

LATINO LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES RESEARCH CAPSTONE

Summer 2026 (10 Week course)

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Course Description:

This Research Capstone Project is a culmination of a student's experience in Latino Latin American Studies, allowing them to engage in an independent, in-depth research project or creative endeavor that showcases their knowledge and interest in this field. Students will complete a research paper of at least 2,500 words or an equivalent creative project with a written component. They can work directly with the LMAS director, or they can work on this project with a professor that they have already had or that they are currently taking a class with. The project, however, must be an independent one (you will enroll in a separate course to complete this requirement). This means that the project cannot be done as part of another classes assignment. It can be an extension of a previous project, but the final product must be different enough to warrant credit.

Objectives:

- Develop a deep understanding of a specific topic related to Latino or Latin American studies.
- Conduct independent research using appropriate methodologies and academic sources.
- Apply critical thinking to analyze topics such as race, migration, politics, culture, or identity within the Latino/Latin American context.
- Produce a high-quality research paper or creative project with a scholarly contribution to the field.

Research Topics:

Students will choose a topic related to Latino or Latin American Studies in consultation with the instructor. Some suggested topics include:

- The role of Latino communities in shaping U.S. politics
- Migration patterns and their cultural impact on Latin American countries
- Intersectionality and identity within Latino populations in the U.S.
- Latino representation in media and popular culture
- The effects of colonialism in modern Latin America

Requirements:

Students must submit the following components:

1. Proposal (250 words) — Due Week 3 (June 5th)
 - Includes the research question(s), description of the topic, and a preliminary list of at least 10-15 academic references.
 - A **project proposal** is a detailed document that outlines a plan for a specific project, describing what the project will achieve, how it will be accomplished, and why it's worth pursuing. It serves to persuade stakeholders (e.g., supervisors, investors, or funding organizations) to approve or support the project. Key elements of a project proposal typically include:
 1. **Title:** A clear, concise title that reflects the project's focus.
 2. **Introduction/Background:** An overview of the problem, need, or opportunity that the project will address, along with any relevant context or background information.
 3. **Objectives/Goals:** The specific, measurable goals the project aims to achieve.
 4. **Scope:** A description of the project's boundaries, including what is and isn't included in the project.
 5. **Methodology/Approach:** The strategies, tools, and processes that will be used to complete the project. This section often includes timelines and project phases.
 6. **Deliverables:** The tangible outcomes or products the project will produce.
 7. **Timeline:** A schedule that outlines key milestones and deadlines.
 8. **Evaluation/Success Metrics:** Criteria or benchmarks that will be used to evaluate the success of the project.
 9. **Conclusion:** A summary of why the project is necessary and how it aligns with broader goals or objectives.
2. Annotated Bibliography (with 10-15 academic references) — Due June 13th
 - Summarizes sources that will be used in the research project.
 - An **annotated bibliography** is a list of citations to books, articles, and other sources, accompanied by a brief description and evaluation of each source. The annotations are usually a few sentences to a paragraph long and typically include:
 - **Citation:** Full reference of the work in a specific citation style (e.g., APA, MLA, Chicago).
 - **Summary:** A brief summary of the source's content, covering its main argument, purpose, and scope.
 - **Evaluation:** An assessment of the source's credibility, relevance, and usefulness for your research topic.
 - **Reflection:** How the source fits into your research, including its strengths, weaknesses, and how you plan to use it.
3. First Draft — Due July 3rd
 - 2,100-word paper with complete citations. Citations do not count toward word count
 - Revision of the first draft due July 11th that will address initial concerns with draft

4. Final Research Paper — Due July 22nd
 - Complete, polished, and edited version of the research paper.
 - 2,500 Words with complete citations

For students completing a creative project, it must include:

- **Creative Work:** A visual or performance-based project (e.g., video, art installation, etc.).
- **Written Component (1,500 words):** A description of the project, creative process, and scholarly context.

Grading Criteria:

- **Quality of Research (40%)**
Depth of analysis, use of academic sources, and ability to develop a coherent argument related to the Latino/Latin American topic.
- **Written Communication (30%)**
Clarity, organization, grammar, and proper use of citations.
- **Engagement with Course Material (20%)**
Ability to connect the research to course objectives.
- **Creativity and Originality (10%)**
For creative projects, originality in the artistic or visual expression.

Project Milestones and Deadlines:

- See deadlines above

Policies:

- **Plagiarism:** All work must adhere to UNT's academic integrity policy.
- **Communication:** Regular check-ins with the instructor are required for feedback and project guidance.
- **Submission:** All assignments should be submitted through Canvas.

Recommended Journals and Resources: Students are encouraged to utilize academic journals and databases such as:

- Journal of Latin American Studies
- Hispanic American Historical Review
- Latin American Perspectives
- Journal of Latino/Latin American Policy
- Cultural Anthropology

Schedule: Summer 10-Week, 2026

Note: We will meet on Mondays at 4pm (through Zoom) to discuss the project

Week 1 **Week of May 18**

Discuss expectations; Parameters of the project; Go over preliminary sources
Have a preliminary list of sources available for first meeting

Week 2 **Week of May 25**

Discuss draft of proposal
Discussions on preliminary sources and offer suggestions.

Week 3 **Week of June 1**

Talk about annotated bibliography
Proposal due June 5th

Week 4 **Week of June 8**

Meet to go over proposal comments and discuss Sources
Submit Annotated Bibliography June 13th

Week 5 **Week of June 15**

June 15-Discuss the visual component and go over Annotated Bibliography
Start Rough Outline and writing

Week 6 **Week of June 22**

June 22-Meet and go over Outline and early writing

Week 7 **Week of June 29**

First check in of Visual component
Submit First Rough Draft, July 3rd

Week 8 **Week of July 6**

July 6th, meet (Zoom or in-person) to go over rough draft comments
July 11-Submit first revised draft

Week 9 **Week of July 13**

July 13-Meet to go over revisions

Week 10 **Week of July 20**

Deliverable due July 22nd