In the past four decades, the Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies has educated students who have gone on to pursue varied careers in urban environments. Graduates hold jobs in government, community agencies, public and private schools and universities, the media and in other professions.

Students receive a sound interdisciplinary foundation of knowledge through which they come to understand the complex dynamics of contemporary Puerto Rican and Latin@ communities.

Courses focus on issues in history, migration, immigration, diasporic community development, cultural transformation, and the Latin@ role in shaping present-day society in the United States.

DEGREE PROGRAMS

The Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies (PRLS) in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences offers intellectually-stimulating degree programs.

The Bachelor of Arts in Puerto Rican and Latino Studies includes the following options: Puerto Rican and Latino Studies (30 credits) emphasizes the history, culture, community, literature, anthropology, sociology, politics, and gender perspectives of Puerto Ricans and Latin@s. This option prepares students to enter the public or private sector work place in urban settings or to continue their studies in graduate or professional schools.

Puerto Rican/Latino Studies and Business (36 credits) provides a unique opportunity for interdisciplinary study for those planning entrepreneurial or other business careers. This option immerses students in the varied aspects of the Latin@ experience and explores the historical and contemporary connections between Latin@s and their countries of origin. These studies are combined with course work in management, marketing, and United States and international business given in the Department of Finance and Business Management.

The Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, in cooperation with the School of Education, offers a Bachelor of Arts in Adolescence Education: Social Studies Teacher (grades 7 to 12).

A concentration in PRLS is offered for students majoring in Early Childhood Education (birth to grade 2) or Childhood Education (grades 1 to 6) in the School of Education. PRLS also offers a concentration that qualifies students for the Bilingual Extension Certificate in Childhood Education issued by the New York State Education Department and is equivalent to a second teaching license in Spanish-English Bilingual Education.

OTHER ACADEMIC OFFERINGS

Students may pursue a minor in Puerto Rican and Latino Studies or a social science–based minor in Latin American Studies.

PRLS offers courses that meet the requirements for various interdisciplinary programs on campus, such as Religion Studies, American Studies, SEEK, Children’s Studies, and teaches in the Core curriculum – CORC 3203: “Latin@ Diasporas in the U.S.”

PROGRAM FEATURES

Internships: Students may take up to nine credits in community organization and service. The department works with community organizations, city and state agencies, churches, schools, corporate interests, and performing arts and other cultural institutions in designing internships for its majors.

Study Abroad: The study-travel seminars provide an opportunity for students to study in Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, or Latin America. Seminars have been held in Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Hungary, Uruguay, and Argentina.

Clubs and Organizations: The department maintains a close working relationship with such student clubs and organizations as the Puerto Rican Alliance, Panamanian Student Organization, Dominican Students’ Movement (MEO), the Puerto Rican and Latino Studies Alumni Association, Veterans Affairs, the Latin Women’s Group, the Graduate Association for Bilingual Education, the Student Union for Bilingual Education, the Hispanic Society, and the Panamanian Alumni Association.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

iProtesta! Boricua Movement Rising. The María E. Sánchez Center for Latino Studies is fiduciary sponsor and has faculty involved in the archival research of a Recovering History Project that will produce a multi-media art installation on the actions taken by Puerto Rican activists in the community struggles of the 1960’s through the 1980’s in major U.S. cities. The project will focus on recovering the history of these struggles as documented by Claridad Bilingüe, a bilingual news weekly of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party published between the years 1972-1983.

MARIÁ E. SÁNCHEZ CENTER FOR LATINO STUDIES

The Center promotes academic engagement and research that focuses on issues of community, equity, alternative paradigms, multiple perspectives, and articulation of voices marginal to the mainstream. Founded in 1969 as the Institute for Puerto Rican Studies, the Center continues to embrace an agenda that connects the university with the city’s diverse Puerto Rican and Latin@s communities.
Latinas in the United States: A Historical Encyclopedia (2006) was housed in the Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies. The national project focused on recovering the history of Hispanic American women and Latinas in what is today the United States. An interactive website, Latinas in History (2009), can be found at http://depthome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/latinashistory.html.

Virginia Sánchez Korrol, Professor Emerita; Ph.D., State University of New York, Stony Brook. Community, history, Latin@s, women, and literature.

D. Irene Sosa, Associate Professor; M.F.A., New York University. Latin@s in the media; television production (also in the Department of Television and Radio).

ADMISSION
Students who have never attended a postsecondary institution of higher education should complete a City University of New York (CUNY) application for admission as a freshman. Brooklyn College also welcomes transfer students. Applicants who have taken post-high school courses at accredited colleges and universities are considered for admission with advance standing.

Brooklyn College/CUNY application forms may be requested from:
Office of Admissions
Brooklyn College
2900 Bedford Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11210-2889
718.951.5001

Prospective students are invited to visit the Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies Web Site via e-mail for further information.

THE PUERTO RICAN AND LATINO STUDIES FACULTY
Alan Aja, Deputy Chairperson and Assistant Professor; Ph.D., New School for Social Research. Latin@s; public policy; upper tier core curriculum on the diasporas.

Miranda Martínez, Assistant Professor; Ph.D., New York University. Urban sociology; community politics; community development; and the Latin@ experience.

Antonio Nadal, Lecturer, M.A.T., Brooklyn College. Music, linguistics, culture, and education.

Vanessa Pérez Rosario, Assistant Professor; Ph.D., University of California, Davis. Latin American literature and second language acquisition; bilingual, multi-cultural education.

Maria Pérez y González, Chairperson and Associate Professor; Ph.D., Fordham University. Women, religion, and Latin@s.

Vanessa Pérez Rosario, Assistant Professor; Ph.D., University of California, Davis. Latin American literature and second language acquisition; bilingual, multi-cultural education.

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