LATINA/LATINO STUDIES

Latina/Latino Studies Program

Haag Hall (http://www.umkc.edu/virtualtour/haag-hall.asp), Room 204
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http://cas.umkc.edu/latino-studies/

Mailing Address
University of Missouri-Kansas City
Latina/Latino Studies
Haag Hall 204
5100 Rockhill Road
Kansas City, MO 64110-2499

Program Description:

The mission of Latina/Latino Studies (LLS), a program based in the College of Arts and Sciences, is to function as a vehicle for interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary teaching, research and outreach focusing on Latinas/os-Chicanas/os in the U.S. The LLS program will provide an awareness and understanding of the wide diversity of Latino communities, cultures and backgrounds. The development and expansion of our curricula will serve to empower our students with the concepts and skills to better understand a rapidly growing Latina/o population. The LLS program will engage students, scholars and the greater Kansas City community in collaborative projects, programs and service learning efforts. These efforts will foster new curricula and advance research and outreach scholarship to create new knowledge to better understand the cultural, economic, and historical experiences and contributions of U.S. Latinas/os-Chicanas/os and their diasporic origins.

Program Activities:

• Provide all UMKC students with critical understanding of the historical, political and social context in which Latino/Chicano communities have evolved and continue to be established in the U.S., with particular attention to the greater Kansas City metropolitan area and the Midwest region. Crucial to this goal is the understanding of the transnational nature of these community ties.
• Provide access to a quality education for Latina/o students and other students interested in Latina/o-Chicana/o Studies and at the same time enhance diversity on the campus.
• Strengthen ties with UMKC Latina/o alumni
• Engage other area Latina/o professionals in LLS activities
• Strengthen ties between the UMKC and the Latino community.
• Establish UMKC as a center of teaching, learning and research on Latino/Chicano populations.
• Establish and/or strengthen alliances with local Latina/o community organizations, e.g. Guadalupe Center (KCMO), El Centro (KCK), Dos Mundos, KC Hispanic News, Mattie Rhodes Art and Counseling Center, The Mexican Consulate, Latino Writers Collective
• Create alliances/connections with local non-Latina/o organizations, e.g. Nelson-Atkins Art Museum, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, Kansas City Public Libraries and the Kansas City Museum

Faculty

Professors:

Norma E. Cantú1,2 Contact Information (https://cf1.umkc.edu/intapps/lookup/?LastName=cantu); professor of latina/latino studies and english; B.S., M.S. (Texas A&I University); Ph.D. (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)

Miguel A. Carranza1,2 professor emeritus of latina/latino studies and sociology; B.A. (Kearney State College); M.A., Ph.D. (University of Notre Dame).

Associate Professor:

Theresa L. Torres1,2 Contact Information (https://cf1.umkc.edu/intapps/lookup/?LastName=torres); associate professor of latina/latino studies and sociology; B.A. (Benedictine College); M.A. (Boston College); Ph.D. (Catholic University of America).

Academic Advisor:

Norma E. Cantú

1 Members of UMKC Graduate Faculty
Courses

LLS 201 Introduction to Latina/o Studies Credits: 3
This course addresses and examines the social, economic, and political factors that have influenced the historical experiences of Latinas and Latinos in the U.S. Attention will focus on the major concepts, issues and debates in the field of Latina/Latino Studies. Particular consideration will be given to an analysis of and understanding as to how these factors have influenced the past and present status of Latinos in U.S. society. Given the diversity existing within the Latino population, the course will be comparative, cross-cultural, and interdisciplinary in nature.

LLS 218 Introduction to Ethnic Studies Credits: 3
An interdisciplinary course that uses a comparative perspective to examine the history, social issues, and cultural productions of African Americans, Arab Americans, Asian Americans, Latina/os, and Native Americans. Students will be introduced to key concepts and methods used in the study of race in an American context.
Prerequisites: Anchor I, DISC 100.
Co-requisites: DISC 200.

LLS 300 Special Topics in Latina/Latino Studies Credits: 3
A variable content course offered in the area of Latina/Latino Studies. May be jointly offered with courses in other programs and departments.

LLS 322 Race and Ethnic Relations Credits: 3
The nature, origin and dynamics of ethnic and race relations in the U.S. and other societies. Specific attention will be given to the historical and contemporary contexts of prejudice discrimination and confrontation.

LLS 348 Latina/Latino Immigrants & Migrants in the U.S. Credits: 3
Course studies culture of societies of U.S. citizens and immigrants of Latin American heritage living in the U.S. The course emphasizes recent anthropological as well as historical, cultural and sociological studies.

LLS 380 Introduction to Latina/Latino Literature Credits: 3
An introduction to the literary production by U.S. Latinas/os, the course introduces students to writings by authors from various Latinidades - Chicana/o, Puerto Rican, Chilean American, Cuban American, Dominican American, and Mexican American - in the four main genres: poetry, fiction, drama, and film.
Prerequisites: ENGLISH 225 OR DISC 200.
Cross Listings: ENGLISH 367.

LLS 397 Independent Readings in Latina/Latino Studies Credits: 1-3
Students will complete extensive readings in an area selected by the student with prior consultation with instructor.

LLS 400 Special Topics in Latina/Latino Studies Credits: 1-3
This course is a variable content course and offered as a result of specialized faculty interest, student demand, or the availability of a visiting expert in a field closely related to Latina/Latino Studies. The course may be jointly offered with 400-level courses being offered by other departments and programs.

LLS 400LF Special Topics in Latina/Latino Studies Credits: 1-3
This course is a variable content course and offered as a result of specialized faculty interest, student demand, or the availability of a visiting expert in a field closely related to Latina/Latino Studies. The course may be jointly offered with 400-level courses being offered by other departments and programs.

LLS 400MAA Special Topics in Latina/Latino Studies Credits: 1-3
This course is a variable content course and offered as a result of specialized faculty interest, student demand, or the availability of a visiting expert in a field closely related to Latina/Latino Studies. The course may be jointly offered with 400-level courses being offered by other departments and programs.
LLS 497 Directed Research Credits: 1-3
Students will develop and conduct a research project in an area selected by the student under the supervision of a faculty member.

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior Level Standing; Students may only enroll in 6 total credits of LLS 497 during their time at UMKC.