Department of Chicano/Latino Studies

Overview

Chicano/Latino Studies is an interdisciplinary Department organized to provide undergraduate and graduate students with the opportunity to examine the historical and contemporary experiences of Americans of Latino origin or ancestry. This diverse population includes people who trace their heritage to Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and other Latin American and Caribbean nations. The curriculum is designed to provide an awareness, knowledge, and appreciation of the language, history, culture, literature, sociology, anthropology, politics, social ecology, health, medicine, and creative (art, dance, drama, film, music) accomplishments of Chicano/Latino communities. The Department offers a B.A. in Chicano/ Latino Studies, an undergraduate minor, and a graduate emphasis.

Scholarship Opportunities

The Jeff Garcilazo Fellowship/Scholarship Fund, established in honor and memory of the late Chicano/Latino Studies and History professor, provides opportunities for students to examine the historical and contemporary experiences of Latino communities. The Jeff Garcilazo Prize is awarded annually to the undergraduate student author(s) of the best research paper(s) in Chicano/Latino Studies.

The Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF), formerly the National Hispanic Scholarship Fund, awards scholarships annually to students enrolled in and attending an accredited college full-time from the fall through the spring (or summer) terms. More information is available at the Hispanic Scholarship Fund (http://www.hsf.net) website (http://www.hsf.net).

Career Opportunities

Chicano/Latino Studies graduates have used their degrees as the foundation for careers in public service, social service, education, the corporate world, and the law. Many also go on to earn M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Social Science and Humanities disciplines at major universities throughout the nation. What links all of these careers is that the Chicano/Latino Studies major prepares its students for careers that will speak of the needs of Chicano and Latino communities nationwide and globally. The highest number of the Department’s majors have pursued advanced degrees and professional degrees, such as law degrees or advanced teaching credentials. Their training at UCI has served them well in that the list of institutions that they are attending include the nation’s best, such as Harvard University, Stanford University, Columbia University, and several University of California campuses.

Others have moved directly into the workforce. Interestingly, many have selected careers that offer the opportunity to ensure that younger Latinos are able to seize the same opportunities the Department’s students did and attend four-year colleges and universities. Chicano/Latino Studies majors work as primary and secondary school teachers, work for advocacy organizations focusing on Latino health and children's services, and have taken positions in legislative offices both in California and in Washington, D.C.

Additional Opportunities

In addition to satisfying the requirements for the major or minor, students are encouraged to take advantage of the variety of unique educational opportunities available at UCI. Through the University’s Education Abroad Program (UCEAP), students receive academic credit while studying at universities in Mexico, Chile, Costa Rica, Brazil, or Spain.

Internship opportunities with private and public institutions concerned with the Chicano/Latino communities are available in Orange County, Sacramento, and Washington, D.C. Independent research with faculty on Chicano/Latino issues is also encouraged. Student research is conducted and given academic credit through independent study or group research courses. The Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) and the Summer Academic Enrichment Program (SAEP) are examples of programs at UCI which allow students to work as research assistants with professors.

Undergraduate Program

Requirements for the B.A. in Chicano/Latino Studies

All students must meet the University Requirements. All students must meet the School Requirements.

Departmental Requirements for the Major

A. Complete the following five core courses:
CHC/LAT 61  Introduction to Chicano/Latino Studies I
CHC/LAT 62  Introduction to Chicano/Latino Studies II
CHC/LAT 63  Introduction to Chicano/Latino Studies III
CHC/LAT 101  Research in the Latino Community
CHC/LAT 102W  Chicano/Latino Research Seminar

B. Complete the following:
SPANISH 2A  Intermediate Spanish (or equivalent)  

C. Complete one comparative ethnic studies course selected from African American Studies, Asian American Studies, or
EDUC 124  Multicultural Education in K-12 Schools

D. Select three upper-division electives, one from each of the following categories:
- Literature, Arts, and Media (CHC/LAT 110–129)
- History (CHC/LAT 130–139)
- Inequalities and Social Context (CHC/LAT 140–189)

E. Select four additional elective courses, three of which must be upper-division, selected from CHC/LAT courses.

1 Students are encouraged to continue their Spanish language education through SPANISH 2C.
2 Course must focus on the study of African American or Asian American communities in the United States.
3 Electives may include Independent Study courses (CHC/LAT 199). Students may obtain credit for one of these three courses through participation in a study abroad program in Mexico. Students must consult with the Department office for additional information regarding this option.

Residence Requirement for the Major: A minimum of five upper-division courses required for the major must be completed successfully at UCI. Courses taken through the UC Education Abroad Program will be counted toward satisfaction of the residence requirement.

Additional Information

Optional Independent Research Project
Students are encouraged to pursue field research and write a substantial research paper on topics of their choice under the guidance of Chicano/Latino faculty members. Often, this project will grow out of issues examined in CHC/LAT 102W. Research projects typically involve a combination of library research and fieldwork in the Chicano/Latino community. Methods and analytical frameworks vary depending on the student and faculty advisors. Interested students should enroll in CHC/LAT 199.

Honors Program in Chicano/Latino Studies
The Honors Program in Chicano/Latino Studies is designed to allow undergraduates to pursue independent research and write an honors thesis on topics of their choice under the guidance of Chicano/Latino Studies faculty members. Research projects typically involve a combination of library research, data analysis, and field research. The program is open to all senior Chicano/Latino Studies majors with a grade point average of 3.3 or better overall, with 3.5 in Chicano/Latino Studies courses (at least five courses). Prior completion of or concurrent enrollment in CHC/LAT 101 is strongly recommended. Successful completion of the Honors Program and the honors thesis satisfies the upper-division writing requirement.

Although course work for the Honors Program does not start until the senior year, it is highly recommended that during the spring quarter of the junior year, students find a professor willing to serve as their research project advisor on the basis of a mutually acceptable abstract that indicates the goal and significance of their project. If extensive research is to be undertaken at this time, students should enroll in CHC/LAT 199.

During the fall quarter of the senior year, students enroll in CHC/LAT H190A and write a proposal describing their research question, the relevant background literature, and the method of data collection and analysis. Fieldwork for the project may begin during this quarter.

In the winter quarter of the senior year, students begin or continue their research by enrolling in CHC/LAT H190B. In the spring quarter of the senior year, students enroll in CHC/LAT H190C and complete a senior honors thesis.

Change of Major
Students who wish to change their major to Chicano/Latino Studies should contact the Department office for information about change of major requirements, procedures, and policies. Information is also available at the UCI Change of Major Criteria website (http://www.changeofmajor.uci.edu).

Requirements for the Minor in Chicano/Latino Studies

Departmental Requirements
Completion of seven courses as follows:
A. Complete the following core courses:
CHC/LAT 61  Introduction to Chicano/Latino Studies I
B. Select three upper-division courses from CHC/LAT 100–189.

C. Complete the following:

SPANISH 2A  Intermediate Spanish (or equivalent) 1

1 Students who are exempted from SPANISH 2A based on high school study or its equivalent or through test results must instead complete a fourth upper-division course selected from CHC/LAT 100–189.

Residence Requirements for the Minor: Other than the language requirement, no more than two courses taken at other academic institutions may be used toward satisfaction of the minor.

Graduate Emphasis in Chicano/Latino Studies

The Department of Chicano/Latino Studies offers a graduate emphasis in Chicano/Latino Studies, which is available in conjunction with the Ph.D. programs in the Departments of Anthropology; Criminology, Law and Society; English; History; Political Science; Planning, Policy, and Design; Sociology; Spanish and Portuguese; Gender and Sexuality Studies; the program in Visual Studies; the School of Education; and the program in Social Science. Satisfactory completion of the emphasis is certified by the Chair of Chicano/Latino Studies and is noted in the student’s dossier.

Admission

Applicants must first be admitted to, or currently enrolled in, one of the participating programs listed above. Applicants must submit to the Chicano/Latino Graduate Program Committee (1) an application form listing prior undergraduate and graduate course work related to Chicano/Latino Studies (if any), institutions attended, and major(s); and (2) a one- to two-page statement of purpose, including career objectives, areas of interest and research, and record of research, teaching, community, and/or creative work.

The Committee determines admissions, in consultation with the Chicano/Latino Studies core faculty, based upon the extent to which the applicant’s research interests relate to Chicano/Latino Studies, the applicant’s previous course work, and research or other experience related to Chicano/Latino Studies. Lack of prior course work does not preclude admission, so long as the statement of research interests is congruent with the graduate emphasis and makes a compelling case.

Requirements

Minimum course work for the graduate emphasis in Chicano/Latino Studies consists of four courses: CHC/LAT 200A and three elective courses selected from the list of graduate courses in Chicano/Latino Studies. Two of these elective courses must be cross-listed with department(s) other than the department in which the student is earning his/her Ph.D. One must be cross-listed with a department in a School other than the School in which the student is earning his/her degree and the second must be cross-listed with a department other than the department in which the student is earning his/her degree.

For doctoral students, the qualifying examination and dissertation topic should incorporate U.S. Latinos and/or issues relevant to Chicano/Latino Studies as a central focus of analysis. One member of the candidate’s dissertation committee should be a core or affiliate faculty of the Chicano/Latino Studies Department.

Faculty

Belinda Campos, Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, Associate Professor of Chicano/Latino Studies; Psychology and Social Behavior (culture, relationships, positive emotion, health)

Anita Casavantes Bradford, Ph.D. University of California, San Diego, Associate Professor of Chicano/Latino Studies; History (20th century U.S., U.S. in the world, Cuba and the Caribbean; history of childhood; history of immigration, race and ethnicity; transnational and comparative Latina/o history; religion, politics and social movements)

Louis Desipio, Ph.D. University of Texas at Austin, Professor of Chicano/Latino Studies; Political Science (ethnic politics, Latino politics, immigration, naturalization, U.S. electoral politics)

Laura Enriquez, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, Assistant Professor of Chicano/Latino Studies; Sociology (undocumented 1.5 generation young adults, immigration, citizenship, Latino families)

Raúl A. Fernández, Ph.D. Claremont Graduate University, Executive Secretary of the UC-Cuba Academic Initiative and Professor Emeritus of Chicano/Latino Studies; Social Sciences

Glenda M. Flores, Ph.D. University of Southern California, Assistant Professor of Chicano/Latino Studies; Sociology (Latina/o sociology, gender and work, middle-class minorities, education, urban ethnography)

Gilbert G. Gonzalez, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, Professor Emeritus of Chicano/Latino Studies; Social Sciences
Alana Lebron, Ph.D. University of Michigan, Assistant Professor of Program in Public Health; Chicano/Latino Studies

Michael J. Montoya, Ph.D. Stanford University, Associate Professor of Anthropology; Chicano/Latino Studies; Program in Public Health (social inequality and health, race and ethnicity, social and cultural studies of science, technology, and medicine, participation of ethnic populations in biomedical research, the U.S./Mexican border, critical bioethics)

Alejandro Morales, Ph.D. Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Professor of Chicano/Latino Studies; Spanish and Portuguese (Latin American and Chicano literature, film studies)

Rocio Rosales, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, Assistant Professor of Sociology; Chicano/Latino Studies (international migration, immigrant and ethnic economics, urban sociology, ethnography, Latino/a studies, race and ethnicity, immigrant detention)

Ana Rosas, Ph.D. University of Southern California, Associate Professor of Chicano/Latino Studies; History (Chicana/o comparative history, immigration, ethnicity)

Vicki L. Ruiz, Ph.D. Stanford University, UCI Distinguished Professor of History; Chicano/Latino Studies (Chicana/Latina history, U.S. labor, immigration, gender)

Ruben G. Rumbaut, Ph.D. Brandeis University, Distinguished Professor of Sociology; Chicano/Latino Studies; Criminology, Law and Society; Education (international migration, immigration laws, criminalization, incarceration, social inequality and mobility, race and ethnicity)