Latin American Studies

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Undergraduate minor: Latin American studies
Undergraduate certificate: Latin American studies
Faculty: https://clas.uiowa.edu/latin-american-studies/people
Website: https://clas.uiowa.edu/latin-american-studies/

The Latin American Studies Program (LASP) is an interdisciplinary program focusing on the history, society, language, art, and culture of Latinos/as in Central and South America, Mexico, the Caribbean, the United States, and elsewhere. Faculty members from across the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences participate in the Latin American Studies Program as affiliated faculty members. Other University of Iowa faculty members occasionally offer courses and participate in the program’s research, study, and interdisciplinary activities.

The Latin American Studies Program prepares students for graduate study or for Latin America-related careers in business, communications, government, bilingual/bicultural education, secondary teaching, community organizing, and international work.

In addition to its instructional activity, LASP sponsors a wide variety of activities, brings scholars of Latin America to campus, and fosters institutional linkages.

Latin American Studies is one of the academic units in the Division of Interdisciplinary Programs.

Study Abroad

The Latin American Studies Program highly recommends, but does not require, that students have an in-depth Latin American cultural experience, usually through study abroad, before completing their undergraduate requirements.

In cooperation with International Programs Study Abroad, LASP faculty members facilitate student participation in programs in many Latin American countries. University of Iowa students may enroll in programs in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Mexico, and Uruguay. Programs range from intensive language study to group programs with a special focus. The University of Iowa cosponsors these programs through various consortiums.

Study abroad courses may be counted toward requirements for the certificate and the minor with prior approval from a LASP director.

Financial Support

Students are encouraged to apply for a Stanley Undergraduate Award for International Research/Fieldwork through University of Iowa International Programs. The awards are given to outstanding University of Iowa undergraduates who, in close consultation with a faculty member, propose well-conceived, small-scale research or fieldwork projects that require travel abroad. Students may conduct projects while participating in a study abroad program and may combine the award with other awards and financial assistance. For information regarding other scholarships, contact LASP advisors, International Programs staff, and the LASP director.

Activities

In addition to its instructional activity, LASP organizes a range of public programming activities each semester, including film series, photography and art exhibits, conferences, roundtable discussions, and lectures. Recent events include public lectures on community media and violence in Mexico and Colombia and on the cultural legacies of the 1960s in Latin America, and the annual Charles A. Hale Lecture in Latin American Studies.

Programs

Undergraduate Programs of Study

Minor
• Minor in Latin American Studies

Certificate
• Certificate in Latin American Studies

Courses

Associated Courses

The following courses are approved for the Latin American studies certificate and minor. Students may petition to include other courses that have significant Latin American content; consult the Latin American Studies Program.

Anthropology
ANTH:2220 Archaeology of Mesoamerica 3
ANTH:3111/GHS:3040/LAS:3111 Health in Mexico 3

Art
ARTH:3120/LAS:3120 The Art of Ancient Mexico 3

Cinematic Arts
CINE:2624 Introduction to Latin American Film 3
CINE:4678/LAS:4678/SPAN:4810 Topics in Latin American Cinema 3

Communication Studies
COMM:1898/LAS:1898 Introduction to Latina/o Communication and Culture 3
COMM:2052/LAS:2052 Latin American Media 3
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dance</strong></td>
<td>DANC:1150/</td>
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<td></td>
<td>LAS:1150</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brazilian Culture and Carnival</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>English</strong></td>
<td>ENGL:3525</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Literature and Culture of the Americas</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>History</strong></td>
<td>HIST:4216/</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LAS:4216</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mexican American History</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>English</strong></td>
<td>ENGL:3535/</td>
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<td></td>
<td>LAS:3535</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inter-American Studies (when content is Latin American)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>History</strong></td>
<td>HIST:4501/</td>
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<td>LAS:4501</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Topics in American Borderlands History</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spanish</strong></td>
<td>SPAN:1700/</td>
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<td>LATS:1700</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Latino/a Literature in the U.S.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Politics</strong></td>
<td>POLI:2415/</td>
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<td></td>
<td>LAS:2415</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Latin American Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Music</strong></td>
<td>MUS:2311/</td>
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<td>LAS:2311</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Music of Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>MUS:3163</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Intermediate Steel Band</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Portuguese</strong></td>
<td>PORT:1800</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contemporary Brazilian Narrative</td>
<td>3</td>
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The Orient in Contemporary Latin American Literature and Culture 3

Literature and Mass Culture in Latin America 3

Narratives of Underdevelopment 3

Topics in Spanish American Literature 3

Chicano Cinema 3

Lost Childhoods: Marginal Children of Latin America 3

Latino/a Popular Culture 3

The Hispanic World in the Digital Era 3

Advanced Workshop on Creative Writing in Spanish 3

Staging Americans: U.S. Cultures Through Theatre and Performance 3

Topics in World Cinemas 3

English Honors Seminar 3

Introduction to the History Major 3

Topics in Cinema and Society 3

Topics in Literatures and Cultures 3

Topics in Cultural Studies 3

Topics in Literary Studies 3

Topics in Film Studies 3

Latin American Studies Courses

All Latin American Studies Program courses are approved for the certificate or minor.

Brazilian Culture and Carnival 3 s.h.

Dance, music, historical, and social contents of Brazilian Carnival production, critical theories of performance, religious backgrounds, and theatre making in carnival parades. GE: Engineering Be Creative; Values and Culture. Same as DANC:1150.

U.S. Latino Religions 3 s.h.

Beliefs and practices of U.S. Latinos and Latinas, ways that their beliefs and practices are unique and where they overlap with mainstream U.S. society; beliefs, symbols, and practices among U.S. Latinos and Latinas on national and local level; field visits to local churches and religious sites; class visitors share insights. Same as RELS:1765.

Introduction to Latina/o Communication and Culture 3 s.h.

Introduction to fundamentals of communication by and about Latina/o in the U.S.; Latina/o as one of the fastest growing demographics; how Latina/o history, politics, and culture remain little understood despite a longstanding and growing presence in Iowa and across the nation; historical orientation; Latina/o social movement and protest (e.g., Chicana/o movements and the Young Lords Organization), institutional discourses (e.g., congressional, presidential, and legal discourses), and Latina/o in popular culture (film, TV, music, sports). Same as COMM:1898.

Latin American Media 3 s.h.

Development of media institutions, texts, and audiences across a number of Latin American countries; focus on broadcast media (radio and television) and situates them within larger historical context of 20th- and 21st-century Latin America; readings, discussions, and assignments with particular attention to influence of U.S. corporate and state interests on Latin American media; debates over cultural dependency, globalization, and hybridity in region. Same as COMM:2052.

Music of Latin America and the Caribbean 3 s.h.

Folk and popular musical traditions and their social contexts in Latin America, the Caribbean; listening skills; video/film screenings. GE: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; Values and Culture. Same as MUS:2311.

Latin American Politics 3 s.h.

Governmental institutions, major interest groups; focus on area as a whole. GE: International and Global Issues; Social Sciences. Same as POLI:2415.

Introduction to Latin American Studies 3 s.h.

Cultures of Latin American countries with emphasis on cultural history and cultural production; interdisciplinary survey. Same as COMM:2800, IS:2700, PORT:2700, SPAN:2700.

Immigration Politics 3 s.h.

United States immigration policy and political consequences of Latin population growth; contrast of political experiences of Latinos with groups and ideals of democratic political systems; analyses of past immigration policies; studies of public opinion, voter turnout, and campaign tactics. Same as LATS:3104, POLI:3104.

Health in Mexico 3 s.h.

Use of anthropological perspectives to examine disease, healing systems, and ideas about health and the body in Mexico and its diaspora; relationships between structural conditions and historical and political transformations; ideas about gender and race; chronic and acute disease in Mexico; conquest and disease; racialized bodies; sexual health; biomedicine; shamanism; immigration and health; pollution and narcoviolence; readings in English. Same as ANTH:3111, GHS:3040.

The Art of Ancient Mexico 3 s.h.

Art and architecture of Mexico and Peru before Cortéz. Same as ARTH:3120.

Inter-American Studies 3 s.h.

English majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Transnational Literature and Postcolonial Studies. PERIOD: 20th/21st-Century Literature. Same as ENGL:3535.
LAS:4216 Mexican American History 3 s.h.
Survey of Chican/o (Mexican American) history from 18th century to present; Mexican American society’s diverse nature, explored through class, ethnic, gender, and regional divisions. Same as HIST:4216.

LAS:4217 Latina/o Immigration 3 s.h.
Immigration experiences of people arriving in the U.S. from other regions of the Americas (e.g., Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, South America); what has fueled immigration—social, political, and economic developments in the U.S. and other nations; territorial conquest, colonialism, real and imagined borders, chain migration, formation of immigrant communities, acculturation, circular migration, social networks; how migration restructures gender relations; immigrant communities and pan-Latino identity in the U.S. Same as HIST:4217, LATS:4217.

LAS:4501 Society and Revolution in Cuba 3 s.h.
Cuban society and revolutionary movements since the late colonial period, including the years since 1959. Same as HIST:4501.

LAS:4502 History of Mexico 3 s.h.
Mexican history since the eve of the Spanish invasion, with focus on the national period; may include ethnic groups, conquest and demographic disaster, native survival, labor and migration, social protest and rebellions, nationhood, regional differences, religions, popular culture, economic growth and distribution, state building, international relations; survey. Same as AINS:4502, HIST:4502.

LAS:4508 Medicine and Public Health in Latin America, 1820-2000 3 s.h.
Survey of major topics in modern Latin American history in relation to development of medicine and public health. Same as GHS:4508, HIST:4508.

LAS:4515 Introduction to Modern Latin America 3 s.h.
Cultural, institutional continuity from independence to present. Same as HIST:4515.

LAS:4678 Topics in Latin American Cinema 3 s.h.
Taught in English. Prerequisites: CINE:1601. Requirements: one Spanish literature or culture course numbered above SPAN:3200 or one film studies course. Same as CINE:4678, SPAN:4810.

LAS:4700 Latin American Studies Seminar 3 s.h.
Examination of past, present, and future of Latin America; interdisciplinary. Taught in English. Same as ANTH:4700, CL:4700, HIST:4504, PORT:4700, SPAN:4900.

LAS:4990 Independent Project in Latin American Studies arr.
Independent work completed under the supervision of Latin American studies faculty.