

**LLS 1000-001**  
**Introduction to Latin American Studies**  
**Spring 2014**  
**T and R 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.**  
**Arts and Sciences 101**

**Instructor:**

**Dr. Maria S. Arbelaez**

**ASH 287-X**

**554-3649**

**554-2593**

**[marbelaez@unomaha.edu](mailto:marbelaez@unomaha.edu)**

**Course description:**

**This is the introductory course to Latino-Latin American Studies (LLS) and Chicano-Latino Studies (CLS). It is intended to familiarize students with Latin America's historical interconnections with the U.S. It recognizes Latinos as active members of the American society by addressing their experiences in U.S. history.**

**Course instruction is based on lectures, readings, video-documentaries, and movies.**

**Objectives:**

**Introduction to Latino-Latin American Studies**

**Why the study of Latin American and Latino is relevant in today's globalization**

**Understanding of Latino-Latin American Studies as a field of the social sciences and humanities**

**Learning the diversity of Latinos and Latin Americans**

**Ascertain Latino experiences as part of U.S. history**

**Learning the linkages of the U.S. and Latin American nations**

**There are no textbooks. All materials, videos, and documents are found in Blackboard.**

**All documents will be uploaded into Blackboard in sequence. Once the first quiz has been taken, corresponding materials in the site will be deleted. This is to avoid excessive clutter in Blackboard.**

## **Assignments:**

The final grade for this course is based on the completion of the following tasks:

**1. 40%**

**Class presentation:**

**Student groups will research and present their findings-interpretation on any of the following topics:**

**Immigration**

**Religion**

**Gender**

**Food**

**Communities**

**Literature**

**Art**

**Cinema**

**Folklore**

**Music**

**Celebrations**

**Politics**

**Power point, videos, and any other creative format are welcomed. The instructor will organize the groups; assign topics, and presentation dates.**

**2. 30%**

**Three Quizzes on readings and videos,  
Dates of quizzes are in the schedule below.**

**3. 10%**

**Visit to Museo Latino.**

**Instructions will be announced in class.**

**20%**

**4. Class attendance**

## **RULES:**

- 1. Attendance is mandatory. Only reasonable and justifiable absences will be accepted. All students are expected to be present at ALL presentations. Absences during presentation weeks will be counted twice.**
- 2. Come to class on time.**
- 3. Read and study class materials.**

4. Quizzes are expected to be the students learning and understanding of class materials. Copying of course documents and/or websites is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. If copying, quizzes will be invalidated.
5. No second chances when taking quizzes. Use reliable browsers and computers. Be mindful of rules when taking the quizzes. The quizzes are designed with plenty of time for processing and submitting.  
Prior to class, please turn off or do not bring cell phones, beepers or any other electronic communication devise. These items are disruptive. Respect between students and instructor is instrumental to an adequate climate for the learning process. You can use computers to take notes and access BB. If you are caught web surfing you will be asked to leave the class. No excuses are acceptable after this admonition.
6. You are responsible for all materials posted in Blackboard and reviewed in class: Visuals, documents, outlines, and power-points.

### GRADE SCALE

Grades will be determined on a percentage basis, as follows:

98-100 percent, A+	95- 97 percent, A	90-94 percent, A-
86- 89 percent, B+	83- 85 percent, B	80-82 percent, B-
76- 79 percent, C+	73- 75 percent, C	70-72 percent, C-
66- 69 percent, D+	63- 65 percent, D	60-64 percent, D-
59 percent and below, F		

### Schedule

This schedule is modifiable. It will change according to special circumstances: snow days, sick days, and unexpected events. The instructor will notify accordingly.

Quizzes will be on Thursdays or announced during the previous class. They will be uploaded into Blackboard in the morning and closed at night the same day.

#### Week 1

**January 14-16**

**Introduction to the course. Explanation of syllabus. Setting up the stage**

The many backgrounds of Latinos-Latin Americans What are Latino-Latin American Studies?

What are Latino Studies?

Documents in Blackboard

#### Week 2

**January 21-23**

Who are the subjects of Latino-Latin American Studies?

Latino-Americans, Latinos, Hispanics?

Who are they?

What is transnational? Documents in Blackboard

**Week 3**

**January 28-30**

Mexicans and Mexican-Americans

Documents in Blackboard

**Movie: Mi Familia**

**Week 4**

**February 4 - 6**

U.S. country of immigrants

Documents in Blackboard

**Week 5**

**February 11-13**

The Caribbean Latin Americans and Latinos: Puerto Rico, Cuba, and Santo Domingo

Documents in Blackboard

**R- February 13 QUIZ 1 ON-LINE**

**Week 6:**

**February 18-20**

Latin American identities vs. Latino identity

**Week 7**

**February 25-27**

Latin American and Latino Arts and Literature

**Week 8**

**March 4-6**

Latino Education

Documents located on your Blackboard

**Week 9**

**March 11-13**

Latin American and Latino Politics: Different history, diverse practices

Documents in Blackboard

**R- March 13 QUIZ TWO ON-LINE**

**Week 10**

**March 18-20**

The New Latinos

Documents in Blackboard

**Week 11 March 25-27 NO CLASSES. SPRING BREAK.**

**Week 12**

**April 1-4**

Transnational communities

Documents in Blackboard

**Video: Binational Communities**

**Week 13**

**April 8-10**

Latino community in South Omaha

**R- April 10 QUIZ 3 ON-LINE**

**Week 14**

**April 15-27**

**Group Presentations**

**Week 15**

**April 22-24**

**Group presentations**

**Week 16**

**April 29- May 1**

**Presentations**

**MAY 1 LAST DAY OF SEMESTER**

**GROUPS MEMBERSHIP AND TOPICS OF PRESENTATIONS WILL BE ASSIGNED THE SECOND WEEK OF CLASSES.**

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRESENTATIONS, GROUPS, AND SCHEDULE DOCUMENTATION WILL BE UPLOADED TO ASSIGNMENTS.**

**PLEASE REVIEW BLACKBOARD FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS.**