**New Paltz High School 2017-2018**

**Introduction to Latino Studies - Syllabus**

**Rodrigo Castro Email:** [**rcastro@newpaltz.k12.ny.us**](mailto:rcastro@newpaltz.k12.ny.us)

**Overview and general goals:** This course will help students develop a multifaceted understanding of the historical, social, financial, and political contexts in which Latinos have experienced life in the United States. We will examine history, articles, statistics, and other sources to develop a better understanding and appreciation for the diversity of Hispanics/Latinos in the United States and thus help us achieve better connections and relationships.

This introduction to the field of Latino Studies is intended to help students begin to analyze and structure arguments concerning Latinos and their future interactions with Latinos in the United States. It is of utmost importance to constantly examine, question, and challenge, each of the diverse materials that will be assigned in class. Students are expected to debate and develop a reasoned and well informed argument for their own positions after exploring different positions that are presented in readings, lectures, and multimedia.

**Grade Criteria:**

This course is a Pass/Fail class. In order to pass the class, the requirements are:

1. Pass 3 out of 4 exams
2. Complete and present a research project (Latinos in the USA)

**Homework:** There will be research-guided questions to help with the class discussion the following class. Although not a part of the grade criteria, students are expected to complete their homework in order to help develop those well informed arguments for their own positions.

**Topics to be discussed:**

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| 1. Latino vs Hispanic. Aesthetics, population demographics, and identity 2. Colonization 3. Diverse history of Latinos in the US 4. Family 5. Immigration 6. Work and economics 7. Politics 8. Education | 1. Food in culture 2. Religion 3. Health and Health Care 4. Crime and victimization 5. Mass media 6. Sports 7. Fusión Latina 8. Spanglish |