

Chicano and Latin American Studies

The Field of Chicano Studies

The Department of Chicano/Latin American Studies offers an exciting and challenging perspective of the Chicano/Latino experience in the United States and the international perspective of Latin America and the Caribbean. The department emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of family life, history, politics, culture, and the arts of Chicanos and Latinos in the United States, as well as the history, economy, politics, and changing society in Latin America. Students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Chicano studies are encouraged to consider a second major or a minor in another academic field.

Chicano and Latin American Studies

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

- Promote an awareness of the historical and cultural roots of Chicanos/Latinos in the United States.
- Enhance an understanding of Latin America.
- Cultivate an appreciation of ethnic and national differences among all people.
- Critically analyze the Chicano and the Latin American experience in terms of signifi-

cant issues, theories, current problems, and solutions.

- Provide students with a set of important professional skills to be utilized as they interact creatively and constructively with Chicano/Latino communities.

Working in an interdisciplinary department, our faculty members have degrees and do research in such fields as anthropology, history, education, public policy, gender studies, and literature. All of our faculty members have practical and theoretical experience that they bring to the classroom. The department is home to *Los Danzantes de Aztlán*, the highly acclaimed and oldest Mexican folkloric dance program in the Central Valley.

Chicano studies students are trained to analyze social issues, to think critically, and to conduct research. By serving an internship with a school or community agency, students will receive applied and theoretical training. They have the opportunity to observe first-hand the social issues and theories that they study. These skills are useful in professional life and are valued in the public and private sectors.

Upper-division courses are designed to permit interaction between faculty and students and provide individualized assistance. The courses reflect an integrated approach that

encourages a greater knowledge and understanding of the essence and diversity of Chicanos and Latinos in the U.S. It also builds an understanding of perspectives in Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.

Career Opportunities

Chicanos and other Latinos are the largest ethnic group in California. Demographers estimate that 40 percent of the U.S. population will have Latino ancestry by the year 2030. Chicanos and Latinos are the largest single ethnic group in the Central Valley. Corporations, small businesses, government, private industry, and nonprofit agencies are seeking individuals who are trained in the cultural experiences, heritage, and perspectives of the Chicano/Latino population.

Students who graduate with a B.A. degree or minor in Chicano and Latin American studies work in such fields as education, public administration, psychology, marketing, journalism, and social services throughout the public and private sectors. Physicians, educators, lawyers, counselors, civil service employees, and other professionals have found that training in Chicano and Latin American studies improves their abilities to serve their clients and enhance their employment and advancement opportunities.

California State University, Fresno

Department of Chicano and Latin American Studies

559.278.2848

B.A. in Chicano Studies

B.A. in Latin American Studies

Minor in Chicano/Latino Studies

Minor in Latin American Studies

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Chicano and Latin American Studies

Future Education

Students with a B.A. in Chicano Studies can enter graduate programs in the humanities and social sciences as well as in professional schools in such areas as Chicano studies, ethnic studies, anthropology, political science, history, public administration, social work, education, law, and other exciting fields.

Course Requirements

Since changes may occur, students should consult the *General Catalog* and a Fresno State adviser prior to registering for courses.

Chicano Studies Major	Units
General Education	51
Major requirements.....	33
Electives	36-42
Total	120

Lower-division requirements (6 units)

Freshman-Sophomore level courses:
CLAS 3 or 5; CLAS 70 or 72

Upper-division requirements (21 units)

(To be taken at Fresno State)

Junior-Senior level courses:
CLAS 114 or 115; CLAS 128; CLAS 100, 101, 106, or 108; CLAS 142 or 116; CLAS 152, 160, or 162; CLAS 143; CLAS 145

Major Electives (6 units)

Consult a CLAS adviser

Latin American Studies Major

The B.A. requires a minimum of 120 units, which includes courses for the major, General Education, electives, and all university requirements.

Students seeking a B.A. in Latin American Studies must be in good standing with the university and must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.75.

Majors need to develop proficiency in either Spanish or Portuguese by graduation.

As part of the program, students are strongly encouraged to spend a semester abroad in Latin America, Spain, or Portugal, which is often possible with the aid of available financial resources.

Students seeking the B.A. will take a core set of courses offered by the Departments of Chicano

and Latin American Studies, History, and Economics.

CLAS 70, 114, 115, 170, 171; HIST 8, 162, 166, 165, 183; ECON 114, 181

Students will also need to take a range of courses from the following departments and programs:

American Indian Studies, Anthropology, Art and Design, Chicano and Latin American Studies, Economics, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, Geography, History, and Political Science.

Double Major

A double major in Chicano Studies must have prior and final approval of the Chicano and Latin American Studies Department. Students must see a CLAS adviser to plan their dual major programs. The university requires a minimum of 24 units exclusive of the primary major, 12 of which must be upper division. The CLAS adviser, in consultation with the student, will select and approve CLAS courses that complement the student's primary major.

Minors

The Chicano and Latin American Studies Department offers two minors – one in **Chicano/Latino Studies** and one in **Latin American Studies**. Students intending to pursue a minor in either area must consult with a CLAS adviser.

Chicano/Latino Studies Minor (21 units)

Lower-division (9 units):

CLAS 3 and 5; CLAS 7 or 9

Upper-division (12 units):

Consult CLAS adviser

Latin American Studies Minor (21 units)

Lower-division (9 units):

CLAS 3, 70, and 72

(Acceptable substitutes approved by a CLAS adviser include HIST 3 or 8, HUM 14.)

Upper-division (12 units):

Consult a CLAS adviser.

Note: Course numbers that include a “T” are topic courses and must have an academic focus or a substantial segment of course content devoted to the study of Latin America or the Caribbean.

For additional information, write

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M/S SS97

Fresno, California
93740-8019

Visit or call

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PLEASE NOTE: This document is for general informational purposes only. The information is subject to change; consult the appropriate department or an academic adviser. Entering freshmen must follow the revised General Education program effective fall 1999 and thereafter. The university catalog and schedule of courses are available online at www.fresnostate.edu/ClassSchedule and www.fresnostate.edu/catalog.

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