



# HISP 2650: HISPANIC CULTURE IN THE U.S.

This course is a General Education Area III: The United States: Cultures and Issues. This is also a Western Essential Studies Level Two: Societies and Cultures (meets objectives for foundational knowledge and written communication). (3 credit hrs)

This course examines the origins and development of the main Hispanic population groups in the U.S. as well as numerous others. Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Cuban American, Dominican American, Central American and other Hispanic population groups will be studied through close readings and class discussion. Attention will be given to current manifestations of Hispanic culture in public life, education, the media and the arts. The following are a few of the questions that will be posed during the course:

Historically, what are the social, economic and political factors involved in Latin American immigration to the U.S.? How does Latin American immigration differ from that of other groups in the U.S.? What cultural ties do U.S. Latinos maintain with their country of origin or the country of origin of their ancestors? How do Hispanic groups view themselves within U.S. society and how does the U.S. society view them? To what degree are these ethnic groups self-absorbed or nationalistic? Why is language such a significant cultural marker for these ethnic groups and why have segments of U.S. society reacted so negatively to their use of Spanish? Can one speak nowadays of an emerging, all-encompassing Latino consciousness? How are Latinos changing the nation?

**Professor:** Patricia Montilla, associate professor in the Department of Spanish. Her areas of specialization and interest are Spanish American and U.S. Latino literatures and cultures. Classes will be conducted in English.