

## Latina/Latino Studies

### Department of American Studies

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### Overview

*\*Not a baccalaureate degree program*

Latina/Latino studies is an interdisciplinary program, comprising courses that focus on various aspects of the U.S. Latina/Latino, as well as the Latin American, experience.

The term Latino is inclusive of the diverse Hispanic communities in the United States, such as Chicano, Puerto Rican, Dominican, and others. The program offers an interdisciplinary minor. The course of study combines its Latino courses with offerings from history, sociology, philosophy, anthropology, literature, and language.

### About our Degrees

Students in the Latina/Latino Studies program are introduced to a variety of disciplines such as anthropology, Spanish, history, English, humanities, political science, philosophy, women's studies, and theatre.

#### Acceptance Criteria

Consultation with the director of the Latina/Latino Studies program and completion of a formal application.  
Completion of [ENG 277](#) or [LLS 204](#).

Applications to the minor are accepted on a rolling basis. Applications are available at the department office or on the RLL website.

#### Degree Requirements

Please see [Degrees and Policies](#).

### About our Courses

The average class size depends on how widely the content appeals to students; if it is specifically a Latina/o topic, it may appeal to fewer students, and the class will be smaller. If the topic is broader, it may appeal to a wider audience, including Spanish and English majors. Spanish courses are of particular interest to the Latina/o student as well as to the Spanish majors. Usually an upper-level Spanish course has a full capacity of twenty-four.

The program director and several other professors teach the Latina/Latino courses. Most of the 300- and 400-level courses across the disciplines are also taught by professors, rather than teaching assistants.

Some courses frequently offered in the Latina/o Studies program are: Introduction to Puerto Rican Culture, Black Presence in Latin American Culture, Mainland Puerto Rican Experience. Others offered by the program director are: Literature and Philosophy Studies, Spanish American Literature in Translation, Introduction to U.S. Latina/o Literature, The Caribbean Short Story, Spanish American Novel, and Latina Writers.

For course descriptions, please see [Courses](#).

### About our Faculty

Dr. Ramón Soto-Crespo has a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Purdue University. He specializes in areas such as Latina/o and Caribbean literature, continental philosophy, and psychoanalysis.

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### Extracurricular Activities

See the [UB Student Association](#).

### Practical Experience and Special Academic Opportunities

Independent study is available for approved students. Students should confer with the program director before they register for independent study.

### Career Information and Further Study

Latinos constitute the fastest growing minority group in the U.S. and they are projected to become the largest in the next century. With an interdisciplinary background, a student will have a deeper understanding of the problems that arise in the fields of law enforcement and justice administration. The coursework of this Minor program further promotes a greater understanding of the Latino/a culture in the medical and health care systems, as well as in education and government.

### Degrees Offered

Undergraduate: Minor

### Links to Further Information About this Program

- [Undergraduate Catalog](#)
- [Undergraduate Admissions](#)
- [Graduate Admissions](#)
- [Department of Romance Languages and Literatures](#)
- [College of Arts and Sciences](#)

#### **Latina/Latino Studies - Minor**

##### **Acceptance Criteria**

Consultation with the director of the Latina/Latino Studies program and completion of a formal application.  
Completion of the prerequisite courses.

##### **Advising Notes**

A minimum GPA of 2.0 in all courses that count toward the minor in Latina/Latino studies is required.

No more than two courses, used to satisfy the requirements of another major/minor, can be used to also satisfy the requirements of a minor in Latina/Latino studies.

The courses listed are offered on a regular basis to enable students to complete a minor in a timely fashion.

##### **Prerequisite Courses**

[ENG 277](#) Introduction to U.S. Latino Literature or [LLS 204](#) Introduction to Puerto Rican Culture

##### **Required Courses**

##### **ONE LOWER-DIVISION COURSE\***

[APY 283](#) Peasant Societies and Cultures  
[LLS 200](#) Black Roots in Spanish American Literature  
[LLS 204](#) Introduction to Puerto Rican Culture  
[LLS 208](#) Twentieth-Century Puerto Rican Literature

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[SPA 241](#) Spanish for Bilinguals  
[WS 219](#) Women of Color and the American Experience  
[WS 247](#) Women in Latin America

### FOUR UPPER-DIVISION COURSES\*

[APY 331](#) Archaeology of the New World  
[HIS 322](#) Latin America: Culture and History  
[HIS 414](#) Cuban Revolution  
[HMN 321](#) Youth Culture in Latin America  
[HMN 453](#) Mexican American Anthology  
[LLS 301](#) Ethnicity and the Puerto Rican Experience  
[LLS 303](#) Mainland Puerto Rican Experiences  
[LLS 305](#) Contemporary Afro-Caribbean Religion  
[LLS 307](#) History of Ideas in Puerto Rico  
[LLS 308](#) Black Presence in Latin America  
[LLS 401](#) Seminar in Puerto Rican Studies  
[LLS 402](#) Puerto Rican Literature  
[LLS 404](#) Havana: City and Culture  
[PHI 356](#) Latino-Hispanic Thought  
[PHI 385](#) Latin American Thought  
[PSC 329](#) U.S. Latin American Relations  
[PSC 372](#) Latin American Politics  
[SPA 320](#) Contemporary Spanish American Literature  
[SPA 328](#) Spanish American Culture and Civilization  
[SPA 330](#) Spanish American Themes  
[SPA 360](#) Spanish American Literature in Translation  
[SPA 416](#) Spanish American Theatre  
[SPA 449](#) Special Topics I (with a Latina/Latino component)  
[TH 411](#) Theatre Workshop (with a Latina/Latino component)  
[WS 315](#) Cross-Cultural Study of Women (with a Latina/Latino component)

*\*Courses with appropriate content may be substituted with permission of the program director.*

### Summary

Total required credit hours for the minor...18

### LLS 200: Black Roots in Spanish American Literature

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Examines literature of the Spanish American black experience by writers of African and European ancestry.

### LLS 204: Introduction to Puerto Rican Culture

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Explores dichotomies, such as history and myth, culture and acculturation, and tradition and change in relation to the Puerto Rican experience on the island and on the mainland.

### LLS 208: Twentieth-Century Puerto Rican Literature

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Studies major Puerto Rican authors of the twentieth century within the framework of historical colonial Puerto Rican reality.

### LLS 301: Ethnicity and the Puerto Rican Experience

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** SEM

Examines class and race as coordinates of the Puerto Rican experience in the world; also considers ethnicity as it relates to the discovery and perception of reality.

### LLS 303: Mainland Puerto Rican Experiences

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** SEM

Examines lifestyle and emerging cultural personality of Puerto Ricans raised on the mainland, as well as Puerto Rican dynamics' role in American social and cultural change.

### LLS 305: Contemporary Afro-Caribbean Religion

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** SEM

Familiarizes students with the rich cultural syncretisms of Afro-Caribbean culture from a Latin American perspective,

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challenges the miasma of mysticism surrounding the religions as viewed by developed nations, and provides students with the basic skills necessary to conduct field research from an anthropological perspective.

### **LLS 307: History of Ideas in Puerto Rico**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** SEM

Examines sociopolitical ideas that have exerted a decisive influence in the formation of a Puerto Rican culture and conscience from the second half of the nineteenth century to present times.

### **LLS 308: Black Presence in Latin American Culture**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** SEM

Considers black presence and black heritage within Latin American culture, viewed through literature, films, art, and the theatre. Also explores stereotypes in arts and the mass media.

### **LLS 401: Seminar in Puerto Rican Studies**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** SEM

Special topics pertaining to Puerto Rican and Latin American experiences.

### **LLS 402: Puerto Rican Literature**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** SEM

Surveys major issues in Puerto Rican society from the late 1800s to the present as represented in major literary texts from the five literary genres: novel, short story, drama, poetry, and essay. Class, gender, race, and ethnicity are the major topics that inform class readings and discussions. The course's goal is to discover and define what is *la puertorriqueñidad*.

### **LLS 404: Havana: City and Culture**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

An interdisciplinary course that examines Havana's urban development, from the sixteenth century to the present, as a process that has produced not only a city of universal projections but also a complex symbolic universe that speaks of the struggles and aspirations of its citizenry. Looks at Havana as a complex spatial phenomenon and gives students the basic background they need to understand fundamental political problems in Cuba's history and the intricacies of its socioracial environment.