Latin American Studies

Interim Director, Division of Interdisciplinary Programs
• Kristy Nabhan-Warren

Director, Latin American Studies
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Undergraduate minor: Latin American studies
Undergraduate certificate: Latin American studies
Faculty: https://latinamericanstudies.uiowa.edu/people
Website: https://latinamericanstudies.uiowa.edu/

The Latin American Studies Program (LASP) is an interdisciplinary curriculum that introduces students to the cultures, arts, languages, histories, and social practices from Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean, and provides students with frameworks for making sense of the social, political, and economic challenges faced in those regions.

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.

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 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, round-table discussions, and lectures.

Recent events include an exhibit of mixed media Colombian contemporary art and public lectures on Brazilian black feminist theory, Afro-Brazilian female authorship, and cosmopolitanism in Mexican cinema as part of the annual Charles A. Hale Lectures in Latin American Studies.

Programs

Undergraduate Programs of Study
Minor
• Minor in Latin American Studies

Certificate
• Certificate in Latin American Studies

Courses
• Associated Courses [p. 1]
• Latin American Studies Courses [p. 2]

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>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH:2220/LAS:2220</td>
<td>The Olmec, Maya, and Aztecs: Archaeology of Mesoamerica</td>
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Communication Studies

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM:4171</td>
<td>Community Media</td>
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Dance

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DANC:1150/LAS:1150</td>
<td>Brazilian Culture and Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>DANC:2150</td>
<td>Brazilian Social Dance: The Samba</td>
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English

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<tr>
<td>ENGL:3525</td>
<td>Literature and Culture of the Americas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Code</td>
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<td>Hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL:3535/LAS:3535</td>
<td>Topics in Literature and Culture of the Americas (when content is Latin America)</td>
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**History**

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST:3217/LAS:3217/LATS:3217</td>
<td>Latina/o/x Immigration</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST:3501/LAS:3501</td>
<td>Rebel Island: A History of Cuba</td>
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<td>HIST:3508/GHS:3508/LAS:3508</td>
<td>Disease and Health in Latin American History</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST:3515/LAS:3515</td>
<td>Introduction to Modern Latin America</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:4502/LAS:4502/NAIS:4502</td>
<td>History of Mexico</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST:4505</td>
<td>Topics in Latin American History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:4510</td>
<td>Colonial Latin America</td>
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**Music**

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MUS:2311/LAS:2311</td>
<td>Music of Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
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<td>MUS:3163</td>
<td>Intermediate Steel Band</td>
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**Political Science**

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<tr>
<td>POLI:2415/LAS:2415</td>
<td>Latin American Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3104/LAS:3104/LATS:3104</td>
<td>Immigration Politics</td>
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**Portuguese**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>PORT:2850/LAS:2850/SPAN:2850</td>
<td>Brazilian Narrative in Translation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PORT:3400</td>
<td>Brazilian Literature After 1900</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>PORT:3850/SPAN:3850</td>
<td>Topics in Cultural Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>PORT:4000</td>
<td>Topics in Luso-Brazilian Literature (when topic is Latin American)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PORT:4100</td>
<td>Topics in Luso-Brazilian Culture (when topic is Latin American)</td>
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**Spanish**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPAN:1800</td>
<td>Contemporary Spanish American Narrative</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:2200/LAS:2200</td>
<td>Introduction to Spanish American Cultures</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:2500</td>
<td>Readings in Spanish American Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:2800/LAS:2800</td>
<td>Screening Latin America</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:2900/LAS:2900</td>
<td>Music of the Hispanic World</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:3020/JMC:3445/LAS:3020</td>
<td>Journalistic Writing in Spanish</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:3060</td>
<td>Introductory Workshop on Creative Writing in Spanish</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN:3200</td>
<td>Latin American Cultural Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:3210</td>
<td>Cultural Storytelling</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:3215/LAS:3215</td>
<td>Medellín</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:3225/LAS:3225</td>
<td>Latin American Women Writers</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:3230</td>
<td>Modern Mexico</td>
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<td>SPAN:3240</td>
<td>Mexico City</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:3310/LAS:3310</td>
<td>Spanish American Short Story</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:3320</td>
<td>Spanish American Poetry</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:3350</td>
<td>Contemporary Spanish American Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:4160/LATS:4160</td>
<td>Language, Justice, and the Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:4330</td>
<td>Colonial Spanish American Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:4390/LAS:4390</td>
<td>Topics in Spanish American Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:4815/LAS:4815</td>
<td>Lost Childhoods: Marginal Children of Latin America</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:4830</td>
<td>The Hispanic World in the Digital Era</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:4950</td>
<td>Advanced Workshop on Creative Writing in Spanish</td>
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**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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH:3107/ENGL:3107</td>
<td>Literature and Anthropology</td>
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<tr>
<td>CINE:4618</td>
<td>Topics in World Cinemas</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMM:4157</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Communication Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL:4000</td>
<td>English Honors Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST:2151</td>
<td>Introduction to the History Major</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:3290</td>
<td>Topics in Cinema and Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:3370</td>
<td>Topics in Literatures and Cultures</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:4850</td>
<td>Topics in Cultural Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:4910</td>
<td>Topics in Literary Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:4920</td>
<td>Topics in Film Studies</td>
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**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:2200 Introduction to Spanish American Cultures 3 s.h.
Introduction to study of cultural history of Spanish America;
topics range from precolombian times to present; for students
who are just starting work on the Spanish major or minor.
Requirements: SPAN:1502 or SPAN:1503. Same as SPAN:2200.

LAS:2220 The Olmec, Maya, and Aztecs: Archaeology of Mesoamerica 3 s.h.
Archaeological data related to the evolution of civilization in
Mesoamerica; sequence from hunter-gatherers to A.D. 1519;
emphasis on Central Mexico, Maya area, Oaxaca. Same as
ANTH:2220.

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.
Taught in English. Same as COMM:2800, IS:2700, PORT:2700,
SPAN:2700.

LAS:2800 Screening Latin America 3 s.h.
Basic introduction to contemporary Latin American societies
and cultures through fiction feature films (i.e., comedies,
dramas) and documentaries by major filmmakers; previous
knowledge of film analysis not required. Taught in Spanish.
Requirements: SPAN:1502 or SPAN:1503. Same as SPAN:2800.

LAS:2850 Brazilian Narrative in Translation 3 s.h.
Representative readings of modern and contemporary novels,
short stories, and other narrative forms; cultural background;
focus on major writers. Taught in English. Prerequisites:
ENGL:1200. GE: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts. Same as
PORT:2850, SPAN:2850.

LAS:2900 Music of the Hispanic World 3 s.h.
Introduction to music of Spain and Latin America, including
the United States; listening skills, music appreciation,
continuing development of Spanish language skills. Taught in
Spanish. Requirements: SPAN:1502 or SPAN:1503. Same as
SPAN:2900.

LAS:3020 Journalistic Writing in Spanish 3 s.h.
Spanish writing skills; introduction to style and practice
of journalistic reporting and writing. Taught in Spanish.
Requirements: at least one course taught in Spanish at the
2000 level or above. Same as JMC:3445, SPAN:3020.

LAS:3104 Immigration Politics 3 s.h.
United States immigration policy and political consequences
of Latina/o/x population growth; contrast of political
experiences of Latina/o/x 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:3215 Medellín 3 s.h.
Medellín, Colombia has been transformed from one of the
most violent places on Earth to an award-winning city of
innovation in only 20 years; introduction to the city and its
people through literature, music, and a digital map
project. Taught in Spanish. Requirements: at least one course
numbered SPAN:2000 or above. Same as SPAN:3215.

LAS:3217 Latina/o/x Immigration 3 s.h.
Immigration experiences of people arriving in the United
States 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 United States 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-Latina/o/x identity in the United States.
Same as HIST:3217, LATS:3217.

LAS:3225 Latin American Women Writers 3 s.h.
Focus on long tradition of strong female writers in Latin
America; materials may include poetry, theater, fiction, and
essay from the Spanish-speaking countries of Mexico, Central
America, South America, and Brazil. Taught in Spanish.
Requirements: at least one course taught in Spanish at the
2000 level or above. Same as SPAN:3225.

LAS:3310 Spanish American Short Story 3 s.h.
Works by 19th- and 20th-century Spanish American writers;
emphasis on reading strategies and historical, cultural, literary
backgrounds. Requirements: at least one course taught in
Spanish at the 2000 level or above. Same as SPAN:3310.

LAS:3501 Rebel Island: A History of Cuba 3 s.h.
Cuban society and revolutionary movements since the late
colonial period, including the years since 1959. Same as
HIST:3501.

LAS:3508 Disease and Health in Latin American History 3 s.h.
Survey of major topics in Latin American history in relation
to development of medicine and public health. Same as
GHS:3508, HIST:3508.

LAS:3515 Introduction to Modern Latin America 3 s.h.
Introduction to modern history of Latin America from
independence movements of the early 19th century to
present; topics include race and ethnicity, slave emancipation,
gender, labor relations, and foreign interventions; exploration
of relationship between economic, social, and political
structures over time to explain difference and commonality
between Latin American people and societies; focus on
topics pertaining to histories of Mexico, Central America, the
Caribbean, and South America. Same as HIST:3515.

LAS:3535 Topics in Literature and Culture of the Americas 3 s.h.
English majors and English and Creative Writing 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 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:4390 Topics in Spanish American Literature  3 s.h.
Taught in Spanish. Requirements: one literature course in
Spanish numbered SPAN:3200 or above. Same as SPAN:4390.

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 HIST:4502, NAIS:4502.

LAS:4700 Latin American Studies Seminar  3-4 s.h.
Examination of past, present, and future of Latin America;
interdisciplinary. Taught in English. Same as ANTH:4700,
HIST:4504, PORT:4700, SPAN:4900.

LAS:4815 Lost Childhoods: Marginal Children of Latin
America  3 s.h.
Focus on lost childhoods from a cultural studies perspective;
analysis of marginal perspectives that emerge from a
globalized urban landscape; evolution of literary, artistic
(art, photography, comics), and film productions about
dispossessed children, the construction of childhood by
nongovernmental and nonprofit organizations, and how
these cultural productions denounce social violence. Taught
in Spanish. Requirements: two courses numbered SPAN:3000
or above. Same as SPAN:4815.

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