Latinx Identity and Politics

main class instructor: Benjamin Marquez

9 credits

**MAIN CLASS**

Interdisciplinary Courses (L&S) 106

**LINKED CLASS**

Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies 268

The U.S. and Latin America from the Colonial Era to the Present: A Critical Survey

Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies 201

Introduction to Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies

In this FIG we will examine the historical, social, political, economic, and cultural experiences and conditions of Latinx people, the second largest racial/ethnic minority group in the United States. The term Latinx is increasingly used by scholars to designate the complex political, cultural and gender experiences of this growing population in the United States.

In the main FIG seminar, the emphasis will be on the experiences of Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Cubans—the three largest U.S. Latinx ethnic groups. However, across the three courses in this FIG, considerable attention will be given to other Latinx ethnic groups that are fast becoming a force in contemporary U.S. society. Although they share many things in common, Latinxs have divergent experiences in the United States due to regional and/or national differences. We will analyze and discuss their historic modes of incorporation into American society, along with their continuing migration patterns, their experiences of racialization, and their current demographic and socio-economic condition. We will use an historical and comparative sociological perspective throughout the course to help explain contrasting experiences.

This class will include discussions, short writing assignments, videos and non-classroom projects like theater performances, concerts and engagements with local organizations. It is designed for students interested in thoughtful engagement via discussion and an exchange of ideas. It is also ideal for students who want to earn a certificate in Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies, as all three classes will count toward the 15-credit requirement.

Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies 268: “The U.S. and Latin America from the Colonial Era to the Present: A Critical Survey” — A critical examination of U.S.-Latin American relations from the colonial era to the present, tracing the emergence and evolution of the United States as a hemispheric and global power and its political and economic impact on Latin America. Primary attention will focus on U.S. relations with Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, but other Latin American countries will figure prominently during certain episodes.

Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies 201: “Introduction to Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies” — Introduces you to various interdisciplinary and transnational literatures on the study of Chicana/os and Latina/os in the United States. Offers a survey of scholarly literature, paradigms, theories, and debates within the field pertaining to the historical, economic, cultural, and sociopolitical dimensions of the experience of people of Latin American descent in what is now the United States. Themes will include migration, labor, civil rights, community development, education, gender and more.
Enrolled in a FIG and you change your mind?

FIG classes are designed to be taken together. When you enroll in a FIG, you are signed up for these classes as a whole group, not as separate classes.

**Dropping one FIG class means ending your enrollment in all of the classes in the FIG.**

So, here's what you should know if you want to drop the FIG:

- You can drop all the classes on your own at enroll.wisc.edu. Any non-FIG class will not be affected.
- After classes begin, if you need to drop a single class within the FIG, please contact Kari Fernholz (see below) to review your situation. If necessary, she will provide the required authorization to drop the class.
- **Wednesday, September 11, 2019** is the last day to drop a class without it appearing on your college transcript.
- **Friday, September 13, 2019** is the last day to add a class without first getting department permission.