

# CHICANA/CHICANO STUDIES

College of Arts and Humanities  
Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies

## Program Description

### Undergraduate

The Chicana and Chicano Studies (CHS) major is an interdisciplinary Ethnic Studies major that investigates Chicana/o historical/social, political, and cultural experiences. The BA degree and minor program emphasize a theoretical and empirical foundation preparing students to pursue diverse career tracks, graduate school, and post-baccalaureate studies and training in a variety of related fields. The focus of the program provides students training in pre-colonial history, identity formations, literature, contemporary politics, education, the arts, theory, and more.

## Student Organizations, Programs, and Activities

The Chicana and Chicano Studies Department sponsors an extensive activities calendar throughout the academic year. The department faculty collaborate with university areas such as the Affinity and Cultural Centers including the Latinx Cultural Resource Center, the Toro Dreamers Success Center, and the Queer Culture Resource Center to foster community awareness on anti-racism, social justice, and equity. The department also co-sponsors and supports campus-wide programs and events such as the annual *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead) celebration and the Dolores Huerta graduation celebration. In support of student organizations, department faculty members serve as advisors and work closely with campus Chicana/e/o, Latina/e/o student organizations.

## Academic Advisement

All majors and minors in Chicana and Chicano Studies receive academic advisement from a faculty advisor. Students select an advisor, or have one assigned to them. Students will work closely with faculty to prepare them or academic success and potential career choices.

## Preparation

Although not required, both high school and community college students wishing to major or minor in Chicana and Chicano Studies are encouraged to take Ethnic Studies courses that relate to Chicana/e/o and Latina/e/o experiences.

## Graduation with Honors

An undergraduate student may graduate with Honors in Chicana/o Studies provided that the following criteria are met:

1. A minimum of 36 units in residence at CSU Dominguez Hills.
2. A minimum grade point average of at least 3.5 in all courses used to satisfy the upper-division requirements in the major.

## Career Options for Chicana and Chicano Studies

- Arts careers
- Business sector
- College and university teaching, administration, and student affairs

- Community organizing
- Counseling and advising
- Criminal justice and law
- Government affairs
- International abroad professional experiences
- Human Resources
- Journalism and media
- K-12 Teaching and counseling
- Non-profit sector
- Public administration
- Social work and human services

The degree in Chicana and Chicano studies prepares students for graduate studies and provides a foundation for a law degree and Master's or Ph.D. in Anthropology, Art, Chicana/o Studies, Comparative Cultures, Cultural Studies, Education, Ethnic Studies, History, Psychology, Political Science, History, Sociology, Social Work, Spanish, and other fields.

## Undergraduate Programs

### Bachelor

- Chicana/Chicano Studies, Bachelor of Arts (<https://catalog.csudh.edu/academics/chicana-chicano-studies/chicana-chicano-studies-ba/>)

### Minor

- Chicana/Chicano Studies, Minor (<https://catalog.csudh.edu/academics/chicana-chicano-studies/chicana-chicano-studies-minor/>)

## Faculty

Corina Benavides López

Marisela R. Chávez, Alexandro D. Hernández, José R. López Morín, Rosario Martínez Pogar, Gretel Vera-Rosas

Department Office: LCH A 338, (310) 243-3326 or (310) 243-3327

## Courses

### CHS 100. Chicana/o Cultural Roots. (3 Units)

An introduction to Chicana/o cultural traditions influenced by diverse Mexican Indian, African, and European experiences and histories prior to, during and after the conquest of Americas. Special focus is on Mexico and the Southwest of the United States.

Offered Fall, Spring

### CHS 125. Chicano/Latino Musical Culture. (3 Units)

The course examines musical expressions of Chicano and Latino peoples in the present geographical boundaries of the United States. The course emphasizes the intercultural dynamics in the formation of Chicano and Latino music which incorporates African, American, Native American, and European roots.

Offered Infrequent

### CHS 195. Special Topics in Chicana/o Studies. (3 Units)

A study of an issue, concept or theme in Chicana/Chicano Studies. Three hours of lecture per week. Repeatable for a maximum of twelve units for credit.

Offered Infrequent

**CHS 200. Introduction to Chicana/o and Latina/o History. (3 Units)**

Explores the history and experiences of Chicanos/as and Latinos/as in the United States in the 19th and 20th Centuries and will explore the following themes: immigration, migration, labor, education, gender roles, and community organizations.

Offered Fall, Spring

**CHS 205. Introduction to Chicana/o Literature. (3 Units)**

An introduction to selected works of modern Chicano literature including an analysis of influences, themes, and techniques. Special attention given to certain issues of the Chicano/a experiences reflected in the literature. Frequent written assignments.

Offered Fall, Spring

**CHS 210. Representation of Indigenous. (3 Units)**

An introduction to the different forms on indigenous representation with special emphasis on Mesoamerica. Discussions of how these accounts are expressed, perceived, and constructed at the point of European contact will be examined.

Offered Infrequent

**CHS 212. Introduction to Comparative Ethnic Studies. (3 Units)**

The course will explore the lived experiences and gendered complexities of Ethnic/Global communities as they relate to historical and contemporary international and global forces. The course will examine the economic and socio-cultural dynamics of the global interdependencies of Indigenous, Latino, Asian-Pacific and Africana communities and women's lived experiences within and across these communities.

Offered Fall, Spring

**CHS 216. Mexica Language and Culture. (3 Units)**

Supervised work experience in a Chicano/Latino community with emphasis upon social and economic development in a local, national, or international setting. Students will be placed in settings suitable to their academic expertise.

Offered Infrequent

**CHS 225. Mexican & Chicano Poetry & Mus. (3 Units)**

An introduction to Mexican/Chicano poetry and music from the Spanish Conquest to the present. Students will learn to recognize boleros, sones, huapangos, mariachi, norteno, corridos, Tex-Mex, and oldies. The class is not designed for music majors.

Offered Infrequent

**CHS 295. Spc Topics Chicana/o Stud. (3 Units)**

A study of an issue, concept, or theme in Chicana/Chicano studies. Repeatable for a maximum of six units for credit.

Offered Infrequent

**CHS 300. Critical Issues in Chicana/Chicano Studies. (3 Units)**

Prerequisites: ENG 110 or equivalent are required. CHS 100 or CHS 205 and CHS 200 or 212 are recommended. An exploration of the field of Chicana and Chicano Studies. Course will emphasize the changing constructions and interpretations of what comprises Chicana/o identities and cultures through an analysis of cultural, historical, political, psychological, and social issues. Enrollment priority will be given to Chicana/Chicano Studies majors and minors. This course fulfills a requirement in the Chicana/Chicano Studies major and minor, in addition to the GEAR.

Offered Fall, Spring

**CHS 315. Changing Dynamics in Raza Comm. (3 Units)**

Prerequisite: CHS 200 is recommended. Assesses the challenges confronting the Chicano community resulting from increased and diverse patterns of immigration, restricted occupational opportunities, and socio-political differences. Focus will be on urban issues from communities throughout the United States, including the Mexican/United States Border.

Offered Spring

**CHS 323. Latina/o Perspectives on U.S. Immigration and Citizenship. (3 Units)**

Seeks to understand some of the issues which concern Mexican/Latino immigrant people, specifically Mexican and Central American groups, in efforts to bring awareness to this human crisis and to explore some of its effects on U.S. Latino community.

Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

**CHS 325. Chicana/o Movement. (3 Units)**

A historical and comparative examination of the Chicana/o movement by examining the early pattern of Mexican immigration and the formation of mutual aids associations designed to defend their interests. The focus is on the period from 1960-1990.

Offered Spring

**CHS 330. Latina/o Identities in U.S.. (3 Units)**

Explores the social, cultural, and political experiences of Chincano/a and Latino/a communities in the United States, including Puerto Rican, Caribbean, and Central and South American peoples. The historical experiences of these diverse communities will be examined.

Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

**CHS 335. Urban Youth Gangs in Los Angeles. (3 Units)**

Provides an interdisciplinary perspective to the origins and evolution of youth groups (African Americans, Anglos, Asians, Chicana/os, and Pacific Islanders) in California. Class topics include definition of gangs; history of gangs; membership practices; and law enforcement responses.

Offered Infrequent

**CHS 340. Native American and Chicana Women's Narrative. (3 Units)**

Course explores contemporary cultural and historical narratives by and about Native American Chicana women in the U.S. Through poetry, short stories, and narratives the class will analyze the histories of colonial exploitation, historical memories, gender oppression, and marginalization.

Offered Fall, Spring

**CHS 344. Chicana/o History I. (3 Units)**

Mexican American life to 1900, stressing the evolution of economic and political thought, social institutions, and cultural experiences.

Offered Fall

**CHS 345. Latina/o Identities in the Americas. (3 Units)**

Explores the concept of Latina/o identity in the Americas from a literary perspective in different time periods and particular cultural societies. The study of certain intellectuals and their literary contributions will assist with comprehension of identity and socio-political reality.

Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

**CHS 346. Chicana/o History II. (3 Units)**

The Mexican American's contributions to the building of the Southwest; the clash between Mexicans and North Americans; the emergence of the urban Mexican American.

Offered Spring

**CHS 372. Chicana/o Spiritualities and Healing Practices. (3 Units)**

Examination of the diverse spiritual practices and decolonial methods of healing found in Mexican and Chicana/o/x traditions.

Offered All terms

**CHS 375. Chicana/o Latina/o Body Politics. (3 Units)**

Recommended Prerequisites: CHS 100, CHS 200, CHS 205, and CHS 212. An exploration of the interconnections between the physical body and politics, both current and historical, for Chicana/os and Latina/os. Students will examine issues such as public health, reproductive justice, ability, gender, and sexuality in Chicana/o Latina/o communities. Offered All terms

**CHS 395. Special Topics in Chicana/o Studies. (1-3 Units)**

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Study of special topic of interest for students in the selected area of study. Topic and content will vary as announced. Offered As needed

**CHS 396. Practicum in Chicana/o Studies. (3 Units)**

Prerequisite: Consent of Department Chair. This course is an introduction to theorists and methods under girding Chicana and Chicano Studies as these have been deployed in the writings by Chicana and Chicano authors during the past thirty years. The class will present theories and methods that inform intellectual issues in Chicana/o studies. Offered As needed

**CHS 400. Chicana/o Issues in Education. (3 Units)**

An overview of the educational system in society - how it functions, whom it serves, and the cultural and theoretical explanations for the success and failure of Chicana/o students. Discussions include family values, teen pregnancy, language, gangs, etc. Offered Fall

**CHS 401. Theories and Methods in Chicana/o Studies. (3 Units)**

Prerequisites: ENG 110 or equivalent; CHS 100 or CHS 205 and CHS 200 or CHS 212 or equivalent are required. Must be a Senior. Focuses on examining the various theories and methods utilized by Chicana/o scholars during the evolution of the discipline of Chicana/o Studies, exploring how these theories and methods have informed and continue to inform writing and research in Chicana/o Studies. Offered Fall

**CHS 410. Chicana/o Popular Culture. (3 Units)**

An overview of the central areas of Chicana/o popular culture, focusing on film, mass media, art, theatre, and music. The course examines how concepts of culture, identity, and ethnicity are popularly expressed in a constant state of flux. Offered Fall

**CHS 436. Chicana/o Latina/o Politics. (3 Units)**

Recommended Prerequisites: CHS 200 and CHS 323 Course examines the role of Chicana/o and Latina/o communities in shaping state and national politics in the United States, including contemporary modes of political organizations, political history, organizational strategies, electoral impact, public policy issues surrounding citizenship, and empowerment strategies. Offered All terms

**CHS 450. Precolumbian Lit of Mexico. (3 Units)**

Prerequisite: CHS 300 recommended. The study of the literature of ancient Mexico, specifically the PopolVuh of the Maya and Aztec poetry, in order to obtain an insight into the Precolumbian world view. Periodic essay exams. Offered Infrequent

**CHS 460. Las Chicanas. (3 Units)**

Prerequisite: ENG 110 or equivalent is required. The study of the issues that Chicanas encounter in contemporary U.S. society. Includes a survey of remote and recent cultural, social, and political issues that have influenced the values, expectations, and roles of Chicanas. Offered Fall, Spring

**CHS 471. Mexican Thought, Social Activism and Political Ideology. (3 Units)**

Prerequisite: CHS 100 is recommended. Examines the evolution of Mexico's modernistic state via its reformation and dictatorship of President Porfirio Diaz. It will investigate how revolutionary leaders banded together to dismantle the Porfirio regime, and how later Mexico's Government attempted to institutionalize the ideals of justice, freedom, and democracy. Offered Fall

**CHS 480. Chicana/o Folklore. (3 Units)**

Prerequisite: CHS 300 recommended. An introduction to some of the basic theories and techniques in folklore studies, especially Mexican American. Folk art, music, oral literature, customs, philosophy, and belief systems will be examined for understanding groups of people. Offered Fall, Spring

**CHS 486. Chicana/o Family and Gender Issues. (3 Units)**

Prerequisite: ENG 110 or equivalent is required. CHS lower division requirements or courses on previous women and gender are recommended. The course examines family and gender issues as they relate to the Chicana/o community in the United States. Topics will include Chicana/o family roles and structure, cultural values, experiences that influence and challenge families, gender roles and expectations. Offered Fall

**CHS 490. Senior Seminar in Chicana/o Studies. (3 Units)**

Prerequisites: ENG 110 and CHS 401 are required. CHS 100 or CHS 205; CHS 200 or CHS 212; and CHS 300 are recommended. Seminar where students examine a particular topic or theme in the field of Chicana/o Studies. As the capstone course for the major, students undertake a major research paper. Offered Fall, Spring

**CHS 494. Independent Study. (1-3 Units)**

Prerequisite: Consent of Program Director. Independent study of a particular topic in Chicana/Chicano Studies relating two or more disciplines, such as anthropology, art, education, history, language, music, politics, psychology, or sociology under the direction of an instructor in Chicana/Chicano Studies. Repeatable course. Offered Fall, Spring

**CHS 495. Spec Topic Chicano/Chicana St. (1-3 Units)**

Prerequisite: Consent of Program Director. An intensive study of an issue, concept or theme in Chicana/Chicano Studies. Three hours of lecture per week. Repeatable for a maximum of six units for credit. Offered Fall, Spring

**CHS 496. Internship Chicana/o Studies. (3 Units)**

Under direction of the internship faculty, students will work in a Chicano/Latino community, applying skills and knowledge learned in the classroom as well as the workplace. Repeatable course. Offered As needed

**CHS 497. Directed Reading. (1-3 Units)**

Prerequisite: CHS 100 is recommended. Extensive reading in selected areas under the guidance of a faculty member. Offered Fall, Spring

**CHS 498. Directed Research in CHS. (1-3 Units)**

The student develops and completes an individual study under faculty supervision. Repeatable course.

Offered As needed

**CHS 590. Grad Sem Theory & Methods. (3 Units)**

Instruction in the basic principles of still photography. Two hours of lecture and three hours of laboratory per week.

Offered As needed

**CHS 594. Independent Study. (1-4 Units)**

Prerequisites: Consent of Department Chair. Independent investigation of a research problem or directed readings in a selected area of Chicano Studies.

Offered As needed

**CHS 595. Special Topics:. (3 Units)**

An intensive study of a concept, movement, school of thought, or individual within the discipline of Chicano Studies. Intended for students with senior or graduate standing. Specific topic listed in Class Schedule. Repeatable course. Three hours of seminar per week.

Offered As needed

**CHS 596. Pract. in Teach Chicana/o Stud. (1-4 Units)**

Supervised experience in teaching Chicana/o Studies. Techniques and skills appropriate to instruction at the college level. Instructional and evaluative experiences under supervision of Chicana/o Studies faculty.

Offered As needed

**CHS 597. Directed Reading. (1-4 Units)**

Extensive reading in selected areas under the guidance of a faculty mentor.

Offered As needed

**CHS 598. Graduate Directed Research. (1-3 Units)**

Independent research under direction of supervising faculty member in Chicana/o Studies.

Offered As needed

**CHS 599. Final Project. (3 Units)**

In consultation with a faculty member, writing of a master's thesis or completion of project. Choice of area requires prior consent of advisor.

Offered As needed