

# Spring 2026



**American Studies has had a great spring semester. Keep reading to check out department news and upcoming events!**



**In this newsletter you will find:**

Latest projects, workshops, free resources, and more. Keep Reading!



# JOEL JONES X UNM

SPRING 2026 LECTURE

**This spring, American Studies hosted Lisa Cacho, Ph.D., for the Annual Joel Jones Memorial Lecture Series**

**The talk, titled,** “It's Not Even Loaded’ Suicide-by-Cop or Indigenous Self-Defense?” analyzed the police killing of Renee Davis, a Black Indigenous mother. Cacho argued that when we suspend the need of legal recognition, Renee Davis’ final actions read like self-defense.

You can find Dr. Cacho's book, **Complex Innocence: Defending Defiant Victims of Police Killings** at NYU Press



*Lisa Cacho, Ph.D., photograph by Ezekiel Acosta (2026)*

# JOEL JONES X UNM

SPRING 2026 LECTURE

**Book Signing with Lisa Cacho, Ph.D., for the Annual Joel Jones Memorial Lecture Series on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> at Hodgin Hall at University of New Mexico.**



*Lisa Cacho, Ph.D., photograph by Ezekiel Acosta (2026)*

# UNM SCHOLARSHIPS

Calling all American Studies students! See below for information about applying to the UNM Alumni Scholarship, which offered undergraduate and graduate scholarships to UNM students.

## Apply for a UNM Alumni Scholarship

The application window for **2026 UNM Alumni Scholarships** is now open! **This is a chance for current and incoming Lobo students to secure financial support for their education**, with UNM Alumni offering undergraduate and graduate scholarships based on criteria that include academic achievement, financial need, and Lobo spirit. In addition, many UNM Regional Alumni Chapters are also providing scholarships and stipends for students from around the country. Applications for Alumni Scholarships are now being accepted online; the deadline to apply is midnight on **April 30, 2026**.



# JUST ENERGY TRANSITIONS X AMERICAN STUDIES

In March, American Studies prof Silas Grant and AMST PhD Candidate Sarah Knopp held a conversation on just energy transitions during the Society for Applied Anthropology on March 17! Check it out:

**Panel:** Collaborative Approaches to Climate Crises, False Solutions, and Just Transitions (Chaired by Silas Grant and Thomas De Pree)

## Panelists:

Wendy Atcitty and Kirena Tsose (Southwest Research and Information Center), Hazel James (Diné Centered Research and Evaluation), Cheyenne Antonio (Diné community member), Feleecia Guillen (New Mexico No False Solutions), Xavier Barraza and Ennedith Lopez (Los Jardines Institute), Alicia Gallegos (Pueblo Action Alliance), Sarah Knopp and Cameron Zarrabzadeh (UNM).

## ICYMI:



# '26 Course Spotlight

ARE YOU READY?

**FALL 2026 - AMST 340/540**

# **BAD BUNNY: FASHION REVOLTS FALL 2026**

**ARE YOU READY  
TO PERREO...  
ACADEMICALLY?**

***Why take it?***  
*To understand the power  
of visual identity in the  
21st century.*

***Who is it for?***  
*Fans, skeptics, and  
anyone interested in the  
future of fashion.*

**4-6:30 - WEDS - DR. FRANCISCO J GALARTE**



# '26 Course Spotlight

ARE YOU READY?

**Bad Bunny: Fashion Revolts** explores the intersection of **global pop culture**, **gender subversion**, and **decolonial aesthetics** through the lens of one of the world's most influential artists. From red-carpet camp to high-fashion streetwear collaborations, this course interrogates how Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio uses **the garment as a tool of resistance** and identity formation.

Students will analyze how his sartorial choices –ranging from the jíbaro pava to gender-fluid couture–challenge the traditional policing of Latinx masculinity and reclaim Caribbean history. Through an **interdisciplinary framework** of **fashion history** and **post-colonial theory**, this course invites you to decode the visual language of a **modern icon** who is redefining the Global South's influence on the world stage.

REGISTER ONLINE!

**Dr. Francisco J Galarte**



*In spring 2026, doctoral candidate Naomi Ambriz shared an interview with the UNM American Studies department. The Q&A touched on her experiences as an American Studies researcher and doctoral student, full-time faculty member at CNM, and more!*

**Can you tell us about your current research in American Studies and how it connects to your teaching and community-engaged work between CNM and UNM?**

My current research in bridging interdisciplinary fields of study directly connects to my teaching pedagogy and practice because I see learning spaces as community building. In essence, engaging others in difficult but necessary conversations is part of understanding and deconstructing structural processes and power. Teaching at both CNM and UNM allows me to stay engaged and current with both audiences and campuses. For my CNM students, I also let them know that these courses will not only prepare them for higher division courses but that the expectations are the same in both campuses.

**How do your research interests shape the kinds of questions you encourage students to ask, especially those navigating community college pathways or thinking about transferring into programs like American Studies?**

My research always informs my teaching and vice versa. I often speak about how I appreciate American studies as an interdisciplinary field of scholarship; how we can look at literature, history, sociology, gender and sexuality studies, Indigenous studies (among others) to talk about our own experiences.



*— Naomi Ambriz, faculty in American Studies at Central New Mexico Community College, doctoral candidate at UNM*

# INTERVIEW X UNM

WITH NAOMI AMBRIZ, AMERICAN STUDIES

**(cont'd)** I share with students my own academic journey, a first-generation college student, a single mother, doctoral student and teacher who is also navigating the current unpredictable climate we are in. American Studies department at UNM has not only supported my research and graciously funded my academic journey; it has also advocated and prepared me to be the scholar and teacher that I continue and aspire to be.

**How has your experience teaching full-time at CNM shaped your approach to graduate study, and vice versa? Are there ways these roles inform each other in your work with students?**

Course design, class preparation, and teaching directly inform my interdisciplinary research. Not only has my experience as a Teaching/Graduate Assistant in American Studies been instrumental but other graduate work such as working with UNM's Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) assisting instructors with their courses has also given me important insight and tools that I have applied in my own course design and teaching methods. I found that I actually enjoy course designing, not only is it exciting for me to demonstrate how American studies scholars approach teaching and learning, but it has also allowed me to incorporate my own research. For example, as a member of the Mellon funded AfroChicanx Digital Archives we interviewed Latino/Chicanx Afrodescendants in Albuquerque, Tucson and Santa Barbara to speak about their personal experiences. I include the oral histories in my courses. In terms of research and teaching, I continue to be invested in New Mexico, in the Southwest, in this community which has gracefully and with open arms has become my home. More importantly, students remind me of how fortunate I am to do what I do.





**Success!**  
**CNM x UNM:**  
**Transfer Student Panel**

**Huge thank you to our  
undergrad, grad and faculty  
speakers on CNM's Campus:**

**We spoke about transfer life, our  
program compatibilities, and  
building bridges between our  
American Studies programs. Thanks  
to the wonderful contributions by  
AMST students on the panel, and  
thanks to Naomi Ambriz!**

# MCNAIR SCHOLARS X UNM

LAST CHANCE TO APPLY!

## American Studies students, what is the McNair and Research Opportunity Program (ROP) and why should you apply?

McNair and ROP students are interested in undergraduate research and eventually pursuing a Master's or PhD! The program offers:

- Research stipend for scholars
- Paid travel opportunities
- Scholars conduct a research project under the guidance of a professor
- Monthly seminars and intensive advisement
- Graduate record exam (GRE) prep course
- Successful McNair & ROP scholars are recruited by graduate schools nationwide
- Our scholars receive graduate school application fee waivers
- Participants are prepared for the rigors of graduate school

## How can you apply or learn more?

The application for 2026-2027 is open and available at: <https://mcnair.unm.edu/>. The deadline is **March 31, 2026**

## Who is eligible?

Undergraduate students with at least 60 credits by Fall 2026 and a 3.0 cumulative GPA are encouraged to apply. Other eligibility requirements are listed on the application. [Apply today!](#)





## GETTING AHEAD OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH:

ARE YOU THINKING OF DOING AN **HONORS THESIS PROJECT**, EVEN NEXT YEAR? REACH OUT TO A FACULTY MEMBER OR DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR TODAY!

### HOW IT WORKS:

American Studies majors can sign up to do an Honors Thesis, which enables eligible students to graduate with Departmental Honors!

### Steps:

**#1** Email the current Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS), and brainstorm about topics and faculty to work with ([daisyatterbury@unm.edu](mailto:daisyatterbury@unm.edu))

**#2** We'll help you find a faculty mentor, with whom you'll enroll in an independent study

**#3** Complete the Honors Program Application

**#4** Enroll in the American Studies Honors Thesis (AMST 499) for three credit hours.

Tip: The Honors Thesis can be an expansion of the research project produced in the **Senior Seminar (AMST 485)** or it can be a different research project that was begun in another advanced American Studies course.

## Pair your thesis with UNM Opportunities

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## Present your thesis work this spring at UROC!

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## Apply for funding through ASSURE: UNM's Undergrad Research Program

### FUNDING:

THE ASSURE AWARD IS FOR THE FULL ACADEMIC YEAR, WITH EIGHT MONTHLY STIPENDS OF \$400 (\$1,600/SEMESTER; \$3,200/ACADEMIC YEAR).

# 2026 GRADUATION



**What are the American Studies graduation festivities this year? How are we celebrating?**

**Undergraduate Senior Thesis Showcase**

April 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm, Location TBA

✦ **American Studies**  
**Spring 2026 Convocation**

May 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm

UNM Main Campus, Hodgkin Hall, Bobo Room  
Commencement Speaker: Jillian Grisel

The Department of American Studies, the Religious Studies Program and the Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program is happy to announce their Spring 2026 Joint Convocation Ceremony honoring graduate and undergraduate students. The ceremony is open to students and their guests.



## **SUMMER 2026: WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO REPLY TO THIS EMAIL OR SEND ME A PERSONAL NOTE AT [DAISYATTERBURY@UNM.EDU](mailto:DAISYATTERBURY@UNM.EDU) ~ I'D LOVE TO SHARE EVENTS YOU'RE INVOLVED WITH AND PROJECTS YOU'RE WORKING ON WITH THE COMMUNITY!



*Dr. Lisa Cacho at Joel Jones Memorial Lecture 2026  
Photograph by Ezekiel Acosta*

