



The **Latino Dialogue Institute (LDI)** aims to bring students from different backgrounds to discuss the issues that shape and affect the Latino/a community in the United States.

This year, LDI has partnered up with the Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS) Program to offer an **accredited course** in the **Spring 2008** semester. Students interested in participating in the program may choose **one of two options**: (1) petition for an independent study credit in the spring semester, or (2) take LDI as an extracurricular activity. Regardless of the option students choose, all participants will enjoy the benefits of LDI's discussion-based and interactive curriculum.

The LDI program began as a series of workshops designed to cultivate dialogue among Penn students. Past participants have enjoyed the LDI experience. For instance, Rocio Polanco, C'06, explains, "I take away from LDI a renewed sense of self." Edgar Lopez, W'09, expresses that "LDI was the forum for discussion that I

did not have in any other class. I was able to express my views openly and also learn from the perspective of my peers."

Throughout the Spring 2008 semester, LDI participants will discuss the social, political, cultural, and historical complexities of the Latino/a experience in the United States. At each session, we will introduce a new topic for discussion. These topics may include:

- **Immigration**
- **First/Second Generation Identity**
- **Bilingual Education**
- **Gender/Sex**
- **Affirmative Action**
- **Labor Rights and Unionization**
- **Latinos and Healthcare Disparities**
- **High School Dropout Crisis**

Each LDI session will also feature expert guest speakers (professors, community activists, teachers, etc.) who will address the group on the topic at hand. We highly support interaction between the group and guest speakers. Students who express a serious interest in Latino/a issues are encouraged to

share and listen to others' perspectives and learn about the Latino/a communities within a broader context.

We invite **all students** to join us in our efforts to promote social and political awareness, community building, and mobilization through dialogue. To apply, please submit your **completed application** to La Casa Latina (Suite 123, ARCH Building) in a sealed envelope by **November 9, 2007 at 5PM**. Applications may also be submitted via email to **rmedina@sas.upenn.edu** by November 9, 2007.

Please feel free to e-mail us with your questions, comments, and/or concerns. Upon review of your application, we will notify you by email. Thank you for your interest in LDI!

#### **LDI Board 2007-2008**

Robert Medina  
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Gabriella Garcia  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

School/Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Major(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Minor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender/Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

Spring Semester Course Load: \_\_\_\_\_ c. u.

Please list extra-curricular activities and leadership positions you hold:

Activity	Position	Hours per Week

If you have taken courses through the Latin American and Latino Studies Program (LALS) or general courses about Latin America and/or about Latinos/as in the United States, please list them below:

Course Name and Number	Professor



**Short-Answer Questions:**

1. How do you define “Latino/a” and/or “Hispanic” identity?
2. How do you identify yourself geographically, racially, ethnically, culturally, and/or religiously?
3. What are your expectations of the Latino Dialogue Institute?
4. What are some issues you would like to explore?

**Long-Answer Question:**

Please pick **ONE** question and respond in one to two pages. Feel free to interpret the following questions openly: you are encouraged to write based on your personal experiences as well as from material you have read or learned about. **(Double-spaced, 1-2 pages, 12pt Times New Roman)**

1. What are your thoughts about the classification of Latino/as and race? Do you think Latino/as are classified in racial categories, and how so? Should Latino/as see themselves in terms of race? What effect does racism have on Latino/as, if any?
2. How do Latino/as living in the U.S. balance their culture with “American” culture? What are the challenges and benefits of this balance in terms of: cultural identity, language, power, and education?



3. What do you think are some issues that affect Latino political mobilization and participation in politics? How do you see this ever changing? What do you think are ways Latinos can take a bigger leadership role in the United States?
4. What do you think are the biggest challenges and benefits of globalization? How do you think globalization has affected cultural identity in the US? How has it influenced Latino identity?
5. What are your thoughts on gender in the Latino/a community? Do you think there is equality between the sexes? What are your thoughts on traditional views on sex and gender in the Latino/a community?