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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<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>
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Art

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>ARTH:3120/LAS:3120</td>
<td>The Art of Ancient Mexico</td>
<td>3</td>
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Cinematic Arts

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<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>
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Communication Studies

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</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>
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</tbody>
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## 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/  
LATS: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 Medellín  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
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.

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 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.

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:3353.

Theatre Arts

Thtr:2405 Staging Americans: U.S. Cultures Through Theatre and Performance 3

Rotating Topics

The focus of these courses changes from semester to semester. With prior approval, students may use these courses to satisfy requirements for the Latin American studies certificate or minor when the course focuses on Latin America.

Anth:3107/Cl:3107/Engl:3107 Literature and Anthropology 3

Cine:4618 Topics in World Cinemas 3

Engl:4000 English Honors Seminar 3

Hist:2151 Introduction to the History Major 3

Span:3290 Topics in Cinema and Society 3

Span:3370 Topics in Literatures and Cultures 3

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 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 Rel:1765.
LAS:4216 Mexican American History 3 s.h.
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.

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.