



Spring 2011

English 395 G: Latino/a Metropolis

Literature, Culture and the Latinization of Contemporary Urban America
MWF 2:30-3:20 p.m.

Professor David Luis-Brown

How have Latinos/as transformed the fabric of contemporary urban America? Moving through a series of case studies on the Latinization of four major U.S. cities--Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami and New York--this course interweaves an analysis of ethnography, film, historiography, music, the novel, popular cultural practices and sociology. Among the topics of the course will be the relationships among artists, writers and ethnic communities; the diversity of U.S. Latinos; the shifting relations between Latinos and other groups, especially African Americans; the transformations of longstanding urban Latino communities by newer immigrants; immigration rights activism; and labor struggles. We will analyze literary texts along with films, music and graphic novels. Writing assignments will include a 5-7 page midterm essay, a 3-4 page prospectus for the final research essay and a final research essay (8-10 pages).