Chicano Studies, B.A.

DEPARTMENT

Department of Chicano and Latin American Studies
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BA in Chicano Studies, B.A.
MN in Chicano/Latino Studies, Minor
BA in Latin American Studies, B.A.
MN in Latin American Studies, Minor

Courses Offered

Chicano and Latin American Studies (CLAS) is an interdisciplinary department that has been successful in presenting a highly informed, active, and challenging view of the Chicanx/Latinx experience in the United States, Latin America, and U.S./Latin American relations. Chicano and Latin American Studies provides an opportunity for a pluralistic exchange of ideas in an interdisciplinary academic setting, where faculty, students, and visiting scholars can share experiences and create a dynamic, intellectual environment.

The Chicano and Latin American Studies Department is designed to meet the following objectives:

1. to promote an awareness of the historical and cultural roots of Chicanx/Latinx people in the United States
2. to enhance an understanding of Latin America
3. to cultivate an appreciation of ethnic and national differences among all people
4. to critically analyze the Chicanx and the Latin American experience in terms of significant issues, theories, current problems, and solutions, and
5. to provide students with a set of important professional skills to be utilized as they interact creatively and constructively with Chicanx/Latinx communities and multicultural society at large.

The department emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of family life, history, politics, culture, and the arts of Chicano and Latin American communities. The courses reflect an integrated approach in providing students with greater knowledge and understanding of the social reality and diversity of Chicanxs and Latin Americans.

Los Danzantes de Aztlán. Los Danzantes de Aztlán is the premier Mexican Dance group founded in the department in 1970 by Professor Ernesto Martinez, a pioneer in Mexican folkloric dance in the Central Valley. The troupe has captivated audiences with its beautiful, authentic costumes and precise dance execution. Under the current direction of Dr. Victor M. Torres, the troupe has consistently earned top awards in national and international competitions. It is the only Mexican dance group in the entire San Joaquin Valley (Stockton to Bakersfield), and the only University organization in California to be invited to perform at the prestigious San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival on three occasions. The group also plays an important role in student recruitment as it inspires young dancers to attend Fresno State and participate with Los Danzantes de Aztlán. The troupe achieves this via its many events, such as the High School Folklorico Summit and the Cal State University Folklorico Show. Due to its professionalism, its exemplary role as a cultural bridge between the University and the community, and its vital artistic and educational contributions to the university and to the region, Los Danzantes de Aztlán has been designated as an official ambassador of the University. Los Danzantes de Aztlán is the only organization of its kind in the entire CSU system to have this distinction.

REQUIREMENTS

Chicano Studies Major Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to pursue a double major and can take the Chicano Studies either as a primary or secondary major. Chicano Studies majors and double majors are required to see a CLAS advisor during their first semester on campus.

1. Major requirements (33 units)
2. Lower-division requirements (6 units)
   Basic Content: CLAS 3 or 5 (3 units)
Latin America: CLAS 70 (3 units)

**Upper-division requirements (21 units)**
U.S.-Mexico Relations: CLAS 114 or 115 (3 units)
Political and Economic Issues: CLAS 128 or CLAS 130 (3 units)
Arts and Humanities: CLAS 100, 102W, 106 or 108 (see note 1) (3 units)
Research Methods: CLAS 150 or 120 (3 units)
Family and Gender: CLAS 141, 160 or 162 (3 units)
Education: CLAS 143 (3 units)
Community Service/Senior Project: CLAS 145S or CLAS 172S (see note 1) (3 units)

**Approved electives (6 units)**
Consult your advisor.

**2. General Education requirements (49 units)**

**3. Other requirements (6 units)**
Upper-division writing and Multicultural and International (MI)

**4. Sufficient elective units to meet required total units (varies)**
It is recommended that units in this area be utilized to complete a second major or minor. See Degree Requirements.

**5. Total units (120)***

* G.E. and MI courses can be double-counted with major requirements. The writing requirement may be met by taking the upper-division writing exam. See advisor for details. General Education also may be applied to the Chicano studies major: CLAS 9 in G.E. C1, and CLAS 3 or 5 in G.E. D3.

**Advising Notes**
1. Contact the department chair or CLAS advisor for list of approved electives. A maximum of 3 units from CLAS 106, 107, 108, 145, and 180T can be used to fulfill 3 units of electives, but students must secure proper and final approval from the department chair or CLAS advisor.
2. Consult your advisor or the Schedule of Courses to determine what CLAS courses also meet General Education requirements.
3. If the Chicano studies major is taken as a second major, CLAS courses taken to complete General Education Integration requirements also can be used to satisfy major requirements.
4. Chicano studies majors are not permitted to take CLAS courses by CR/NC grading (unless the courses are only offered on that basis).
5. General Education and elective units may be used toward a double major or minor (see double major or other departmental minor). Consult the appropriate department chair, program coordinator or faculty advisor for further information.
6. Students who are planning to do graduate work in Chicano or Latin American studies are advised to study Spanish and/or Portuguese.

**FACULTY**

The Chicano and Latin American Studies Department consists of faculty whose teaching and research expertise cover a broad spectrum, including anthropology, education, history, sociology, political science, Latin America, Latinx literature, and the arts. CLAS hosts the yearly Latin American Film Festival to bring Latin American films and filmmakers to the Central Valley. The department is home to one of Central California’s premier Mexican folkloric dance programs, Los Danzantes de Aztlán. This performance troupe is the only group of its kind in the entire CSU system to be designated as an official representative of a CSU campus (Fresno). The offices of the department also serve as a resource center for many of the Chicanx/Latinx student organizations and as an information center for the community.

For faculty phone numbers and e-mail, see the campus directory.

For more on the faculty, see the faculty pages.
The faculty pages are updated by the department or program.