

Center for Mexican American Studies

Center Overview

The Center for Mexican American Studies (CMAS) administers an academic minor in Mexican American & Latina/o Studies, supports and enhances research by UTA faculty engaged in studies on Latina/o issues, and serves as a bridge between UTA and the Latina/o community in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex through various service outreach activities.

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.

Graduate Program (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/university-programs/mexican-american-studies/graduate/>)

Undergraduate Program (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/university-programs/mexican-american-studies/undergraduate/>)

Contact Information

Center for Mexican American Studies Website (<https://cmas.uta.edu/>)

Phone: (817) 272-2933

Address: Box 19444, 1022 UTA Blvd, Swift Center 129

COURSES

MAS 2300. INTRODUCTION TO MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES. 3 Hours. (TCCN = HUMA 1305)

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 GWSS 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, GWSS 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. Prerequisite: POLS 2311 and POLS 2312.

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 3350 and in one literature survey course (ENGL 3340, ENGL 3341, ENGL 3351, ENGL 3352, ENGL 3361, or ENGL 3362). Non-majors must have earned a C or better 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 and in one literature survey course (ENGL 3340, ENGL 3341, ENGL 3351, ENGL 3352, ENGL 3361, or ENGL 3362). Non-majors must have earned a C or better 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 3378. LATINO POLITICS. 3 Hours.

An overview of Latino/Hispanic political behavior, identity, and power that analyzes the social, economic, and political issues impacting the Latino/Hispanic community in the United States. To be offered as POLS 3378 and MAS 3378. Credit will be granted only once.

MAS 3379. LATINO POLITICAL THOUGHT. 3 Hours.

An overview of the development of Latino/Hispanic political thought from Iberian and Latin American political culture and philosophy to contemporary North American Latino/Hispanic political ideology and political thought. To be offered as POLS 3379 and MAS 3379. Credit will be granted only once.

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. Prerequisite: CRCJ 2334.

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. Prerequisite: POLS 2311 and POLS 2312.

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.