

# Mexican American Studies

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## CMAS Mission

The mission of the Center for Mexican American Studies (CMAS) is to administer an academic minor in Mexican American & Latina/o Studies; to support and enhance research by UTA faculty engaged in studies on Latina/o issues; and to serve as a bridge between UTA and the Latina/o community in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex through various service outreach activities.

## History

Through the efforts of State Representative Roberto Alonzo of Dallas, the 73rd Texas Legislature authorized the creation of CMAS in 1993 as UTA's focal point for interdisciplinary education, research, publication, and public outreach activities relating to Mexican Americans. (Acts 1993, 73rd R.S., ch. 1051, General and Special Laws of Texas). The Center began operating in 1994 under its founding director, José Ángel Gutiérrez.

## Mexican American and Latina/o Studies (MALS) Minor

The rapidly changing demographics of the United States make knowledge of Latino culture a vital asset for any college graduate today. The minor in Mexican American & Latina/o Studies is a dynamic and interdisciplinary program that offers a strong complement to any undergraduate major and is especially practical for students majoring in Liberal Arts, Education, Business, Social Work, and Nursing. The MALS minor enables the student to explore issues that are critical to the understanding of Mexican American and Latina/o experiences in the United States, including in Texas. In addition, as private and government employers are increasingly requiring professionals with intercultural and international competence, the MALS minor provides students with unique training to be prepared for the challenges and opportunities to work and thrive in a competitive global society. Minor in MALS also prepares students to live in a society in which Latinas/os increasingly are visible neighbors, fellow citizens, clients and co-workers.

## Benefits of the MALS Minor

Students enrolled in the MALS Minor:

- Qualify for our annual Manuel Gamio & Brandenburg MALS Scholarships
- Gain work experience with our unique internship opportunities
- Participate in research opportunities
- Strengthen their leadership capabilities
- Engage in great community service
- Obtain valuable intercultural and international competence
- Network with students and student organizations with similar interests
- Develop and strengthen important skills in research, analysis, and writing

## How to add the Mexican American and Latino Studies Minor

To schedule an advising appointment:

<https://www.uta.edu/cmas/masminor/advising/advising.html>

(817)-272-2933

[cmas@uta.edu](mailto:cmas@uta.edu)

## Minor in Mexican American & Latina/o Studies

In order to receive a minor in Mexican American & Latina/o Studies, students need to take 18 credit hours from a selection of courses offered across different disciplines. The majority of our courses are cross-listed with courses offered in other departments. Students in Mexican American & Latina/o Studies need to take the following courses:

Required Course:

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| MAS 2300   | INTRODUCTION TO MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES  |   |
| Student must take at least two of the following courses: |   |   |
| MAS 3310   | LATINOS IN THE U.S.                       |   |
| MAS 3343   | LATINO/A LITERATURE                       |   |
| MAS 3346   | MEXICAN AMERICAN AND CHICANO/A LITERATURE |   |
| MAS 3321   | MEXICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY                  | 3 |
| MAS/SPAN 4318  | MEXICAN LITERATURE                        |   |
| MAS 3377   | HISTORY OF MEXICO                         | 3 |

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| MAS/POLS 4319   | POLITICS OF MEXICAN AMERICANS  |   |
| Electives (Students need to take three of the following courses): |  |   |
| MAS 3312  | LATIN AMERICAN CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION  |   |
| MAS 3314  | THE LATINA EXPERIENCE  |   |
| MAS 3316  | LATINO HEALTH ISSUES   |   |
| MAS/POLS 3317   | MEXICAN POLITICS AND U.S.-MEXICO RELATIONS   |   |
| MAS 3319/SOCW 3307  | DIVERSE POPULATIONS  |   |
| MAS 3321  | MEXICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY   |   |
| MAS/ANTH 3330   | CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND IDENTITY  |   |
| MAS/SOCI 3337   | RACIAL & ETHNIC GROUPS IN US   |   |
| MAS/ANTH 3348   | LATINO IMMIGRATION TO THE U.S.   |   |
| HIST 3352   | MEDIEVAL EUROPE I  | 3 |
| MAS/HIST 3363   | TEXAS TO 1850  |   |
| MAS 3364  | TEXAS SINCE 1845   |   |
| MAS 3375  | LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY: ORIGINS THROUGH INDEPENDENCE                                   |   |
| MAS 3376  | LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY: POST-INDEPENDENCE TO THE PRESENT                               |   |
| MAS 3377  | HISTORY OF MEXICO  |   |
| MAS/CRCJ 3380   | RACE, CRIME, AND JUSTICE   |   |
| MAS/SPAN 4313   | TOPICS IN HISPANIC CULTURE   |   |
| MAS/SPAN 4315   | TOPICS IN CONTEMPORARY LATIN-AMERICAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE, MODERNISM TO THE PRESENT |   |
| MAS/SPAN 4317   | U.S.-MEXICO LITERATURE & CULTURE   |   |
| POLS 4317   | ETHNIC GROUP POLITICS IN THE UNITED STATES   |   |
| MAS/SPAN/WOMS 4327  | WOMEN IN HISPANIC LITERATURE   |   |
| MAS 4350  | TOPICS IN MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES   |   |
| SOCI 4365/WOMS 4392   | TOPICS IN SOCIOLOGY *  |   |
| MAS 3375  | LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY: ORIGINS THROUGH INDEPENDENCE                                   | 3 |
| MAS 3376  | LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY: POST-INDEPENDENCE TO THE PRESENT                               | 3 |
| MAS 4391  | CONFERENCE COURSE  |   |
| MAS 4393  | MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES INTERNSHIP  |   |

\* Permitted when the topic pertains to Hispanic women.

Either of the two required courses not taken to fulfill the required course segment of the minor may be taken as an elective towards the minor. After consulting with their major departments or programs, students will file a degree plan for the MAS minor at the Center for Mexican American Studies. Courses not listed below may qualify as electives with the approval of the director of the Center for Mexican American Studies.

## COURSES

### **MAS 2300. INTRODUCTION TO MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES. 3 Hours.**

A multidisciplinary introduction to the Mexican American/Latino experience. Emphasis on history, culture, and contemporary socioeconomic and policy issues. Required for completion of the Mexican American Studies minor. This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirement in Language, Philosophy, and Culture.

### **MAS 3301. INTRODUCTION TO LATINA/HISPANIC FEMINISM. 3 Hours.**

This interdisciplinary course explores Latina/Hispanic feminism through the intersection of race, class, gender, and sexuality. This course is organized around the following issues: colonization, immigration, globalization, sexism, health, and violence. Through an analysis of cultural production, politics, socio-economics, literary texts, and feminist methodology, the goal of this course is to develop a robust understanding of how Latina/Hispanic feminist methodologies can be used as tools for social change and social justice. Offered as WOMS 3301, MAS 3301, and DIVR 3301. Credit will only be granted in one department.

### **MAS 3310. LATINOS IN THE U.S.. 3 Hours.**

Examines the Latino experience in the U.S. from an interdisciplinary perspective. Discusses the commonalities and cultural differences among various Latino groups, and focuses on important contemporary Latino issues such as education, employment, family and gender, identity, immigration, and politics. May receive credit for either MAS 3310 or ANTH 3310.

### **MAS 3312. LATIN AMERICAN CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION. 3 Hours.**

An interdisciplinary introduction to Latin American society, history and culture. Offered as MAS 3312 and SPAN 3312; credit will be granted for either MAS or SPAN. Prerequisite: SPAN 2314 or SPAN 2315 with a grade of C or better.

**MAS 3314. THE LATINA EXPERIENCE. 3 Hours.**

A course on the social, cultural, and economic experiences of Latina and Latin American origin women in the United States. Offered as MAS 3314, SOCI 3314, SOCW 3314, WOMS 3314, and AAST 3321. Credit will be granted in only one department.

**MAS 3316. LATINO HEALTH ISSUES. 3 Hours.**

A cross-cultural examination of issues in Latino health and relevant health practices in the United States through the lenses of social sciences. Themes include the Latino Threat Narrative, acculturation histories and health care status of major Latino ethnic enclaves in the U.S. Listed as SOCI 3316, MAS 3316, and ANTH 3316; may receive credit for either SOCI 3316, MAS 3316, or ANTH 3316.

**MAS 3317. MEXICAN POLITICS AND U.S.-MEXICO RELATIONS. 3 Hours.**

Current economic and political systems of Mexico and relevant issues in U.S.-Mexico relations. Trade, immigration, economic dependency, energy, contraband, and other topics. Offered as MAS 3317 and POLS 3317; credit will be given in only one department.

**MAS 3318. BORDERS, CULTURES, AND CARTELS. 3 Hours.**

Critically examines life on the Mexico-U.S. border through ethnography, taking into account the impact of the U.S. war on drugs and the influence of cartels on the lives of those living in the southern border region. Topics may include impacts and influences of drugs and narco life on religion, crime, music, and daily life at the nexus of US-Mexico relations. Listed as ANTH 3318 and MAS 3318; may receive credit for either ANTH 3318 or MAS 3318.

**MAS 3319. DIVERSE POPULATIONS. 3 Hours.**

Introduction to theoretical, practical, and policy issues related to diverse populations. Historical, political, and socioeconomic forces are examined that maintain discriminatory and oppressive values, attitudes, and behaviors in society in diverse populations and in all levels of organizational behavior. This course is required for admission to the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program. Offered as AAST 3317, SOCW 3307 and MAS 3319; credit will be granted in only one department.

**MAS 3320. U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICY AND THE AMERICAN DREAM. 3 Hours.**

This course focuses on diverse ethnic and racial identities in America through the examination of immigration to the United States, past and present, and the evolution of U.S. immigration policy. Topics include U.S. attitudes and policy responses to European, Asian, and Latin American immigration and to the incorporation of the descendants of African slaves and Native Americans. Emphasis on the decline of the melting pot idea and the incorporation of recent immigrants. Offered as MAS 3320, AAST 3319, and SOCW 3320. Credit will be granted only once.

**MAS 3321. MEXICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY. 3 Hours.**

The role of the Mexican American in the cultural and historical development of the United States with special emphasis on the Southwest. Offered as HIST 3321 & MAS 3321; credit will be granted only once.

**MAS 3322. RACE, LATINOS, AND THE AMERICAN NARRATIVE. 3 Hours.**

Adopts race and ethnicity as a central platform to examine how sociocultural and structural processes intersect to shape an American narrative of Latinos in the United States. Assesses topics like ethnic capital, socioeconomic mobility, and the digital age to broaden a sociological understanding of Latino group progress in relation to widening inequality gaps. Offered as SOCI 3322 and MAS 3322; credit will be granted in only one department.

**MAS 3330. CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND IDENTITY. 3 Hours.**

The ways identity is constructed in contemporary societies in an increasingly complex and multicultural world. Ethnic, racial, gender, and class identities. How and when identity is asserted and assigned, and how it can both draw boundaries and forge ties between peoples. Formerly listed as ANTH 2350. Credit cannot be given for both ANTH 2350 and ANTH 3330. Also listed as MAS 3330; credit cannot be granted for both ANTH 3330 and MAS 3330. Offered as AAST 3330 and ANTH 3330; credit will be granted in only one department.

**MAS 3337. RACIAL & ETHNIC GROUPS IN US. 3 Hours.**

Compares the immigration, acculturation, and adjustment processes of various racial/ethnic groups in the U.S. Examines historical and contemporary discrimination in relation to the social conditions of racial/ethnic minority groups in the U. S. Topics include classical and contemporary theory; individualistic, cultural, and structural arguments about social arrangements; and conflict among majority and minority groups. Offered as AAST 3337, MAS 3337, and SOCI 3337; credit will be granted in only one department. Credit will not be granted for both SOCI 3337 and SOCI 4310 or for MAS 3337 and MAS 4310.

**MAS 3343. LATINO/A LITERATURE. 3 Hours.**

Explores Latino/a literature of the United States from the nineteenth century through the present as conditioned by the intersections of race, class, gender, sexuality, and regional variation. Texts may include novels, poetry, drama, short fiction, and non-fiction by and about peoples in the U.S. with heritage from South America, Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico. Offered as ENGL 3343 and MAS 3343; credit will be granted in only one department. Prerequisite: English majors must have earned a C or better in ENGL 2350 or must be concurrently enrolled in ENGL 2350. Non-majors must have earned a C or better in 6 hours of sophomore literature (ENGL 2303, ENGL 2309, ENGL 2319, ENGL 2329) or an A in 3 hours of sophomore literature (ENGL 2303, ENGL 2309, ENGL 2319, ENGL 2329).

**MAS 3346. MEXICAN AMERICAN AND CHICANO/A LITERATURE. 3 Hours.**

Surveys Mexican American literature from 1848 to the present, including literature of the Chicano movement, focusing on important genres, themes, and historical developments. Offered as ENGL 3346 and MAS 3346; credit will be granted in only one department.

**MAS 3347. TOPICS IN MULTICULTURAL AMERICAN LITERATURES. 3 Hours.**

Focuses on literature produced within one or more ethnic communities in the U.S. in order to trace a theme or to explore issues such as intersectionality, hybridity/mestizaje, diaspora, or immigrant experiences. Topics may include Afro-Latino poetry, third-world feminist writing, multicultural literature of the Southwest, cultural memory and the Jewish literary tradition, or Asian-American fiction. Offered as ENGL 3347, AAST 3347, and MAS 3347; credit will be granted in only one department, and credit for MAS 3347 will be granted only once. Prerequisite: English majors must have earned a C or better in ENGL 3350 or must be concurrently enrolled in ENGL 3350. Non-majors must have earned a C or better in 6 hours of sophomore literature (ENGL 2303, ENGL 2309, ENGL 2319, ENGL 2329) or an A in 3 hours of sophomore literature (ENGL 2303, ENGL 2309, ENGL 2319, ENGL 2329).

**MAS 3348. LATINO IMMIGRATION TO THE U.S.. 3 Hours.**

Examines Latino immigration from the perspective of sociocultural anthropology. Focuses on how anthropologists have studied Mexican and other Latino immigrants, and discusses contemporary issues such as transnational communities, gender and immigration, citizenship, and immigrants' politics. The course seeks to familiarize students with the largest immigrant community in the U.S. through ethnographic case studies.

**MAS 3363. TEXAS TO 1850. 3 Hours.**

Multicultural heritage of Texas from pre-Colombian period to early statehood. Cultural contact; social, economic, and political change. Completion of either HIST 3345 or HIST 3346 is recommended for those planning to teach in Texas schools. Offered as HIST 3345 and MAS 3363; credit will be granted in only one department.

**MAS 3364. TEXAS SINCE 1845. 3 Hours.**

Texas in the Mexican-American and Civil Wars. Political events and ethnic relations since annexation. Rise of cotton, cattle, and oil industries. Literature and music in the 20th century. Completion of either HIST 3345 or HIST 3346 is recommended for those planning to teach history in Texas secondary schools. Offered as HIST 3346 and MAS 3364; credit will be granted in only one department.

**MAS 3375. LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY: ORIGINS THROUGH INDEPENDENCE. 3 Hours.**

Latin America during the colonial period of Spanish and Portuguese rule. Pre-European civilizations; Iberian backgrounds; conquest of indigenous peoples; development of colonial institutions, economic patterns, social structures, and race relations; independence from Europe. Offered as MAS 3375 and HIST 3375; credit will be granted in only one department.

**MAS 3376. LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY: POST-INDEPENDENCE TO THE PRESENT. 3 Hours.**

The evolution of six Latin American nations during the 19th and 20th centuries. The social, economic, and political development of three social groups in three regions: the Europeanized southern cone area of Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay; the indigenous culture of the Andean mountains in Peru; the African background of Brazil and Cuba. Offered as MAS 3376 and HIST 3376; credit will be granted in only one department.

**MAS 3377. HISTORY OF MEXICO. 3 Hours.**

Mexican history from its pre-Colonial indigenous foundation to the current situation. A social and economic analysis of the major events in Mexican history with emphasis on the 19th and 20th centuries. The major theme in this class is the growth of Mexican nationalism and its relation to region, religion, and ethnicity. Offered as HIST 3377 and MAS 3377; credit will only be granted in one department.

**MAS 3380. RACE, CRIME, AND JUSTICE. 3 Hours.**

An examination of race in the context of the criminal justice system. Emphasis is on social construction of crime; and the treatment of racial minorities as victims and offenders by law enforcement, courts, and corrections. Offered as CRCJ 3380 and MAS 3380; credit will be granted only once. Offered as AAST 3380 and CRCJ 3380; credit will be granted in only one department.

**MAS 4313. TOPICS IN HISPANIC CULTURE. 3 Hours.**

Among the topics are Spanish or Latin American music, television, radio, film, and literature as culture. May be repeated for credit as topic changes. Prerequisite: SPAN 3315 with a grade of C or better. Offered as MAS 4313 and SPAN 4313; credit will be given for MAS 4313 or SPAN 4313 but not both in a given semester.

**MAS 4315. TOPICS IN CONTEMPORARY LATIN-AMERICAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE, MODERNISM TO THE PRESENT. 3 Hours.**

Topics may include: Latin-American literature and culture of Modernism, modern Latin-American literature and culture, or any particular movement, genre, work or author from Modernism to the present. May be repeated for credit when content changes. Offered as MAS 4315 and SPAN 4315; credit will be given for MAS 4315 or SPAN 4315 but not both in a given semester. Prerequisite: SPAN 3315 with a grade of C or better.

**MAS 4317. U.S.-MEXICO LITERATURE & CULTURE. 3 Hours.**

U.S.-Mexico cultural manifestations with particular attention to music, television, radio, film, performance art, and literature as culture. Cross-listed with MAS 4317. Prerequisite: SPAN 3315 with a grade of C or better.

**MAS 4318. MEXICAN LITERATURE. 3 Hours.**

Studies in Mexican fiction, poetry, drama, and literary essay. Offered as MAS 4318 and SPAN 4318; credit will be given for MAS 4318 or SPAN 4318 but not both in a given semester. Prerequisite: SPAN 3315 with a grade of C or better.

**MAS 4319. POLITICS OF MEXICAN AMERICANS. 3 Hours.**

The influence of Mexican-American politics on United States government and policies with special attention given to organizational development, participation in political parties, leadership, ideology, the Chicano Movement, current issues, and relations with other ethnic groups. Offered as MAS 4319 and POLS 4319; credit will be given in only one department.

**MAS 4327. WOMEN IN HISPANIC LITERATURE. 3 Hours.**

Considers women as characters in and writers of Hispanic literature. Includes the analysis of themes, language, and how the writings of women often give voice to lesser-known aspects of culture. Also listed as SPAN 4327. Credit cannot be given for both.

**MAS 4350. TOPICS IN MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES. 3 Hours.**

Subjects of interest in Mexican American and Latino studies. May be repeated for credit when topic changes.

**MAS 4360. CONFERENCE COURSE. 3 Hours.**

Permission of the director of the Center for Mexican American Studies required. Topics for research or study in designated areas assigned in consultation with course instructor.

**MAS 4370. CAPSTONE MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES. 3 Hours.**

In consultation with the course instructor, students will design a research project or an internship that will integrate their previous course work into a capstone experience in either the applied or the cultural studies stream of the Mexican American Studies minor.

**MAS 4391. CONFERENCE COURSE. 3 Hours.**

Permission of the director of the Center for Mexican American Studies required. Topics for research or study in designated areas assigned in consultation with course instructor.

**MAS 4393. MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES INTERNSHIP. 3 Hours.**

A combination of field-related experience in the service, community, and/or business sectors with an academic component. Prerequisite: At least two MAS courses and permission of the instructor.