



***La familia extendida:* How Latiné Studies Can
Transform Our Classes and Enhance a Sense of
Belonging for All**

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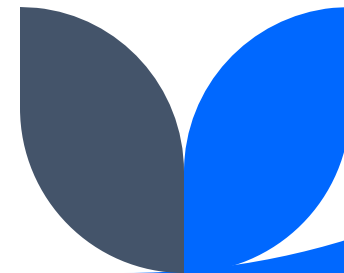
Latine Studies

Fall 2024-Spring 2025



Agenda

1. What is LS? Why is it important?
2. LS at WCC
3. LS across the curriculum
4. Future Goals



The importance of LS at WCC

Common phrases we often hear:

"Be yourself"

"Be authentic"

But what does this mean to be oneself and authentic?

LS connects one of the most important cultural values to curriculum:

Respect (*respecto*)

Our team acknowledges that every person has their own unique answer to this question, which is at the very heart of LS.



LS and ethnic/cultural studies

Ethnic Studies is designed to highlight the often-overlooked history, experiences and cultures of underrepresented groups, and to build respect and appreciation between students of different backgrounds.

AND LS at WCC is going to go a step further,

By encouraging a cross-disciplinary teaching approach to highlight Latiné culture in a contemporary and inclusive curriculum in 2025.

At WCC, faculty have infinite possibilities ahead to make LS an innovative area of focus.



How LS responds...

Diffuses or clarifies any angry, tense, or confused situation by **respectful** discussion. "Clears the air."

As a parent, (who I am), feel my daughter's every emotion. When another parent comments, "Oh, your daughter with the dark skin is so pretty." I feel as if someone just punched both of us in the stomach. Words hurt, and for the sake of my children, language needs to evolve to be more inclusive, which is exactly what Latine does in the very word.



LS highlights Latine culture and centers LS experiences

Culture and cultural: LS studies includes diverse texts from authors that may have previously been left out of courses. LS provides a space that also connects "lived experiences" to college classes. The very term Latine is empowering.

Distinguishing factor: Ethnic studies studies treats ethnic cultures as objects of study while LS centers the experiences of LS people.

Centering:

LS values and centers all knowledge and cultures of persons from Latin American heritage.

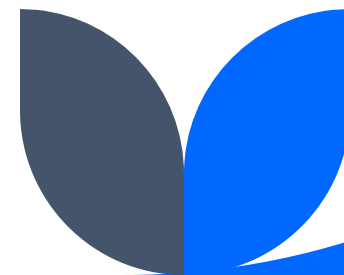


LS is evidence of Latine culture evolving

Example: Latiné Literature starts from the 15th-16th centuries with Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, a nun and a poet, to 21st century Sandra Cisneros, who identifies as queer and Buddhist, and is not classified only under Chicana Studies in 2025.

LS does not exclude any author in Latiné Literature, since to fully understand Latiné Literature, **we have to understand where we came from, where we are at, and where we are going.** One part cannot be taken out and deemed antiquated, since it is part of our history and forms our identity to who we are today.

All authors are equitably included in curriculum to include **all** voices out of respect; the most important cultural value.



What have we done so far?

February 2025

[LS tutors in the Writing Center](#)

English 101 Course Notes for Andrea's sections

English 133: Introduction to Latiné Literature (new course proposed)

Mural – Spring ribbon cutting ceremony with an artist talk

Book Chapter- collaborative published December 2025



And 3 Instructors

Share how courses will highlight Latiné culture in

1. Geology
2. Physics
3. Anthropology





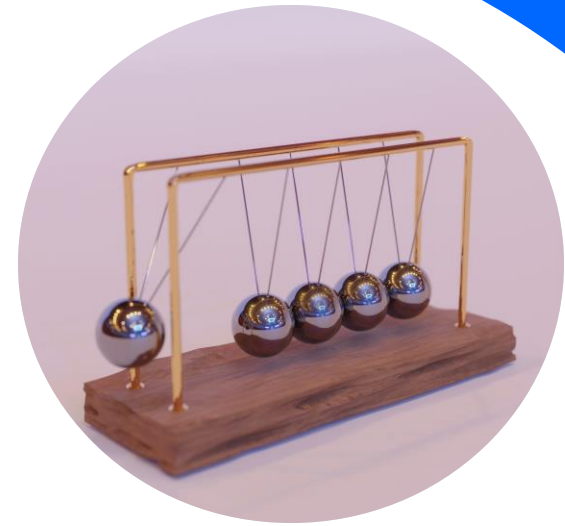
Kaatje Kraft, Monica Riess, Geology

Geology and Oceanography don't know borders – but these areas do have layers of historical racism and exclusion. In GEOL 100 and GEOL 140, Kaatje, along with her colleagues make an effort to acknowledge the harm that has come from past practices while also bringing in diverse voices for content that provides an acknowledgement of expertise in many different communities.

This includes Latiné members of the community who are doing critical work in their own communities and the vast amounts of ways our understanding of geoscience has benefited from these experts. This is a continual process that informs the curriculum. Students and colleagues help to co-develop these resources.

Tran Phung envisions an exploratory study of the physics behind the Mayan civilization – buildings, astronomy, the calendar, the number system, etc. The Mayans used base 20 to calculate really large numbers. Their pyramids have lasted the test of time, including earthquakes and other natural disasters.

They were experimentalists, using the materials around them to figure out the best combination to make their mortar. We know of the Rosetta Stone, but what about the Dresden Codex? The mystery of the resonance of the pyramids to certain frequencies, was it intentional?



Tran Phung, Physics





Jennifer Zovar, Anthropology

In ANTH 206 - Cultural Anthropology, Jennifer Zovar, teaches the text "Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies" by Seth Holmes, which looks at the experiences of migrant farmworkers in Skagit Valley and in California.

An additional text for the course is "Hungry Lightning" which is a type of fieldwork journal of a young anthropologist working with an Indigenous community in Venezuela.



Brainstorm: How could you incorporate LS into your current courses?

1. Spanish
2. History
3. Math
4. Sociology
5. Communication
6. Humanities



Group Activity

To build empathy and gratefulness:

Please think of a time where "the rug was pulled out from under you."

When everything you know was questioned.

Who did you rely on to get you through this time?

Please take 5-7 minutes to discuss.



Future Goals (Spring 2025)

- **On boarder to support first few weeks on campus for ELL evening students**

Future Goals (Spring 2026)

- **Associates Degree in Latiné Studies (the first of its kind anywhere in the U.S.).**



Thank you!
Gracias!

Please contact any members of the LS team for any clarification.