LATINO/LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES (LLS)

Mission
LLS is an interdisciplinary program that seeks to combine academic excellence with real-world engagement in order to enhance our understanding of Latino and Latin American peoples and critical issues.

Organization’s Primary Goals, Major Programs or Services
LLS’ main goals are to: 1) develop policy-oriented and community-relevant research, 2) create learning opportunities for students and communities beyond the classroom and across borders and 3) establish strategic and egalitarian community partnerships to strengthen our capacity to address local and global concerns. In accomplishing these goals, we seek to assist Nebraska and the Great Plains region, as well as the growing Latino population, in reaching a shared prosperous present and future in a context of cultural understanding, respect of differences, and promotion of human rights.

The Latino/Latin American Studies Program
Prepares undergraduate students for a wide variety of career options. A major in Latino/Latin American Studies (LLS) or a minor in Chicano/Latino Studies (CLS) may be particularly useful to those students planning a career in public service, non-profits, education, law, health, counseling, and business. LLS offers student research, study abroad and internship opportunities which help prepare them for their chosen careers and graduate school. In sum, the program offers what we like to call “the LLS Job Credential”:

- Individuals who are knowledgeable about local Latino cultures and issues while understanding the global contexts which influence them today.
- Professionals with increased proficiency in languages as well as excellent writing and critical thinking skills.
- Problem-solvers, team players and ethical professionals ready to meet the challenges of the dynamic changes taking place in the 21st century here and abroad.
- Individuals ready to continue their learning process beyond a bachelor’s degree.

Other Information
All coursework taken for the LLS major or CLS minor must be completed with a grade of ‘C’ or better.

The Senior Capstone
In the spring of their senior year, students must complete the Senior Capstone. This capstone has two components. On the one hand, students need to complete an e-Portfolio. In this e-Portfolio, students will gather documents and “artifacts” that are representative of their learning process as LLS majors. Students must also write prompted reflections regarding these documents and “artifacts.” On the other hand, students need to complete an internship in a relevant community organization, as research assistant for an OLLAS faculty member, or in any of the areas of the OLLAS office; research, community engagement, or communications.

Contact
Office of Latino/Latin American Studies (OLLAS)
102 ASH

Degrees Offered
- Latino/Latin American Studies, Bachelor of Arts (http://catalog.unomaha.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/latino-latin-american-studies/latino-latin-american-studies-ba/)

Writing in the Discipline
All students are required to take a writing in the discipline course within their major. For the LLS major, this is LLS 4990. Three hours are earned through the completion of a senior capstone project that also fulfills the departmental writing course requirement (three hours).

Minors Offered
- Chicano/Latino Studies Minor (http://catalog.unomaha.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/latino-latin-american-studies/chicano-latino-studies-minor/)

LLS is an interdisciplinary program that seeks to combine academic excellence with real-world engagement in order to enhance our understanding of Latino and Latin American peoples and critical issues. Our major uses an interdisciplinary approach to prepare our students for multiple careers that require a cultural, historical, social, and political grounded knowledge of Latinos in the United States and the Latin American region. In an ever-changing world, our program prepares critical thinkers, researchers, and practitioners, ready to engage with the fastest growing minority in the United States and with a world region of historical relevance to the nation.

Our majors are well prepared to continue graduate and professional programs in the social sciences and the humanities, including sociology, political sciences, history, public health, social work, and law among others. In addition, when chosen as a complementary major, we provide an excellent set of tools to those pursuing careers in education, the arts, local and international business, diplomacy, medical sciences, technology design, and government to name a few. Some of our graduates are currently working in

- community-based non-profit organizations
- large private foundations
- schools
- law offices
- local government
- and hospitals.

LLS 1000 LATIN AMERICA: AN INTRODUCTION (3 credits)
The course introduces the students to the study of Latin America. Its main focus is on contemporary Latin American societies and regional dynamics, but historical forces and the impact of globalization are continuously evaluated. Students will learn about the region's dominant forces and trends associated with development policies, political regimes, population changes, urbanization, and a whole host of social problems, challenges and perspectives. Topics for readings, discussions and assignments include social inequality, gender, race, violence, the environment, food, health, education, social media, religion, emigration and international relations. Students will have opportunities to explore in more depth specific topics as well.

Distribution: Social Science General Education course and Global Diversity General Education course
LLS 1010 *INTRO TO CHICANO-LATINO STUDIES: SOCIAL SCIENCES* (3 credits)
The course introduces the students to key social, political, economic, and cultural issues related to the Latino experience in the U.S., and it utilizes conceptual, analytical, and methodological tools from the social sciences in order to promote their understanding.

**Distribution:** Social Science General Education course and U.S. Diversity General Education course

**LLS 1020 INTRODUCTION TO CHICANO-LATINO STUDIES: HUMANITIES (3 credits)**
The course introduces students to intellectual, artistic, literary, musical, and other cultural traditions and contributions of Chicanos Latinos in the U.S. and in their historical crossing of real and imaginary borders. The unique contributions of different racial, ethnic, gender, and other social groups within the Latino population are discussed.

**Distribution:** Humanities and Fine Arts General Education course and U.S. Diversity General Education course

**LLS 2800 SPECIAL TOPICS IN LATINO/LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES: HUMANITIES (3 credits)**
An interdisciplinary topical approach that explores various aspects of Latino/Latin American Studies. Selected topics will be suitable for examination from an inter- and multidisciplinary humanities perspective (literature, visual and performance arts, music, religion, history, philosophy). Topics and disciplines will vary from term to term. Course description will be announced in advance. Repeatable up to six credits if content differs.

**Distribution:** Global Diversity General Education course and Humanities and Fine Arts General Education course

**LLS 2900 SPECIAL TOPICS IN LATINO/LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES: SOCIAL SCIENCES (3 credits)**
The course introduces students to in-depth examinations of novel topics related to Latino American societies, U.S. Latinos and migrants. The courses draw from varying combinations of social sciences (sociology, anthropology, political science, psychology, law, economics and international studies). Topics vary from term to term and examples include: Immigration Laws and Latinos across the Americas, Violence and human security in Central America. Repeatable up to nine credits if content differs.

**Distribution:** Social Science General Education course and Global Diversity General Education course

**LLS 3050 LATIN AMERICA IN CONTEXT: HEALTH, BUSINESS, ENVIRONMENT, AND SOCIETY THROUGH ORAL PRACTICE (3 credits)**
This course focuses on the development and intensive practice of oral expression in Spanish, and is intended for students interested in the fields of business, health, education, environmental sciences, social work, and cultural studies, who are either heritage speakers of Spanish or who are completing a major/minor in Spanish. The class provides a broad context of current relevant issues in Latin America, including politics and society; the state of the economy after decades of neoliberalism; racism; indigenous and Afro-descendent identities; domestic and gender violence; health and disabilities; adult, youth, & child immigration; and ecology and the environment. (Cross-listed with SPAN 3050).

**Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s):** SPAN 3010 or SPAN 3030 & SPAN 3040

**LLS 3140 LATINO/ÁRBOL POLÍTICOS (3 credits)**
This course introduces students to the dynamism and growth of the role of Latinos, as a group of political actors, in the United States. This course provides students with an exposure to and understanding of various concepts and dimensions of this phenomenon, including historical and contemporary Latino political thought and the efforts to increase political empowerment (representation and participation) and influence through grassroots, social, and political movements. (Cross-listed with PSCI 8145, PSCI 3140, LLS 8145)

**Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s):** PSCI 1100 is recommended.

**Distribution:** U.S. Diversity General Education course

**LLS 3680 GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF LATIN AMERICA (3 credits)**
This course introduces students to the political institutions, processes, and public policies of the states of Latin America. (Cross-listed with LLS 8685, PSCI 3680, PSCI 8685)

**Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s):** PSCI 2500 or junior status or permission of instructor.

**Distribution:** Global Diversity General Education course

**LLS 3800 SPECIAL TOPICS IN LATINO/LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES: HUMANITIES (3 credits)**
An interdisciplinary topical approach that explores various aspects of Latino/Latin American humanistic expressions. Selected topics will be suitable for examination from an inter and multidisciplinary humanities perspective (literature, visual and performing arts, history, music, religion, and philosophy). Topics and disciplines will vary from term to term. Repeatable up to six credits if content differs.

**Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s):** Junior standing or permission of the instructor

**LLS 3900 SPECIAL TOPICS IN LATINO/LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES (1-3 credits)**
A discussion-led course on current and evolving issues and questions pertaining to the Latino population in the United States and its transnational ties to Latin America and the Caribbean. Topics fall within the social sciences. The course may also include service-learning assignments when appropriate.

**Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s):** A social science course.

**LLS 4280 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF LATIN AMERICA (3 credits)**
Analysis of the role of Latin American states in the international political arena. Emphasis upon developing, applying and testing an explanatory theory of international politics through the study of the inter-American system: the regional, institutional and ideological environment, power relations, policies and contemporary problems. (This course fulfills the department’s international politics requirement). (Cross-listed with LLS 8286, PSCI 4280, PSCI 8286)

**Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s):** PSCI 2500 or junior standing or permission of the instructor.

**Distribution:** Global Diversity General Education course

**LLS 4900 INDEPENDENT STUDY (1-3 credits)**
This course is designed for those students who are capable of pursuing, independently, an area of Latino/Latin American Studies that is not covered under the existing curriculum. The student will be supervised by a member of the faculty of the LLS department. All course assignments, requirements, and expectations will be clearly indicated in advance. May be repeated for credit, up to six hours, under a different topic.

**Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s):** Permission of LLS faculty member required.

**LLS 4910 CONTEMPORARY TOPICS IN LLS: SOCIAL SCIENCES (3 credits)**
This is a discussion-led course on current and evolving issues and questions pertaining to the Latino and Latin American immigrant population in the United States and its transnational ties to Latin America and the Caribbean. Topics fall within the social sciences. The course may also include service-learning assignments when appropriate. (Cross-listed with LLS 8916.)

**Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s):** Must have taken at least one social science course as well as a different LLS course, junior standing or above and/or permission of the instructor.
**LLS 4920  CONTEMPORARY TOPICS IN LLS: HUMANITIES (3 credits)**
This course is an interdisciplinary topical approach that explores various aspects of Latino/Latin American Studies. Selected topics will be suitable for examination from the perspective of the humanities (literature, art, dance, music, theatre, and philosophy topics). Topics and disciplines will vary from term to term. Course description will be announced in advance. Repeatable up to nine credits if content differs. (Cross-listed with LLS 8926.)

**Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s):** One humanities and one LLS course and junior standing or permission of the instructor.

**LLS 4950  LATIN AMERICAN STUDY ABROAD (1-3 credits)**
This course is designed as an international study abroad course that will introduce undergraduate and graduate students to the dynamism of socio-cultural, economic and political changes taking place across Latin America. Note: International travel and special fees required. (Cross-listed with LLS 8956)

**Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s):** Senior standing or Junior standing with permission of the department. LLS 1000 or LLS 1010 or equivalent and departmental permission.

**LLS 4990  LATINO/LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES CAPSTONE (3 credits)**
This is the final course in the LLS major. As such it is a writing-intensive course for students majoring in Latino/Latin American Studies. The purpose of this course is to allow students to integrate their course experiences into an activity that reflects the cumulative knowledge gained from their class instruction. Students will have to complete three activities: 1. Develop an e-portfolio. 2. Participate in an internship. 3. Write a report and prepare a poster presentation in direct relation to the internship.

**Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s):** Senior standing (or students in junior standing with permission from the instructor) and LLS 1000, LLS 1010 or 1020, and a research methods course approved for LLS credit, and ENGL 1160 or equivalent. Not open to non-degree graduate students.