

LATINO WORKERS IN THE UNITED STATES

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Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. **Laura Renata Martin**

E-mail: **lm1331@smlr.rutgers.edu**

Virtual Office Hours: Mondays, 1-2 PM Eastern Standard Time, through Zoom - Email for Zoom address

Description

This course examines the experience of Latinx workers in the United States through a review of the current scholarship in this field. We will draw on literature from various disciplines including sociology, economics, geography and demography. We discuss the factors that impact labor migration from sending countries including U.S. foreign and domestic policy; the patterns of Latinx settlement in the United States; the Latino experience in the U.S., the role of Latinx workers in U.S. society and the U.S. economy; the impact of the new migration on the U.S. labor market and social policy.

Course Competencies

At the conclusion of this course it is expected that students will be able to:

- Understand, critically analyze and synthesize academic, policy and popular sources of literature regarding the experience of the diverse groups of Latinx workers in the United States labor market
- Express themselves clearly and concisely in writing about course topics.

Relationship to Rutgers Learning Goals:

This course relates to the overall objective of a liberal arts education:

- *CCD-1: Analyze the degree to which forms of human differences and stratifications among social groups shape individual and group experiences of, and perspectives on, contemporary issues. Such differences and stratifications may include race, language, religion, ethnicity, country of origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, economic status, abilities, or other social distinctions and their intersections.*

Course Assignments:

Latino Groups Matrix- 15 points

This assignment requires you to select four different Latino groups residing in the U.S. and do a comparative analysis based on quantitative data. See the assignment for more information.

Weekly Discussion Forums - 15 points each

Forums are asynchronous discussions, which students use to process and synthesize course content. Each week, I will provide you with readings and/or video clips and some questions to respond to. You will be required to submit your response and then to read and respond to your classmates.

Midterm Exam- 35 points

Multiple choice and short answer responses covering materials from the first half of the course.

Final Exam- 35 points

Multiple choice and short answer responses covering materials from the second half of the course.

Final Presentation- 40 points

A recorded Power Point presentation based on your own research on a topic of your choice.

Student Conferences- 5 points (required in order to receive a grade on your presentation).

Individual short Zoom meeting with professor at the end of the semester to discuss your research and presentation.

Canvas Tutorials & Technical Support

If you are new to Canvas or need a refresher tutorial, visit:

- [Getting Started In Canvas for Students](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
- [Canvas \(Links to an external site.\)](#)[Links to an external site.](#)Canvas is Web Accessibility Guidelines compliant. More on [Canvas accessibility Standards](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem with Canvas:

- Contact [Rutgers IT Help Desk \(Links to an external site.\)](#)[Links to an external site.](#), 833-648-4357, email help@oit.rutgers.edu, accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Refer to the [Canvas Student Tutorial](#)[Links to an external site.](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
- Canvas [Student Guide PDF Version](#)[Links to an external site.](#)[Open this document with ReadSpeaker docReader](#) [Links to an external site.](#)
- Access Rutgers Canvas via the [MyRutgers Portal](#)[Links to an external site.](#), rutgers.instructure.com, mobile app and <https://canvas.rutgers.edu>[Links to an external site.](#)
- For Canvas assistance, Passwords, or any other computer-related technical support contact the [Rutgers Canvas Help Desk](#)[Links to an external site.](#).
- - help@canvas.rutgers.edu

Course Delivery Format

This course is delivered **entirely** online through the Learning Management System, Canvas. There will be no Face-to-Face, in-person classroom sessions, except for an optional virtual "meet your professor and classmates" live Zoom session.

The course is delivered in **asynchronous** mode. This means the learning activities and communication takes place outside of real-time. You do not have to log in at any specific scheduled time; you log in at your convenience. However, there may be times, if you're working in groups on an assignment, you would need to set up a live session via the **Canvas Conferences, WebEx, or ZOOM**.

Note: Even though you don't need to log in at any specific time, **you are required to adhere to all course work due dates**.

How to Access Zoom

Virtual office hours are conducted through scheduled ZOOM meeting. If you have not activated your Rutgers ZOOM account, you will need to do so prior to class starts. Follow the steps below:

1. Follow instructions on [Creating Rutgers ZOOM Account \(Links to an external site.\)](#)[Links to an external site.](#). Note: be sure to read what to do if you have an existing personal ZOOM account that uses your Rutgers email.

2. Once you have activated your Rutgers ZOOM account you will then need to make sure your Canvas default email is in the format **netid@rutgers.edu**. Follow instructions on [How to check and set your Canvas Default Email](#) if needed. Then you can access the scheduled ZOOM class sessions.
3. To access and join the scheduled class sessions, select the ZOOM tab from the left navigation menu, then select Join to join the scheduled session. If you are new to ZOOM, review the tutorials under [Course Tools Tutorials](#) or at [Rutgers ZOOM Homepage](#)[Links to an external site.](#).

ZOOM etiquettes:

- For audio clarity, mute your microphone when not speaking, unmute only when you are speaking.
- Allow for the brief delay that happens when a conversation from one speaker transitions to another. Be patient and allow the person to speak.
- You have the option to turn on/off your webcam.
- You can use the Chat box to ask questions, share your thoughts.

Accommodations

Everyone will need some type of accommodation at some point throughout the semester. My goal is to normalize the need for accommodation requests to the extent the university policy allows me to. There are various types of accommodation requests. I can help with some accommodation requests, but there are also accommodation requests that you will need to go through the university's ODS. I can help with the following (**without you going to the ODS**):

- Extended time for exam and/or assignment submissions (already built in for all but let me know if you require something different).
- Make up exams, assignments, due to work travel, illness, family responsibilities. No need to ask, just tell me. I just need a heads up so I know you're ok and that you don't fall behind on your course work.

Rutgers' Official Accommodation Statement

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide

documentation ([See Documentation GuidelinesLinks to an external site.](#)). If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you and your instructor with a Letter of Accommodations. Please discuss the accommodations with your instructors as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the [registration formLinks to an external site.](#) I am happy to facilitate the process if you need me to. Just let me know.

Office of Disability Services contact and address

Lucy Stone Hall, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Suite A145, Piscataway, NJ 08854-8045.

- E-mail Address: dsoffice@rci.rutgers.edu
- Phone: (848) 445-6800 • Fax: (732) 445-3388
- <https://ods.rutgers.edu/Links to an external site.>

Rutgers Diversity Statement

The Division of Student Affairs works to create an environment of **inclusion** which respects and affirms the inherent dignity, value, and uniqueness of all individuals, communities and perspectives. Our practices reflect awareness and understanding of the complexity of identity and the increasing interconnectedness of our world. It is our **responsibility** to promote and maintain a community of compassion, embracing the rich dimensions of **diversity**, and facilitating opportunities for understanding and the expression of both individual and shared truths.

Course Materials

- All course materials: lecture videos, multimedia, and readings are provided in each week's module. You do not need to purchase any textbook.

Computer and other Technology Requirements

- Access to the internet
- Reliable computer
- Headphones/Headsets
- Webcam - optional
- Microsoft Word

- [Basic Computer Specifications for Canvas \(Links to an external site.\)](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

For convenience, you can also download/install the Canvas Student App for Android or iOS devices. Follow the instruction on the respective app centers:

- [Canvas Student App for Android \(Links to an external site.\)](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
- [Canvas Student App for iOS](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

Course Structure & Schedules

This course is structured in a weekly module format. A Module is a chunk of the course content broken out by usually topic. Each Module equates to a Week. Each week starts on a Monday and ends on a Sunday. Exceptions are the 1st the last week of the semester.

The weekly/module activities are noted in the Modules section under the corresponding **Week # To Do** pages. Each To Do page includes:

- Topic introduction of the week
- Learning Materials
 - Readings
 - Multimedia (Audio, and/or Videos, Lecture recordings)
- Learning Activities - what activities you will be doing to help you learn
 - Discussion
 - Assignments
- Assessment - the activities that will be assessed (graded)

Course Organization (Readings are open to change- always check Canvas To Do for latest assignments)

Week 1: Course Orientation/ Introduction to the Course (9/1)

Week 2: Historical Context: Roots of Immigration from Latin America (9/8)

Readings: Harvest of Empire, excerpts; Harvest of Empire documentary

Week 3: Immigration Policy and post-1965 Immigration; the making of the "Illegal Alien" (9/14)

Readings: Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects*, excerpt

Week 4: Guest Worker Programs (9/21)

Readings: Bolte, C. (2013). New Report Outlines the Horrors, Potential Solutions, for Guest Worker Programs; The H2B Visa Program Has Ballooned Without Being Fixed. (By Economic Policy Institute).

Week 5: Labor Force Participation and Occupations (9/28)

Reading: US Bureau of Labor Statistics (2023) Labor Force Characteristics by Race and Ethnicity, 2023.

Download Chapter 4 Brown-Collar Careers in the Back of the Ho*Front of the House, Back of the House : Race and Inequality in the Lives of Restaurant Workers*. NYU Press. "Maid in L.A." in *Domestica: Immigrant Workers Cleaning and Caring in the Shadows of Influence*. pp. 29-47.

"The Telecommunications Life Cycle: Lorraine A Case Study" from *Latinas on the Line*

Week 6: Latinx workers in the Global Economy (10/5)

Week 7: Midterm Exam (10/12)

Week 8: Guest Workers, Braceros, and Immigration Law (10/19)

Readings: "The Bracero Program, 1942-1964" in *Beyond La Frontera*

Week 9: Latina Workers and Caring Labor (Domestic Work, Childcare, and Homecare) (10/26)

Readings: TBA

Week 10: Organizing for Dignity on the Job (11/2)

Reading: Unions and Immigrant Worker Organizing: New Models for New Workers; <https://truthout.org/articles/immigrant-led-organizing-points-the-way-to-a-better-world-for-all-workers/>

Week 11: Ethnic Economies and Social Networks (11/9)

Reading: Hiding in Plain Sight: Labor and Legality in a Mexican Immigrant Network by Ruth Gomberg-Munoz

Week 12: Policing Latinx Workers: Border Patrol, ICE, and Anti-Immigrant Movements (11/16)

Reading: TBA

Week 13: Wrap-up and the Future of Latinx Workers in the U.S. (11/23)

Thanksgiving Break 11/26-11/29

Week 14: Presentation Prep (11/30)

Week 15: Presentations Due

Exam Reading Days 12/11-12/14

Final Exam: Due 12/15

**The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus, assignments, course content, etc. in any way to enhance the learning experience of this course*