Latin American Studies

**Director, Division of Interdisciplinary Programs**
- Helena R. Dettmer

**Director, Latin American Studies**
- Amber E. Brian (Spanish and Portuguese)

**Coordinator, Latin American Studies**
- Karmen Berger

**Undergraduate minor:** Latin American studies  
**Undergraduate certificate:** Latin American studies  
**Faculty:** [https://clas.uiowa.edu/latin-american-studies/people](https://clas.uiowa.edu/latin-american-studies/people)  
**Website:** [https://clas.uiowa.edu/latin-american-studies/](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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH:2220</td>
<td>Archaeology of Mesoamerica</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH:3111/GHS:3040/LAS:3111</td>
<td>Health in Mexico</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Art**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTH:3120/LAS:3120</td>
<td>The Art of Ancient Mexico</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cinematic Arts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CINE:2624</td>
<td>Introduction to Latin American Film</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE:4678/LAS:4678/SPAN:4810</td>
<td>Topics in Latin American Cinema</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Communication Studies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM:1898/LAS:1898</td>
<td>Introduction to Latina/o Communication and Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM:2052/LAS:2052</td>
<td>Latin American Media</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Dance
DANC:1150/ LAS:1150
Brazilian Culture and Carnival 3

### English
ENGL:3525
Literature and Culture of the Americas 3
ENGL:3535/ LAS:3535
Inter-American Studies (when content is Latin American) 3

### History
HIST:4216/ LAS:4216
Mexican American History 3
HIST:4217/ LAS:4217
Latina/o Immigration 3
HIST:4334
Topics in American Borderlands History 3
HIST:4501/ LAS:4501
Society and Revolution in Cuba 3
HIST:4502/ AINS:4502/ LAS:4502
History of Mexico 3
HIST:4505
Topics in Latin American History 3
HIST:4508/ GHS:4508/ LAS:4508
Medicine and Public Health in Latin America, 1820-2000 3
HIST:4510
Colonial Latin America 3
HIST:4515/ LAS:4515
Introduction to Modern Latin America 3
HIST:4520
Latin America and the United States: The Historical Perspective 3
HIST:4525
Latin American Revolution 3
HIST:4526
Dictatorships of Latin America 3

### Latina/o Studies
LATS:2280/ HIST:2280/ SPAN:2280
Introduction to Latina/o Studies 3
LATS:3550
Topics in Latina/o Studies: History and Culture 1-3

### Music
MUS:2311/ LAS:2311
Music of Latin America and the Caribbean 3
MUS:3163
Intermediate Steel Band 1

### Political Science
POLI:2415/ LAS:2415
Latin American Politics 3
POLI:3104/ LAS:3104/ LATS:3104
Immigration Politics 3

### Portuguese
PORT:1800
Contemporary Brazilian Narrative 3
PORT:2800
Topics in Cultural Studies 3
PORT:3350
Brazilian Literature Before 1900 3
PORT:3400
Brazilian Literature After 1900 3
PORT:4000
Topics in Luso-Brazilian Literature (when topic is Latin American) 3
PORT:4100
Topics in Luso-Brazilian Culture (when topic is Latin American) 3

### Religious Studies
RELS:1765/ LAS:1765
U.S. Latino Religions 3

### Spanish
SPAN:1700/ LATS:1700
Latino/a Literature in the U.S. 3
SPAN:1800
Contemporary Spanish American Narrative 3
SPAN:2050/ LATS:2050
Spanish in the U.S. 3
SPAN:2200
Introduction to Spanish American Cultures 3
SPAN:2500
Readings in Spanish American Literature 3
SPAN:2800
Screening Latin America 3
SPAN:3060
Introductory Workshop on Creative Writing in Spanish 3
SPAN:3200
Latin American Cultural Studies 3
SPAN:3210
Cultural Storytelling 3
SPAN:3215
Medellin 3
SPAN:3220
Visual Culture: Colonial Spanish America 3
SPAN:3230
Modern Mexico 3
SPAN:3240
Mexico City 3
SPAN:3270/CL:3262
Pan-Caribbean Literary Currents 3
SPAN:3300
Contemporary Spanish American Fiction 3
SPAN:3310
Spanish American Short Story 3
SPAN:3320
Spanish American Poetry 3
SPAN:3350
Contemporary Spanish American Literature 3
SPAN:3360/ GWSS:3360
Latin American Women Writers 3
SPAN:3400
Chicano Literature and Culture 3
SPAN:3420/CL:3396
Cuban American Literature and Culture 3
SPAN:3440
Topics in Latino/a Literature and Culture 3
SPAN:3550
Doing Business in Latin America 3
SPAN:4310
Cultural Identity in Caribbean Literature 3
SPAN:4330
Colonial Spanish American Literature 3
share insights. Same as RELS:1765.

field visits to local churches and religious sites; class visitors among U.S. Latinos and Latinas on national and local level; with mainstream U.S. society; beliefs, symbols, and practices their beliefs and practices are unique and where they overlap Beliefs and practices of U.S. Latinos and Latinas, ways that LAS:1765 U.S. Latino Religions 3 s.h.

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

SPAN:3290 Topics in Cinema and Society 3
SPAN:3370 Topics in Literatures and 
SPAN:4850 Topics in Cultural Studies 3
SPAN:4910 Topics in Literary Studies 3
SPAN:4920 Topics in Film Studies 3

Latin American Studies Courses

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

LAS:1150 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.

LAS:1765 U.S. Latino Religions 3 s.h. Beliefs and practices of U.S. Latinos andLatinas, 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.

LAS:1898 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.

LAS:2052 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 historial 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.

LAS:2311 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.

LAS:2415 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.

LAS:2700 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.

LAS:3104 Immigration Politics 3 s.h. United States immigration policy and political consequences of Latino 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.

LAS:3111 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.

LAS:3120 The Art of Ancient Mexico 3 s.h. Art and architecture of Mexico and Peru before Cortéz. Same as ARTH:3120.

LAS:3353 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:3533.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAS:4216</td>
<td>Mexican American History</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>Survey of Chicana/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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAS:4217</td>
<td>Latina/o Immigration</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAS:4501</td>
<td>Society and Revolution in Cuba</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>Cuban society and revolutionary movements since the late colonial period, including the years since 1959. Same as HIST:4501.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAS:4502</td>
<td>History of Mexico</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAS:4515</td>
<td>Introduction to Modern Latin America</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>Cultural, institutional continuity from independence to present. Same as HIST:4515.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAS:4678</td>
<td>Topics in Latin American Cinema</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAS:4700</td>
<td>Latin American Studies Seminar</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAS:4990</td>
<td>Independent Project in Latin American Studies</td>
<td>arr.</td>
<td>Independent work completed under the supervision of Latin American studies faculty.</td>
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