

Course Title: Learning Community

Course Number: CLST 1001/1002/3001

Section Days and Times: TBA

Section Information: 1 unit

Instructor: Guerra

Course Description

Please note that this course is by invitation only. This is a mentoring course for 1st year Latino Alumni Association scholars. The course will provide formative lectures and discussions with organizations, centers and departments that will be key in preparing first-year students with the tools to a fruitful and ultimately successful four-year college experience. Student will be assigned individual mentors who will help them navigate and take advantage of LMU's programs and services through their first semester.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will obtain academic skills to succeed as first year students
- Students will obtain life skills
- Students will obtain community building skills

Required Texts

- All reading materials will be made available via Brightspace

Course Work/Expectations

- Journal entries after each class, mentoring sessions and events
- Students will submit a "self-assessment" at the end of the semester
- Students will complete an academic plan for Spring semester
- Students will complete a financial plan for calendar year 2021.
- Students will complete an extracurricular plan for Spring Semester

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Chicana/o - Latina/o Studies

COURSE NUMBER: CLST 1116

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA

INSTRUCTOR: FACULTY

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS : This course investigates the Mexican-heritage population in the United States, its indigenous origins in the Americas, and its relations to other US Latinos. In terms of the latter topic, it examines the differences among people of Latin American heritage and the social and material forces that created the myth of the Latino constituency. The course addresses the complex historical, social, political, and material forces of Mexican American experience and US-Mexico relations. It critically investigates nationalist definitions of “Mexicans” and “Americans” as well as notions of race and belonging. In addition, the course pays attention to the racial differences in the Americas and how this diversity informs contemporary Afro-Latino communities in the United States. To identify systems of power and privilege that affect Chicana/o and other Latino communities, the course examines the colonialization of the New World, American imperialism in the Southwest and the Caribbean, immigration in the twentieth century, and globalization.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Comprehend the general historical, social, economic, and political trends that affect the lives of Chicana/os
2. Identify intellectual developments in Chicana/o Studies scholarship, including those regarding Latino identity formation and Afro-Latino populations
3. Apply social science theories and methods to understand Chicana/os and their gender, sexuality, racial, and class diversity
4. Write a coherent, concise, and nuanced essay using evidence to support a social science argument
5. Understand the critical assessment of multicultural curriculum, particularly its emphasis on the contributions approach, colorblindness, and similarity as the only pathways to tolerance, acceptance, and belonging
6. Learn to find, use and evaluate scholarly and discipline-specific professional information and resources for reliability, validity, accuracy, authority, and bias
7. Recognize the complementary goals of CHST and the LMU mission

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: None

REQUIRED TEXTS: TBD

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

Participation & Attendance	20%
Short Essay (7-10 pages, revised once)	20%
Comparative Essay (4-6 pages)	20%
Facilitation (Group Project)	15%
Final cumulative exam	25%

CORE EQUIVALENCIES

Satisfies Studies in American Diversity in Core Curriculum
Satisfies requirements for majors, minors and LBST

COURSE TITLE: SS: Brutal Economy of Boxing

COURSE NUMBER: CLST 3998.01

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA

INSTRUCTOR: Mondragon

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:

Working from the idea that “you don’t play boxing,” this course introduces students to an exploitative and high-risk sport that vastly differs from other professional sporting organizations. Starting in the late 19th century, students will interrogate the sociopolitical, historical, cultural, and economic dimensions of boxing—including its political economy. We will explore how fighters, promoters, managers, and media industries shape and are shaped by capitalist structures and labor dynamics in the sport. Students will examine how boxers have disrupted and reinforced dominant understandings of race, class, gender, and nation. Collectively, we will ask: What does boxing tell us about the world? What does it obscure? What are the implications? From the breaking of the color line to analyzing mega-fight events, this course goes beyond the winners and losers

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: TBD

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: None

REQUIRED TEXTS: TBD

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS: TBD

COURSE TITLE: Bad Bunny & Puerto Rico

COURSE NUMBER: CLST 3385

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA

INSTRUCTOR: Vanessa Díaz

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:

Benito Martínez Ocasio, better known as Bad Bunny, is breaking musical records, breaking gender stereotypes, and centering his homeland of Puerto Rico in everything he does. What does it mean for an all-Spanish-language act from Puerto Rico to be biggest musical artist in the world? Bad Bunny has been the world's most-streamed artist on Spotify for two consecutive years, has the longest-running Spanish-language album at the top of the Billboard chart, and in 2022 became the only artist in history to stage two separate \$100 million-grossing tours in less than 12 months. As we examine his impact on global popular music and culture, we will consider what Bad Bunny can teach us in Latinx Studies. Through film, popular media, and interdisciplinary academic texts, we will explore his role in the mass 2019 protests in Puerto Rico, what these protests and ongoing struggles in Puerto Rico teach us about U.S. colonialism and Puerto Rican politics, and what Bad Bunny's increasingly anti-colonial stance says about the current state of resistance in Puerto Rico (particularly among Puerto Rican youth). We will also pay particular attention to the politics of race, gender, and queerness in Bad Bunny's performance, and how these politics disrupt dominant Latinx media representations. Overall, this course will explore these topics by closely situating Bad Bunny's work in relation to key texts in Latinx Studies regarding colonialism, race, resistance, gender, and sexuality.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Through this course, students will:

- 1) Be able to apply theoretical concepts to critical analysis of popular culture (e.g. through songs, music videos, films, articles)
- 2) Develop a deep understanding of US colonialism and empire building in Latin America and the Caribbean, with special attention to Puerto Rico.
- 3) Practice interdisciplinary research methodologies used in Latinx and Media Studies
- 4) Have improved critical thinking, organization and writing skills.
- 5) Recognize power relationships, including the relative privilege or marginalization of social groups, including one's own, and the role of media, popular culture, and celebrity in shaping those power dynamics.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND:

Recommended background:

CLST 1116 or Other Studies in American Diversity course

Other course related to race, gender, sexuality, media

REQUIRED TEXTS:

n/a

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

This is a four-unit course. You can expect to spend an average of 8 hours a week outside of class on reading, listening to/watching various required media, studying and completing assignments.

Students will be responsible for completing several short writing assignments, as well as a final creative media project. Students will be expected to stay up to date on current popular media/news related to the course content.

COURSE TITLE: Latinx Sexualities

COURSE NUMBER: CLST 3998

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: T/TH 3:40 -5:20

INSTRUCTOR: Oscar Gutierrez, Ph.D.

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:

This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of Latinx Sexualities. This course aims to draw on the meaning of sexuality for Latinx people in the U.S. through film, music, testimonios, art, theory and history. As sexuality continues to be a contentious topic in the U.S., this course helps us think about how queer and trans Latinx people have created spaces of freedom as an opposition to concepts of colonialism, anti-Blackness and U.S. empire. This course is meant to be a collective exploration of identity through the complex relationships we often represent and live.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Understand how representations of sexuality and gender have shaped our conversations of colonialism and U.S. empire
- Gain understanding of philosophical interventions into the field of gender and sexuality studies
- Framing theoretical debates in Latinx Sexualities to gain a proper frame of analysis
- Utilizing the interdisciplinary methods in Latinx Studies
- Expanding the definition of scholarly works through art, film, and media toward a different perspective of Latinx and Chicanx studies

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND:

N/A

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Foucault, Michel; *The History of Sexuality Volume.1*

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

You can expect to spend an average of 8hours a week outside of class on reading, studying and completing assignments.

COURSE TITLE: Capstone Seminar

COURSE NUMBER: CLST 5000/5001

DATES/TIMES: TBA

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Juan Mah y Busch

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

The purpose of this course is to provide Chicana/o Studies Major and Minor students with an opportunity to conduct original, extensive research and produce a 25-page paper. In the past, students have successfully used the thesis as a writing sample for graduate and professional schools and to obtain jobs that involve leadership of Latino constituents and communities. The research project should build on previous coursework and interests in Chicana/o Studies. Students are required to regularly meet with the professor throughout the semester. At these meetings, the professor will provide individualized reading, assignments, and objectives that will improve the research and the paper. In appropriate cases, and with explicit permission, you may write an expanded research paper for a class you are currently taking. This permission is especially warranted for double majors, Liberal Studies majors, and students invested in a senior or honors thesis.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Understand and engage in scholarly research
3. Understand and apply interdisciplinary methods of the social sciences and humanities
4. Engage with current theories in Chicana/o Studies
5. Present the outcome of their research to their peers
6. Write clearly and concisely, using cogent argumentation.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: Chicana/o Studies major or minor.

REQUIRED TEXTS: None

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS: Students are required to actively participate in seminar discussions, meet regularly with the professor, and keep a research and reading journal. Students will complete several short formal writing assignments and produce a final research paper and present their research in a formal presentation at the end of the semester.

FALL 2025

COURSE TITLE: Politics of Los Angeles

COURSE NUMBER: POLS 4390 (CRN 42021)
CLST 4390 (CRN 42031)

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: Mondays 3:40pm – 7:00pm

INSTRUCTOR: Fernando J. Guerra, Ph.D.

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:

This course examines the politics of the Los Angeles metropolitan region. The region will be placed into the larger American urban context, as well as the exceptionalism that is Los Angeles. The focus in Fall 2025 will be the post-modern conditions in Los Angeles: fires, homelessness, fiscal crisis, and governance reform. There will be four major sections in the course: 1) theoretical and historical perspectives examining the development of politics in Los Angeles; 2) formal governmental structures and processes; 3) governance reform efforts; and 4) public opinion in the region.

Each class session is divided into three sections. The first, led by Dr. Guerra, revolves around theories, concepts, and the academic literature associated with the topic. The second section of the class will focus on a “case study” of a particular policy issue. The “case study” will be examined through the practical elements of the week’s subject or theme and will be led by guest lecturers or through an examination of the readings. The third section will be led by students placing current events into historical/political context, with Dr. Guerra or a guest lecturer responding and analyzing the various issues associated.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This course prepares students to become agents of change in Los Angeles. Students will be able to describe the structures of local government; identify multiple pressure points in the decision-making process of local government; and explain the role of various community groups and interest groups at the local level.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: N/A

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Strength, Love & Leadership: The Garcetti Administration, 2013-2022.
The Mayor, Richard Riordan
Angeleno Poll, 2015-2024
Selected Readings

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

Midterm, Final, Semester Project, Semester Project Presentation.

COURSE TITLE: Advanced Critical Methods

COURSE NUMBER: CLST 5002

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA

INSTRUCTOR: Priscilla Leiva, Ph.D.

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

As an interdisciplinary field, Chicana/o/x and Latina/o/x Studies has historically employed research methods from a wide range of traditional disciplines including but not limited to literature, history, film and media studies, sociology, communications, anthropology and geography. This course serves as a workshop in research approaches pertaining to the investigation of Chicana/o/x and Latina/o/x experiences and identities.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Build an advanced knowledge of several methodological approaches in Chicana/o/x and Latina/o/x Studies
- Understand how methods work in practice and in relationship to research problems
- Articulate how your original research projects fit into Chicano/Latino Studies.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

Introduction to Chicana/o Studies or any other ethnic studies survey useful

REQUIRED TEXTS

(List is subject to revision)

Maylei Blackwell, *Chicana Power: Contested Histories of Feminism in the Chicano Movement* (University of Texas Press, 2011)

Natalia Molina, Daniel Martinez HoSang, Ramón Gutiérrez, *Relational Formations of Race: Theory, Method and Practice* (University of California Press, 2018)

Leisy Abrego, *Sacrificing Families: Navigating Laws, Labor, and Love Across Borders* (Stanford University Press, 2014)

Eliza Rodriguez y Gibson and Ellie D. Hernández, *The Un/Making of Latina/o Citizenship: Culture, Politics and Aesthetics*

Laura Barraclough, *Charros: How Mexican Cowboys are Remapping Race and American Identity* (UC Press, 2019)

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS : TBA