

Course Description LAS 314:

In the context of a growing national and international demand for Latin American and U.S. Latino popular music, as well as the repeated waves of Latin dance “crazes,” this course is an interdisciplinary scholarly study of music and dance from Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States. The study of Latin American and U.S. Latino music is an emerging academic field. While popular music is traditionally studied by cultural anthropologists and ethnomusicologists as “folklore,” this course will include the work of cultural studies, performance studies, Latino studies, history, and feminists with an emphasis that goes beyond the aesthetics into the social dynamics and cultural significance of the music and dance. We will learn about many musical genres associated with specific countries and ethnic groups, but will expand into the diaspora and historical evolution of the music which cannot be contained by essentialist associations with specific genres, nations, or social groups.