

History of Latina and Latino People in the United States

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Course Description

The recent growth of the Latino population has transformed the United States. It has heightened debates about Latinas' and Latinos' political power, cultural influence, citizenship, civil rights, and ethnic and racial categorization. This increased attention may feel new, but Latino communities have played a pivotal role in US history for a long time. In this course, students will explore the history of Latinas and Latinos in the United States—and across the Americas—from the sixteenth century through the early twenty-first century, covering themes such as race, migration, labor, and empire.

It is the history of a community, or, rather, several communities, including Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, Dominican Americans, Central Americans, and Cuban Americans. The members of these communities have moved within and between the US, Latin America, and the Caribbean, where they've struggled almost continuously for equality and belonging. Ultimately, students will gain a deeper sense of the issues and histories that bring Latinas and Latinos together and those that continue to divide them.

Lecture Videos

This course consists of approximately 12 hours of instruction presented by Professor Cadava, split into 29 lecture videos ranging from 11 to 30 minutes. Below are the lecture titles and major themes, as identified by Professor Cadava. The videos provide the content needed to answer the course quizzes.

1. "Who or What Is a Latino Anyway?" (3 videos)
2. "Spanish Roots" (3 videos)
3. "America's Example" (2 videos)

4. “American Expansion: The Texas Revolution and the US-Mexico War” (2 videos)
5. “The Conquerors and Conquered” (3 videos)
6. “War and Revolution, Exiles and Immigrants” (2 videos)
7. “Nation, Capital, and Depression” (2 videos)
8. “Latinos during World War II” (2 videos)
9. “Communism and Anti-Communism” (3 videos)
10. “Latino Civil Rights” (3 videos)
11. “Immigration and the Border” (2 videos)
12. “The Latino Future: Voters, Immigrants, and More” (2 videos)

Note: Course lectures were initially recorded for the Gilder Lehrman Institute’s online graduate program. You can disregard references to assignments, other coursework, and the use of content in classrooms discussed in the videos. They are not part of History U.

Resources

Although not required as a part of the course, you can select the Resources link for information about the primary and secondary resources referred to in the course if you want to learn more. All quiz questions are drawn from the lectures.

Quizzes

The purpose of the short quizzes is to review your knowledge of the material covered in the lectures. No outside reading is required to answer the questions successfully. After watching the video, select and complete the corresponding quiz to test your knowledge and qualify for the Certificate of Completion.

Certificate of Completion

After finishing your course by watching all of the lectures, scoring 80% or higher on each quiz, and completing the History U Course Feedback Survey, you will be able to download your certificate.

Please email historyschool@gilderlehrman.org with any questions.