATS 409 (F) Transnationalism and Difference: Comparative Perspectives (WI)
Crosslistings: AMST411 / WGSS409 / LATS409
Primary Crosslisting

In the age of satellite television, e-mail, and mobile applications such as WhatsApp and Skype, transnational living has rapidly emerged as the norm as opposed to the exception. However, what does it really mean to "be transnational"? How are the lived experiences of transnational individuals and communities shaped by categories of difference such as gender, ethno-racial identity, sexuality, and class? What impacts do the growing number of transnational citizens and residents in the U.S. have on our understanding of "American" identity in the local, national, and global contexts? In this interdisciplinary, comparative course we will analyze recent theories regarding the origins and impacts of transnationalism. Particular attention will be paid throughout the semester to the interplay of gender, ethno-racial identity, sexuality, and class in connection with everyday transnational dynamics. The broad range of case studies examined includes China, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Middle East.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation to be based on student participation, an original 12-15 page research paper conducted in stages, and peer editing
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: LATS 105, WGSS 101 or AMST 201; junior or senior standing
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: Latina/o Studies concentrators, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies majors, and American Studies majors by seniority
Expected Class Size: 10
Distributions: (D2) (WI)
LATS 420 (F) Latinx Ecologies
Crosslistings: LATS420 / ENVI421

Primary Crosslisting

An August 2015 Latino Decisions poll found that Latinxs, more than other ethnic groups in the U.S.A., are deeply concerned about climate change and the "environment". How and why might some Latinxs be disproportionately impacted by climate change? How have a few distinct Latinx theorists and activists imagined and constructed ecology? How are struggles for environmental justice related to broader Latinx concerns with and constructions of place? This seminar will examine a few moments in distinct Latinx histories and geographies such as California migrant farmworkers and the struggle over pesticides, urban movements over waste management such as the Young Lords’ garbage offensive, food justice movements and urban gardening, as well as literary and theological representations of affective and sacred ecologies such as Helena María Viramontes’ Their Dogs Came With Them and Ecuadoran-U.S. ecofeminist Jeanette Rodríguez’s theological texts. Evaluation will be based on class participation, presentations, annotated bibliography, short writing assignments, writing workshop participation, and a final 20-page research paper.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, presentations, annotated bibliography, short writing assignments, writing workshop participation, and a final 20-page research paper
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: Latinx Studies concentrators; Environmental Studies majors and concentrators
Expected Class Size: 10
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: LATS 400-level Seminars
Not offered current academic year

LATS 426 (S) Queer Temporalities (WI)
Crosslistings: REL326 / WGSS326 / COMP326 / LATS426

Secondary Crosslisting

Birth, childhood, adolescence, college, adulthood, career, marriage, family, mid-life, old age, death, afterlife. How are all these facets of being human imagined as stages in time, as axes on certain progressive lines that delineate human social relations? How do we experience and represent time, and what factors might account for both our experiences and our representations? What are some of the ways that people experience and mark the passing of time? What are some of the different ways that people have made sense of time and themselves in time? How have our conceptions of time and our demarcations of lifecycles shifted historically? How do people whose experiences do not align with dominant cultural social stages negotiate ideas of lifecycle and timing? Especially for individuals and peoples who have been denied self-representation and narratives of place, how do competing notions of time, history, space, and location get negotiated? In this course, drawing from within the broad corpus of queer theory (including theorists such as Gloria Anzaldúa, Elizabeth Freeman, J. Halberstam, and José Esteban Muñoz) we will examine some non-linear, non-normative, and interruptive approaches to making sense of time, space-time, and self within time.

Class Format: tutorial
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on class attendance, analytical essays, responses, and revised essays
Extra Info: Pairs will meet with the instructor for one hour each week. Almost every week, one student from the pair will write a 5-page analysis of the week’s reading. The other student will respond orally with a 2-page response to their partner's paper.
Extra Info 2: Pairs will also prepare a midterm synthesis, students will revise two of their 5-page analytical papers: one from the first half of the semester, one from the second half due at the end of the semester. may not be taken pass/fail or fifth course
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 10
Enrollment Preferences: majors and concentrators in Religion, Latina/o Studies, Comparative Literature, and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies or students who have previous coursework in those programs

Expected Class Size: 10

Distributions: (D2) (WI)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under REL, LATS or WGSS; meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under COMP

Attributes: AMST Space and Place Electives; LATS Core Electives;

LATS 427 (S) Racial and Religious Mixture (WI)
Crosslistings: AMST327 / AFR427 / LATS427 / REL314

Primary Crosslisting
The very term "mixture" implies that two or more distinct substances have been brought together. Distinctions of race and religion are social fictions; yet, the lived ramifications of these social fictions involve tense struggles over the boundaries of racial and religious communities. These boundaries are not just ideas but also practices. In the history of the Americas, mixed racial and religious identities and experiences have more often been the result of violent clashes than romantic encounters. Still, the romanticization of the New World as a geography that makes such mixtures possible reaches back to the earliest days of Spanish conquest in the Americas. This course critically reconsiders varying ways that racial and religious mixtures have been imagined, defined, challenged, negotiated, and survived under imaginative and legal rubrics of mestizaje, creolization, transculturation, passing, syncretism, religious hybridity, and mixed race studies.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation based on participation, presentations, annotated bibliography, short writing assignments, writing workshop participation, and a 20- to 25-page research paper
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: seniors, concentrators, majors, those with prior relevant coursework
Expected Class Size: 10
Distributions: (D2) (WI)
Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora;

LATS 440 (F) Contemporary Exhibitions: Los Angeles and Latin America (DPE) (WI)
Crosslistings: ARTH440 / LATS440

Secondary Crosslisting
This seminar examines connections between Latina/o and Latin American art through a series of recent exhibitions organized as part of a Getty initiative entitled Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA that opened in 2017. While the chronological span for the overall project reaches from Pre-Colombian art to present, we will focus on modern and contemporary art after the 1960s and consider key themes of art and activism, borders and diaspora, globalism and modernism, and popular culture and science fiction in the visual arts. Diverse in scope, these shows explored important developments in the arts of the Americas from the late-20th and 21st centuries, including, abstraction, Chicano muralism, Conceptual art, craft, feminist art, Kinetic art, Modernist design and architecture, social practice, and queer activism. Students will pursue individual research projects directly related to the art exhibitions we study, and examine photography, performance, painting, sculpture (including installation and participatory art), and video by artists both canonical and lesser known. Student projects will analyze the critical responses to the exhibitions while also exploring the roles of archives, art criticism, and curatorial practice in contemporary art history.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: several short writing and research assignments, oral presentations, class participation, and a final research paper of 16-20 pages
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: ARTH 102 (graduate students are exempt from the prerequisite)
LATS 462 (F)  Art of California: Pacific Standard Time  (WI)

Crosslistings: LATS462 / AMST462 / ARTH462 / ARTH562

Secondary Crosslisting

In this course, we will study the visual arts and culture of California after 1960 and consider the region's place in modern art history. We will focus on a series of recent exhibitions organized as part of a Getty initiative entitled Pacific Standard Time. Diverse in scope, these shows explored important developments in postwar art in California, including feminist art, African American assemblage, Chicano collectives, Modernist architecture, craft, and queer activism. In this seminar, we will pursue research projects directly related to the art exhibitions we study, and examine southern California conceptualism, photography, performance, painting, sculpture (including assemblage and installation), and video by artists both canonical and lesser known. Student projects will analyze the critical responses to the exhibitions, while also exploring the roles of archives, art criticism, and curatorial practice in contemporary art history. In fall 2017, a new Getty PST initiative focused on Latin American and Latino art will commence and this class will consider these exhibitions as well.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on several short writing and research assignments, oral presentations, class participation, and a final research paper of 16-20 pages written in stages over the course of the semester

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: ARTH 102

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: senior Art major and senior Latina/o Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 15

Distributions: (D1) (WI)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ARTH; meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under AMST or LATS

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives; AMST Space and Place Electives; ARTH post-1600 Courses; LATS Comparative Race + Ethnic Studies Electives;

Not offered current academic year

LATS 471 (S)  Comparative Latina/o Migrations  (WI)

Crosslistings: LATS471 / HIST471

Primary Crosslisting

Since the 1970s, policymakers, scholars, the media, and popular discourses have used the umbrella terms "Hispanic" and "Latina/o" to refer to Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, Dominicans and more recent immigrants from Central and South American countries. As a form of racial/ethnic categorization, however, these umbrella terms can mask widely divergent migration histories and experiences in the United States. In this course, we
develop theoretical perspectives and comparative analyses to untangle a complicated web of similarities and differences among Latino groups. How important were their time of arrival and region of settlement? How do we explain differences in socioeconomic status? How fruitful and appropriate are comparative analyses with other racial/ethnic groups, such as African Americans or European immigrants? Along the way, we explore the emergence of Latina/o Studies as an interdisciplinary and comparative field of study, as well as methods used in Latino and Latina history, specifically oral histories, government documents, newspapers, and interdisciplinary approaches.

Class Format: discussion/seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on class participation and presentations, a proposal, an annotated bibliography, a short historiographical essay, and a research paper based in part on primary sources

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: History majors and Latina/o Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 8-15

Distributions: (D2) (WI)

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora; GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives; HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada; LATS 400-level Seminars;

Spring 2019

SEM Section: 01    W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pmThursday Org Mtg 7:30 pm - 7:55 pm   Carmen T. Whalen

LATS 493 (F) Senior Honors Thesis: Latina/o Studies

Students beginning their thesis work in the fall must register for this course and subsequentially for LATS 031 during Winter Study.

Class Format: independent study

Prerequisites: approval of program chair; limited to senior honors candidates

Distributions: (D2)

Fall 2018

HON Section: 01    TBA    Mérida Rúa

LATS 494 (S) Senior Honors Thesis: Latina/o Studies

Students beginning their thesis work in Winter Study must register for this course.

Class Format: independent study

Prerequisites: approval of program chair; limited to senior honors candidates

Distributions: (D2)

Spring 2019

HON Section: 01    TBA    Mérida Rúa

LATS 497 (F) Independent Study: Latina/o Studies

Class Format: independent study

Distributions: (D2)

Fall 2018

IND Section: 01    TBA    Mérida Rúa
LATS 498 (S) Indep Study: Latina/o Studies
Independent Study: Latina/o Studies

Class Format: independent study
Distributions: (D2)

Spring 2019
IND Section: 01 TBA Mérida Rúa