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## 2021-2022 Impact Series - Hispanic Heritage Awareness Student Study Guide

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A photograph of four young women of diverse backgrounds sitting on concrete steps. They are all smiling and laughing, creating a joyful and inclusive atmosphere. The woman on the far left is partially visible, wearing a black top and white pants. The woman next to her has curly hair and is wearing a light-colored top. The woman in the center has long braids and is wearing a plaid strapless top and blue jeans. The woman on the far right has curly hair and is wearing a white polka-dot top and blue jeans. A semi-transparent dark red rectangular box is overlaid on the image, containing the title and subtitle text.

# Hispanic Heritage Awareness Impact Series Study Guide

Celebrating the culture, history, and  
achievements of Americans  
with Hispanic or Latino ancestry.



# About this Guide

This guide on Hispanic Heritage Awareness will assist you in engaging in critical conversations about a wide range of issues concerning Hispanic Americans. Among the topics covered are notable people, the history of the Spanish language, and readings on topics important to Hispanics and Latinos.

Also, the guide will assist you in exploring your points of view through reading, watching, and taking action. Below are some key vocabulary words related to this topic, as well as suggested readings and videos and discussion questions.

We recommend exploring outside of the classroom for a more robust experience with the topic of Hispanic Heritage Awareness by participating in weekly activities such as Impact Cinema's screening of the documentary "Clandestine Childhood" or a Real Talk discussion on a topic important to the Hispanic community. There will also be an opportunity to participate in the Library's book club discussion of Jennine Capó Crucet's "My Time Among the Whites." Participate in Stop & Serve, a service project that involves assisting a Hispanic-focused charity.

# Where is Spanish Spoken?

Spanish is the third most spoken language globally, with more than 400 million native speakers worldwide. According to Posner and Marius (2021), "Spanish is the (or an) official language of 18 American countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela) as well as of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, along with Spain in Europe and Equatorial Guinea in Africa" (para. 2).

- In the United States, 13% of the population speaks Spanish at home, making it the most frequently spoken non-English language (Thompson, 2021).
- Additionally, the United States has the world's second-largest population of Spanish speakers (Mexico has the largest) (Thompson, 2021).
- Estimates show that about 110 million Mexican citizens use Spanish as their first or second language, respectively (Posner & Sala, 2021).
- If current trends continue, by 2050, one in every three Americans will speak Spanish (this data includes bilingual people who also speak English) (Thompson, 2021).
- Spanish is the most widely used language in South and Central America, though many speak a native Indigenous tongue (Posner & Sala, 2021).
- Spain's 38 million speakers include everyone from Andalusia to Galicia, where locals often communicate using Castilian rather than Latin American dialects (Posner & Sala, 2021).

# The Spanish Language

## *A Historical Background*

Vulgar Latin was brought to the Iberian peninsula in Europe by the soldiers and colonists of ancient Rome, significantly impacting Spanish today (Spanish Language, 2018). Spanish was introduced into Europe from the middle of the 10th century A.D., and it is from these periods that the first known documents of the language originate (Spanish Language, 2018).

Spanish has a rich linguistic heritage that goes back as far as 3,000 years ago when they first started using the Latin alphabet before switching to their way of writing called "Castilian" during medieval times (around 900 A.D.) (Spanish Language, 2018). The Castilian language was introduced into new territories through colonization and trade throughout Europe and Asia (Spanish Language, 2018).

By the middle of the 13th century, Castilian was widely acknowledged as the standard Spanish dialect because of Spain's political clout (Spanish Language, 2018). Several Latin American Spanish dialects have different pronunciations from Castilian (Spanish Language, 2018). In the former, the letter c follows e and i while the letter z follows a, o, and u; in the latter, they are pronounced as s in the English word see (Spanish Language, 2018). In addition, in Castilian, the alphabetical symbol ll is pronounced as lli "in English billion" (Spanish Language, 2018, para. 4). However, it is pronounced "as y in English you" (Spanish Language, 2018, para. 4). Although the Spanish dialects of Europe and Latin America vary widely concerning pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar, these are not huge variances overall.

However, some Spanish terms were borrowed from other languages, notably French, Italian, and indigenous Central and South American languages (Spanish Language, 2018).

# The Uniqueness of the Spanish Language

In the Spanish language, the symbols ch, ll, ñ, and rr have been added to the Roman alphabet (Spanish Language, 2018). When putting the tilde over the "n," as in English pinion, the tilde ( ~ ) represents the sound ni (Spanish Language, 2018).

A person using the acute accent, sometimes known as an "accent mark," uses it to distinguish which syllable of a word is stressed when traditional stress standards are not adhered to (Spanish Language, 2018).

Another indication of pronunciation is found in the usage of the acute accent, as in "sé" (I know) and "se" (self) (Spanish Language, 2018).

Spanish features two different verb tenses: ("estar") and the more permanent ("ser"), "which are also used before a predicate noun" (Spanish Language, 2018, para. 5).

The uniqueness of Spanish is that they employ the inverted question mark (¿) to begin an inquiry and the inverted exclamation point (¡) to form an exclamation (Spanish Language, 2018).

# Notable Figures

- Sylvia Acevedo, engineer and businesswoman, chief executive officer of the Girl Scouts of the USA.
- Luis Álvarez, experimental physicist, inventor, and professor who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1968 to develop the hydrogen bubble chamber enabling the discovery of resonance states in particle physics.
- Pura Belpré was a writer, collector of folktales, puppeteer, and first Puerto Rican librarian in New York City.
- Martha E. Bernal, clinical psychologist and first Latina to receive a doctorate in psychology in the United States.
- Julia de Burgos, Puerto Rican poet, advocate of Puerto Rican independence, civil rights activist for women and African/Afro-Caribbean writers.
- César Chávez, a labor leader and civil rights activist. Along with Dolores Huerta, he co-founded the National Farm Workers Association.
- Sandra Cisneros, a writer, is best known for her first novel, *The House on Mango Street*, and her subsequent short story collection, *Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories*.
- Roberto Clemente, a Puerto Rican professional baseball right fielder who played 18 seasons in Major League Baseball for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

# Notable Figures

- Celia Cruz, Cuban-American singer and one of the most popular Latin artists of the 20th century. Cruz rose to fame in Cuba during the 1950s as a singer of guarachas, earning the nickname "La Guarachera de Cuba."
- Óscar de la Renta, iconic fashion designer and internationally known in the 1960s as one of the couturiers who dressed Jacqueline Kennedy.
- Jaime Escalante, Bolivian-American educator known for teaching students calculus from 1974 to 1991 at Garfield High School in East Los Angeles. Escalante was the subject of the 1988 film Stand and Deliver.
- Macario García, Staff Sergeant Marcario García was the first Mexican immigrant to receive the Medal of Honor, the United States' highest military decoration. He received the award for his heroic actions as a soldier during World War II.
- X González, (born Emma González) an activist and advocate for gun control. As a high school senior, they survived the February 2018 Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida, and in response co-founded the gun-control advocacy group Never Again MSD.
- Laurie Hernández, artistic gymnast. During her debut year as a senior gymnast, she competed as a U.S. women's gymnastics team dubbed the "Final Five" at the 2016 Summer Olympics; Ultimately, the U.S. won gold in the team event.
- Juan Felipe Herrera, poet, performer, writer, cartoonist, teacher, and activist. Herrera was the 21st United States Poet Laureate from 2015 to 2017.



# Notable Figures

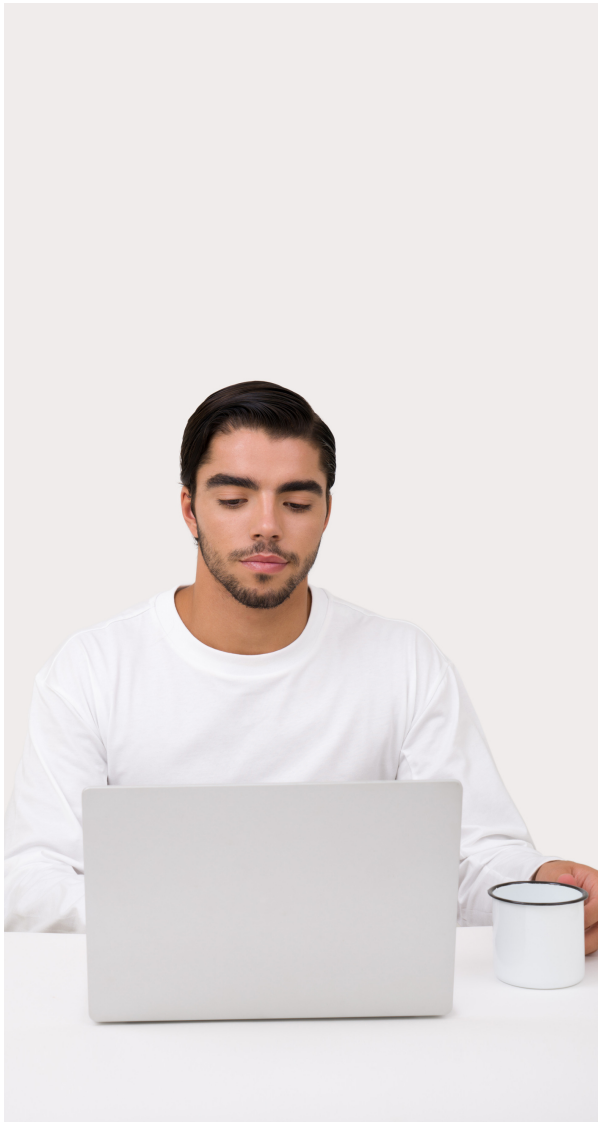
- Dolores Huerta, a labor leader and civil rights activist with Cesar Chavez, is a co-founder of the National Farmworkers Association, which later merged with the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee to become the United Farm Workers.
- Jennifer Lopez is a singer, actress, producer, and dancer.
- Xiuhtezcatl Martínez, also known by the initial X, is an American environmental activist and hip-hop artist. Martinez was youth director of Earth Guardians until 2019, a worldwide environmental organization.
- Sylvia Méndez, civil rights activist of Mexican-Puerto Rican heritage. At age eight, she played an instrumental role in the Mendez v. Westminster case, the landmark desegregation case of 1946.
- Lin-Manuel Miranda, actor, singer, songwriter, rapper, producer, and playwright. He created and starred in the Broadway musicals In the Heights and Hamilton.
- Dr. C. David Molina, entrepreneur, founder Molina Healthcare, Inc.
- Rita Moreno, actress, singer, and first Latina to win an Oscar
- Ellen Ochoa, engineer, former astronaut and former director of the Johnson Space Center. In 1993 Ochoa became the first Hispanic woman to go to space when she served on a nine-day mission aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery.

# Notable Figures

- Jorge Ramos, Mexican-American journalist and author. Regarded as the best-known Spanish-language news anchor in the United States of America, he has been referred to as "The Walter Cronkite of Latin America."
- Sylvia Rivera, LGBTQ civil rights activist, gay liberation and transgender rights activist, was also a noted community worker in New York. Rivera, who identified as a drag queen, participated in demonstrations with the Gay Liberation Front.
- María Elena Salinas, broadcast journalist, news anchor, and author. Called the "Voice of Hispanic America" by The New York Times, Salinas is one of the most recognized Hispanic female journalists in the United States.
- Sonia Sotomayor, associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. She was nominated by President Barack Obama on May 26, 2009, and has served since August 8, 2009. She is the third woman to hold the position and the first Latina justice.
- Dara Torres, 12-time Olympic medalist and former world record-holder in three events. Torres is the first swimmer to represent the United States in five Olympic Games, and at age 41, the oldest swimmer to earn a place on the U.S. Olympic team.
- Robert Unanue, entrepreneur, the Unanue family is the founder of Goya Foods.



# Read



For more books or readings on Hispanic culture, visit the [Impact Series](#): [#HispanicHeritageMonth](#) [#Latino](#) [#Latinx](#) [Social Justice Resources Guide](#) online.

- ["Latino Americans: Timeline of important dates" by PBS](#)
- ["Passion, power, and honor: 10 young Latinx activists who are changing the world" by Nina Tran](#)
- ["Key facts about U.S. Latinos for National Hispanic Heritage Month by Jens Manuel Krogstad And Luis Noe-Bustamante](#)
- ["More Hispanics are going to college and graduating, but disparity persists" by Kelly Field](#)
- ["Racism, not a lack of assimilation, is the real problem facing Latinos in America" by Suzanne Gamboa](#)
- ["Trends and challenges facing America's Latino children" by Matt Mather and Patricia Foxen](#)
- [Power of the purse: The contributions of Hispanic Americans by New American Economy Research Fund](#)
- ["American Latino Theme Study: Struggles for Inclusion" by Louis DeSipio](#)
- ["Coronavirus economic downturn has hit Latinos especially hard" by Jens Manuel Krogstad & Mark Hugo Lopez](#)
- [Hispanic, 'Latino,' Or 'Latinx'? Survey Says ... by Shereen Marisol Meraji](#)



# Watch



## Watch "The Latino Americans"

PBS via Films on Demand  
(Lynn login required)

Latino Americans documentary six-part series is the first major documentary series for television to chronicle Latinos' rich and varied history and experiences. They have helped shape the United States over the last 500-plus years and have become, with more than 50 million people, the largest minority group in the U.S. The series chronicles Latinos in the United States from the 1500s to the present day. It is a story of people, politics, and culture, intersecting with much that is central to the history of the United States while also going to places where standard U.S. histories do not tend to tread.

- [Foreigners in Their Own Land \(1565-1880\): The Latino Americans \(51:38\)](#)
- [Empire of Dreams \(1880-1942\): The Latino Americans \(53:29\)](#)
- [War and Peace \(1942-1954\): The Latino Americans \(53:30\)](#)
- [The New Latinos \(1946-1965\): The Latino Americans \(53:30\)](#)
- [Prejudice and Pride \(1965-1980\): The Latino Americans \(53:30\)](#)
- [Peril and Promise \(1980-2000\): The Latino Americans \(53:20\)](#)

For more videos on Hispanic culture, visit the [Impact Series](#):  
[#HispanicHeritageMonth #Latino #Latinx Social Justice Resources Guide](#) online.



# Discussion Questions

1. What are some Latino cultural traditions or celebrations that you can think of?
2. Do you know any Spanish words or phrases?
3. Have you ever traveled to another country where Spanish is the main language spoken? If so, where and why did you go there?
4. How important is Hispanic heritage and history to you?
5. What is the best thing about being a part of the Latino culture?
6. What can we do as individuals to pass on our heritage and sense of identity to future generations?
7. Is "Latinx" a more inclusive word than "Latino"?
8. Do you think that Hispanic people would be offended by being called Latino or Latin American rather than Hispanic?
9. What do you imagine America would be like without diversity?
10. We welcome all cultures and voices, but not every culture has a day/month set aside to celebrate their contributions to our society, what message can we take from this observation and how does it make you feel about the nature of American culture today?
11. What are your thoughts on the "DREAM Act"? (The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act, known as the DREAM Act, is a United States legislative proposal to grant temporary conditional residency, with the right to work, to illegal immigrants who entered the United States as minors)
12. Are you currently involved in any social justice initiatives at Lynn?
13. What are some of the most important factors that have influenced your identity, experience, and progress in life?
14. What is your experience with the Latinx community on campus? Do you have friends or colleagues from this community?
15. What is your perspective on social justice for the Hispanic community?
16. Do you think Hispanics face discrimination in America today? In which way(s)?



# Act

There are many ways to interact and participate and become more aware of topics related to Hispanic Awareness: attend the monthly film in the Impact Cinema, attend the Impact Series discussion club and monthly Real Talk discussions, and engage with the monthly service project, Stop & Serve.

Search "Impact Series" in [lynn.presence.io](https://lynn.presence.io) for more information or contact [CSI@lynn.edu](mailto:CSI@lynn.edu).

Events

Impact Series

EARN CATEGORY ORGANIZATIONS TAGS DATES

Impact Cinema  
Student Involvement  
08/27/2021 - 8:00 PM

**Impact Series Schedule**

## Fall Block B: Hispanic Heritage Awareness

- Impact Cinema | Friday, 9/24 | 3:00 p.m. | De Hoernle Lecture Hall | Watching: [Clandestine Childhood](#)
- Real Talk | Friday, 10/1 | 12:00 p.m. | Library Event Room | Current Event Discussion
- Impact Series Book Club | Friday, 10/8 | 12:00 p.m. | Library Event Room | [Reading: My Time Among the Whites](#)
- Stop & Serve | Wednesday, 10/13 | 12:00 p.m. | Gutin Living Room | Service Project



# References

Lynn Library. (2021). Impact Series: #HispanicHeritageMonth #Latino #Latinx social justice resources. <https://lynn-library.libguides.com/HispanicHeritage>

PBS. (2013). The Latino Americans. Films On Demand. <https://lynn-lang.student.lynn.edu/login?url=https://fod.infobase.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?seriesID=53199&wID=106133>

Posner, R., & Sala, M. (2021, August 17). Spanish language. Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Spanish-language>

Spanish language. (2018). In P. Lagasse, & Columbia University, The Columbia encyclopedia (8th ed.). Columbia University Press. [http://lynn-lang.student.lynn.edu/login?url=https://search.credoreference.com/content/entry/columency/spanish\\_language/0?institutionId=1065](http://lynn-lang.student.lynn.edu/login?url=https://search.credoreference.com/content/entry/columency/spanish_language/0?institutionId=1065)

Thompson, S. (2021, May 27). The U.S. has the second-largest population of Spanish speakers—how to equip your brand to serve them. Forbes. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/soniathompson/2021/05/27/the-us-has-the-second-largest-population-of-spanish-speakers-how-to-equip-your-brand-to-serve-them/?sh=3757cd20793a>

