

## **Program Proposal for a Minor**

### ***Name of the proposed minor.***

U.S. Latino/a Studies (USLS)

### ***Name of the department(s) involved.***

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, History, Sociology, Psychology, World Languages & Cultures, Anthropology, English, Political Science, Philosophy & Religious Studies.

### ***Name of contact person(s).***

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### ***General description of the program area and rationale for minor.***

U.S. Latino/a Studies (USLS), a cross-disciplinary program, is situated within the Center for American Intercultural Studies (CAIS) in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS). In existence for over 15 years, the USLS is a sister program to the three other ethnic studies programs at ISU; the African and African American Studies, the American Indian Studies, and the Asian American Studies programs.

The USLS and other ethnic studies programs in the CAIS, in line with the undergraduate teaching mission of the LAS, deliver high quality introductory and upper division courses to meet ISU students' needs for courses that will resolve their diversity (and international) course requirements as well as general education requirements. In addition, the USLS and CAIS program curricula serve to provide ISU students with opportunities to expand their learning within their majors by providing them with highly relevant and valuable information on diverse cultures and peoples in the United States. This, in turn, helps ISU graduates to heighten their competitiveness and competencies for employment in the national and global work force, which are now and will continue to be highly culturally diverse venues.

For example, as a part of its curriculum content, the USLS provides students with data-based and other scholarly knowledge of US history and federal policies/laws concerning the immigration, education, labor, economics, and political behavior of persons immigrating to or already in the US, who trace their national ancestry to Latin American countries. This aspect of learning very

nicely compliments the focus of more traditionally wholly international programs and curricula (e.g., the ISU Latin American Studies certificate program; Study Abroad programs) and is also directly in line with, and a logical extension of, President Geoffroy's goals to enhance the breadth of international foci at ISU, especially within the instruction we provide our students.

This proposed minor in USLS will help to greatly expand the educational opportunities students have to acquire knowledge of the Latino/a culture and experience in the United States, and as aforementioned, to build a better bridge of understanding as to how the history and experience of US Latino/as relates to their history in their indigenous lands. In addition, an approved USLS minor will be directly noted on students' ISU transcripts and will carry greater credibility and validity as an educational credential with future employers in any field.

***General description of the minor.***

The mission of the minor in USLS is to educate students about the historical and current issues facing Latino/as who have immigrated to the United States. The content covered in various aspects of the program curriculum includes the Spanish conquest (and later US control) of Latino/a homelands in the western hemisphere, as well as latter-day educational, psychological, sociological, political, labor, immigration and cultural issues for US Latino/a immigrants and US Latino citizens.

Accordingly, the proposed minor in US Latino/a Studies would require a minimum of 15 credit hours, with 6 or more credit hours in approved courses numbered 300 or above. General requirements for the minor include nine credits from an approved list of 'core' courses (LAS 211), plus two courses from the following list: ENGL 344, HIST 240, POL S 345x, PSYCH 347, RELIG 342, or SOC 332), with an additional 6 credits from a list of relevant supporting courses. Additional supporting courses may be approved in the future for use toward the minor; these can be confirmed with the Director of the US Latino/a Studies program. Students must follow University policy and earn 9 credits in the minor which may not be applied to any other degree requirement.

***Need for the proposed minor.***

*Student demand for minor.*

In terms of the number of current students enrolled in USLS curriculum offerings, as well as the potential numbers of students who would matriculate to a new approved USLS minor, just our introductory course alone delivers instruction to a minimum of 150 students every academic year. If enrollment in higher level USLS core courses that do not require the LAS 211 course as a pre-requisite are added to that total, we easily contact an additional 200 students every academic year. Thus, each academic year we have over 350 students who could elect the option to minor in USLS.

In the past four years, during my time at ISU as the Director of the USLS, I have received no less than 6 inquiries per academic year by students extremely interested in enrolling in a USLS minor, if it had existed. If the requests made to the previous Director (Avalos) for a USLS minor

over the past decade before my arrival are taken into account, and these occurred at least with the same frequency I have encountered them, conservatively estimating, at least 80 - 100 requests for a USLS minor have been forwarded since the inception of the program. And, this count includes only those students who were already so committed to undertaking the minor if it had existed that they directly questioned the Director about signing up for it. I imagine there were (and are) dozens more students who would elect to undertake the minor once it is approved and they are made aware of their option to do so.

The increasing demand and interest of ISU students in US Latino/a Studies courses and the minor mirrors the increasing presence of Latino/as in the US. Latino/as are and have been the largest diverse racial group in the US since the turn of the century, now surpassing the number of African Americans in the US by several percentage points. Currently, one out of every six persons in the US is of Latino/a descent. By 2050, one out of every four US citizens will be of some Latino/a descent.

Latino/as are entering the Iowa workforce in larger numbers and are also entering higher education in greater numbers. Therefore, students are increasingly realizing the professional and scholarly benefits to adding a minor in USLS to their current major areas of study. In addition, Latino/a students at ISU enjoy the benefit of being able to learn about the history of their own cultures, not only in the US but also as their histories are traced back to indigenous lands. Many Latino/a students have not been taught about their place in US events and in the shaping of our nation to date; since the Classic civil rights movement in the US during the 1960s, race relations in the US have centered almost exclusively on Black & White issues. Thus, the USLS minor will serve to expand and focus the courses available to ISU students to enhance their education and cultural understanding of the largest racially diverse group in the US.

*Objectives of the proposed minor including the student learning outcomes and how the learning outcomes will be assessed.*

The objectives of the minor are to:

- Educate students on the five major Latino/a groups in the US and trace their ancestry to their respective indigenous countries/lands (within and outside of the US)
- Educate students on the major historical impetuses behind the migration of Latino/a peoples into and around the United States from the 17th through 21 centuries
- Educate students on the similarities and unique aspects of culture among the various Latino/a groups in the US
- Educate students on the basic facts behind major historical and current issues concerning Latino/a peoples in the U.S. (e.g., immigration, employment, education, politics, religious traditions, and psychosocial issues)
- To enable students to critically evaluate media and other information concerning US Latino/as and ascertain the validity of this information via comparison with the historical context of Latino/as' experience in the US and known data-based facts.

Student learning outcomes in the minor will be assessed via various methods within each course (e.g., exams, presentations, papers).

*Relationship of the minor to other programs at Iowa State University.*

This minor will provide a valuable complement many different ISU majors and programs, including those in the humanities, social sciences, engineering, and education. Construction of the minor was done in direct consultation with associated departments and programs to ensure non-competition and non-overlap with curricula. Last, the minor will allow the programs in the Center for American Intercultural Studies (CAIS) to move forward with their ability to offer ISU students the possibility of earning a minor in each of our four areas of ethnic studies (African/African American, American Indian, Asian American, and US Latino/a Studies). Following approval of this proposal, only Asian American Studies will be without a minor area of study.

*Relationship of the minor to the strategic plans of the university, of the college, and of department or program.*

The CAIS, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, and the University as a whole work diligently to continue to grow and expand our curriculum concerning cultural diversity. University, collegiate, departmental, and programmatic missions statements all concern an appreciation for and a valuing of cultural diversity. This minor will be a valuable addition to a broad based, liberal arts education.

*Comparison of the proposed minor with similar programs at other universities, including the Regent's universities.*

If this proposal is approved, ISU would be the only Iowa Regent's University to offer a formal minor in U. S. Latino/a Studies; indeed, the only Regent's institution to offer a Latino/a oriented program of study at all. Latino/a Studies curricula are often offered at universities in the Big Six Latino/a states (California, Texas, New York, Florida, Illinois, and New Jersey) and in the US Southwest, but only a few institutions in the Midwest offer such a program of study (e.g., Michigan State U, Notre Dame, U Indiana, U Illinois). The proposed course of study below is a comprehensive offering of interdisciplinary courses that offers a broad base of preparation in Latino/a Studies, and compares favorably with those minors offered across the country.

*Program requirements and procedures, including:*

*a. prerequisites for prospective students*

There are no prerequisites for students to enroll in the 15 credit hours typically taken for the USLS minor. The minor is open to all undergraduate students at ISU.

b. *application and selection process*

Students who desire to undertake the minor will consult first with the Director of the US Latino/a Studies program to informally discuss the feasibility of pursuing the minor, review a possible plan of study, and obtain approval for pursuing the minor through submission of the “Request for Minor” form. The student will be responsible for consultation with the advisor for their major(s) and the Director of the USLS Program, and coordinate advising and course selection to ensure completion of minor requirements in addition to the requirements for their major(s).

c. *language requirements*

There are no language requirements for the USLS minor. However, certain Spanish language courses can count for credit in the USLS minor. See details below regarding the inclusion of Spanish language courses.

d. *courses and seminars presently available for credit toward the program;*

**Required course work:**

**I. CORE COURSES (9 Credits Total):**

A. LAS 211 (Introduction to Latino/a Studies: 3 credit hours), AND

B. SIX CREDITS FROM **TWO** OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

ENGL 344 (U.S. Latino/a Literature: 3 credit hours)  
 HIST 240 (Latino/a History: 3 credit hours)  
 POL S 345x (U.S. Immigration Policy: 3 credit hours)  
 PSYCH 347x (Latino/a Psychology: 3 credit hours)  
 RELIG 342 (Religion and U.S. Latino/a Literature: 3 credit hours)  
 SOC 332 (The Latino/Latina Experience in U.S. Society: 3 credit hours)

**Additional approved course work to count toward the minor:**

**II. SUPPORTING COURSES FOR THE MINOR (6 Credits Total):**

ANTH 323c	Topics in Latin American Anthropology	(3 credit hours)
ENGL 344	U.S. Latino/a Literature	(3 credit hours)
HIST 340	History of Latin America I	(3 credit hours)
HIST 341	History of Latin America II	(3 credit hours)
POL S 345x	U.S. Immigration Policy	(3 credit hours)
POL S 332x	Latino Politics	(3 credit hours)
PSYCH 347x	Latino/a Psychology	(3 credit hours)
RELIG342	Religion and U.S. Latino/a Literature	(3 credit hours)

SOC 332	Latino/a Experience in U.S. Society	(3 credit hours)
SPAN 304	Spanish for Business and Professions	(3 credit hours)
SPAN 322	Latin American Civilization	(3 credit hours)
SPAN 324	Latin America Today	(3 credit hours)
SPAN 445	Literatures & Cultures of Latin America	(3 credit hours)

NOTES:

1. The list of acceptable supporting courses may include courses no longer listed in the current ISU catalogue of courses, but which may still appear on the transcripts of students wishing to obtain a USLS minor. (This is due to the fact that certain USLS faculty have left the university in recent years, but students interested in a USLS minor who have taken classes with these faculty before their departure, may still want to count these courses toward their minor.)
2. In addition, although perhaps not currently listed in the ISU course catalogue, some of these courses remain on department lists and could potentially be active in the future.
3. A limit of up to six credits of approved Spanish courses (304, 322, 324, 445) may be used as supporting courses for the minor. Spanish course credits in the minor may not be applied to any other degree requirement.

*e. proposed new courses or modifications of existing courses*

N/A

*f. advising of students*

All students pursuing a USLS minor will be advised on the minor curriculum by the Director of the US Latino/a Studies Program (Center for American Intercultural Studies). Students should consult with the program to determine a plan of study for the minor, obtain assistance in course selection, and to obtain necessary documents to declare a minor in US Latino/a Studies.

*g. implications for related areas within the university*

The establishment of the USLS minor will be helpful to the CAIS by adding to the number of programs that can offer minor areas of study to students (currently only African and African American Studies and American Indian Studies offer minors); an approved USLS minor will increase the available focus of courses for students and add a way in which the CAIS and LAS can serve the university in its goal of delivering high quality education in the areas of diversity and internationalization; and, an approved USLS minor will help ISU graduates to embody and strengthen the reputation of ISU as a institution that imparts sound, culturally broad undergraduate education and professional training to its students.

*General description of the resources currently available and future resource needs, in terms of:*

*a. faculty members*

USLS core faculty (Prieto, Maldonado & Behnken) will handle the teaching duties for all required course work in the minor. These three faculty members have disciplinary training in psychology, sociology and history, respectively. In addition, each has broad knowledge in the multidisciplinary area of Latino/a Studies. This allows these faculty to very adequately offer USLS courses within both their strict disciplinary venues as well as those courses that more generally focus within the broad area of Latino/a Studies.

No additional resources are necessary to offer the minor; however, the core faculty and Director fully expect to encounter extra demands for teaching and advising that will come with the increased enrollment of students into the minor. Extra faculty lines, if granted in the future, will serve to add greater dimension, flexibility and scope to the USLS curriculum.

*b. computers, laboratories, and other facilities*

No IT, lab or facilities (other than usual classroom space) will be necessary to offer the minor. The USLS has been in existence for more than 15 years with most of the courses noted above having a long history of being cross-listed with departments.

*c. library facilities (journals, documents, etc.) in the proposed area*

No additional text holdings, documents or journals are necessary to administer the minor. Any educational materials that become desirable to add or access to enhance students' educational experiences can be acquired through USLS and CAIS budget resources.

*d. supplies, field work, student recruitment, etc.*

None needed.

*Describe the needs for new resources and/or reallocated resources. Attach to the program proposal memos from the department chair(s), the college dean(s), and other appropriate persons, agreeing to the allocation of new resources and/or the reallocation of resources.*

None needed; USLS faculty are jointly appointed to the USLS and their respective tenure home departments, with half of their teaching and service duties in the USLS (two courses per semester). No other resources will be necessary to administer the minor, other than the aforementioned extra time needed to advise new students in the minor.

*Attach to this program proposal, letters of support, recommendations, and statements when appropriate, from programs and departments at ISU which are associated with the proposed program or have an interest in the proposed program.*

See attached correspondence of support for the proposed USLS minor.

*If the new program is interdisciplinary, a governance document should be created and submitted to the Associate Provost for Academic Programs. Indicate here that it has been completed.*

The Center for American Intercultural Studies has drafted and had approved a governance document that covers all four of its academic programs (African/African American Studies, American Indian Studies, Asian American Studies, and U. S. Latino/a Studies). This governance document was approved by the Office of the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and submitted to the Associate Provost for Academic Programs in 2009. A revised version was approved during the Spring 2011 academic semester has been re-filed with the Associate Provost for Academic Programs.



From: Wallace, Robert S [EEOBS]  
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2011 6:43 AM  
To: Vanderzanden, Ann M [HORT]  
Cc: Hendrich, Suzanne [FSHNNH]  
Subject: Proposal for US Latino/a Studies - for FSCC

Good Morning Ann Marie!

I have attached the proposal and support memo from the LAS College for a new Minor in US Latino/a Studies to be considered at the FSCC meeting on April 21st.

The USLS Minor Proposal has been approved by the LAS College Curriculum Committee, and was unanimously approved by the LAS College Representative Assembly on April 6th.

If this item is approved to be included on the agenda for FSCC. I will arrange to have Dr. Loreto Prieto attend the FSCC meeting on Thursday. Would you please let me know if this will be possible, and I'll contact Loreto ASAP.

Finally, just a head's up for Thursday afternoon -- immediately following the FSCC meeting, I have a Dean Search Committee meeting at 4 pm in Beardshear, and will need to leave the FSCC meeting by 3:50 pm. Apologies in advance for an early exit if one is necessary...

Have a great week!

Rob

Robert S. Wallace, Ph.D  
Associate Professor of Botany  
Dept. of Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology  
253 Bessey Hall, Iowa State University, Ames Iowa 50011-1020

Date: April 4, 2011

To: Rob Wallace, Chair  
LAS Curriculum Committee

From: Zora D. Zimmerman  
Associate Dean

On behalf of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, I am pleased to be able to endorse the proposed minor in U.S. Latino/a Studies. The minor will strengthen and enhance in many ways the degree programs of those students who participate. All of the courses currently listed in the proposal are valuable and maintain solid enrollments. The core course (LAS 211), from the time of its inaugural offering by Professor Avalos, has elicited positive outcomes for almost two decades. The future of the minor, as delineated in the proposal, promises to be successful and effective in meeting its goals.

The College has no doubt that the minor will be a popular choice for students and that it will broaden and deepen the program offerings of the College and University. With its dedicated faculty and enthusiastic students, the minor will flourish.

Please let me know should you need additional information.