Our annual speaker series brings to campus leading voices in Latino Studies. These experts lecture on both foundational and contemporary topics and workshop with students in the classroom.

This new series has already drawn two acclaimed scholars as speakers. **Leisy Abrego**, a professor at the University of California Los Angeles, researches transnational migration between the United States and Central America and the implications of heightened immigration enforcement. **Patricia Silver**, a visiting scholar at the City University of New York Graduate Center, researches the local politics of Puerto Rican migration and national identity in Central Florida.
LATINO STUDIES
IN THE AMERICAN STUDIES DEPARTMENT AT AMHERST COLLEGE

Latinos make up more than 17 percent of the U.S. population. At Amherst, students have many opportunities to study the rich and diverse experiences of Latino Americans. The Amherst Department of American Studies offers a variety of interdisciplinary courses in Latino Studies.

OUR FOCUS

Of the 55.4 million Latinos in the United States, the vast majority are U.S. citizens by birth (65 percent) or naturalization (11 percent). What is their history?

Latinos of Mexican descent have roots in the Southwest dating to the 17th century. Others from the Caribbean began arriving in the United States in the mid-19th century. In the 20th century, U.S. immigration and foreign policies shaped migration patterns. Most recent arrivals from Central and South America have come fleeing war, political persecution and economic dislocation.

Professor Solsiree del Moral teaches the history of Latinos in the United States since the 19th century, with a focus on the Caribbean region. Professor Leah Schmalzbauer, a sociologist, examines the ways in which economic and political inequalities play out in the daily lives of Central American and Mexican immigrants to the United States and their families.

Latino Studies encompasses critical concepts, such as empire, migration, diaspora, neoliberalism, globalization and transnationalism. Latino Studies also explores the intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, immigration status and class.

OUR FACULTY

SOLSIREE DEL MORAL is an Associate Professor of American Studies and Black Studies. She joined the Amherst faculty in 2013. Professor Del Moral’s courses examine the experiences of Puerto Ricans, Dominicans and Cubans in the Caribbean and the United States. She is interested in the relationship among U.S. empire, migration and diaspora formation. Professor Del Moral’s courses broadly examine how race, ethnicity, class, gender and sexuality inform community. Her book, Negotiating Empire: The Cultural Politics of Schools in Puerto Rico, 1898-1952 (Wisconsin, 2013), is a study of Puerto Rican teachers of the early 20th century. She has also published several articles on U.S. empire, colonial education and Puerto Rican history.

LEAH SCHMALZBAUER is an Associate Professor of American Studies and Sociology. She joined the Amherst faculty in 2014. Professor Schmalzbauer’s courses explore transnational migration between Mexico and the United States, and between Central America and the United States. She is particularly interested in the ways in which immigration status intersects with race, class and gender to produce and reproduce inequalities within communities and families. Professor Schmalzbauer is the author of two community-based ethnographies, Striving and Surviving: A Daily Life Analysis of Honduran Transnational Families (Routledge, 2005) and The Last Best Place?: Gender, Family and Migration in the New West (Stanford, 2014), along with several articles. She is also a co-author, with Cecilia Menjívar and Leisy Abrego, of Immigrant Families (Polity, 2016).

OUR COURSES

The American Studies Department offers eight Latino Studies courses. In addition to the courses listed below, several other American Studies courses offer material on Latinos, immigration and U.S. history. We invite you to discuss your interests in Latino Studies with the American Studies faculty and to consider a concentration in Latino Studies.

AMERICAN STUDIES 226
Latino Migration: Labor, Lifestyle and Legality

AMERICAN STUDIES 305
Gender, Migration and Power: Latinos in the Americas

AMERICAN STUDIES 310
Spanish-Speaking Caribbean Diasporas

AMERICAN STUDIES 311
Race and Nation: The History of Hispaniola

AMERICAN STUDIES 315
The War of 1898: U. S. Empire in the Caribbean and Pacific

AMERICAN STUDIES 316
Afro-Latinos

AMERICAN STUDIES 317
History of Puerto Rico: Colony, Nation and Diaspora

AMERICAN STUDIES 326
Immigration and the New Latino Second Generation

NEW COURSE, FORTHCOMING
Introduction to Latino Studies