

Task 4 - Learning about Garifuna of Honduras and Blackness in relation to Latinidad

Dr. López Oro is an Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at Smith College. He is Garifuna. He grew up in Brooklyn and his parents are from the coast of Honduras.

For this task, please watch the video by Dr. López Oro that your Teacher plays in class. Answer the questions below as best as you can based on what you learn. For some of these questions, he may not say the words or answers directly, so you have to think of your own way of answering them. You got this.



1. Who are the Garifuna?
2. Why does Professor López Oro say the term “Afrolatinx,” with an ‘x’, is important to have in addition to “Afrolatino” and “Afrolatina”?
3. For how long have Spanish-speaking Black folks been in the United States?
4. Professor López Oro talks about how important it is for Afrolatinx folks in the United States to have a *public* identification with their Blackness. Why?
5. Professor López Oro talks about a racial ideology called “mestizaje.” What is it and what does mestizaje say? What Spanish terms does he use to talk about this?
6. In what ways does mestizaje promote erasure and how does Afrolatinidad resist it?
7. “Yo no soy negro, yo soy dominicano” is a classic example of mestizaje, where nationality and ethnicity are racialized projects. Why does this erase Blackness?
8. When we think about the history of Spanish colonialism in Latin America, there is a specific history that we need to grapple with, says Prof. López Oro. What is that history? As young people, how can we do so today in the face of mestizo supremacy (aka white supremacist ideologies around racial mixture)?