LATS 102 INTRODUCTION TO LATINO HISTORY (through documentary film)
Instructor: Jennifer Boles
MW: 9:30-10:45

This course focuses on the experiences and perspectives of the U.S. Latino population through a transnational framework and a historical perspective that emphasizes the analysis of documentary film. Latino/a is a fluid concept that refers to peoples of diverse backgrounds and ancestries whose identity is constructed from the cultural consequences of English and Spanish colonialism and the conflicting nation-building projects of both the U.S. and Latin America. Using a hemispheric approach and focusing on themes of empire, borders (literal and figurative), and mobility, this course asks how Latino identities were, and continue to be, constructed, negotiated, and challenged throughout U.S. history. We will focus particularly on the urban history of peoples of Mexican, Cuban, Dominican, Central American and Puerto Rican backgrounds residing in major U.S. cities such as Miami, Los Angeles, and New York City.

This class will teach students the crucial skills of evaluating sources, critical thinking, and effective communication that go beyond the classroom. With a particular focus on documentary film as a historical text and powerful visual medium representing historical moments and shaping attitudes and assumptions about Latino history and Latino identity, students will learn to apply the skills of a historian to the analysis of visual sources. Carries culture studies and S&H credit.