

Latin American Studies

Director, Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures

- Jill N. Beckman (Linguistics)

Director, Latin American Studies

- Brian Gollnick

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 World Languages, Literatures and Cultures.

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

Facilities

The Center for Language and Culture Learning provides a wide variety of facilities and services to the Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures (DWLLC), including a 24-computer Instructional Technology Center (ITC) and five All-In-One Studios/small group study rooms equipped with video production and editing software, a Computer Assisted Language Learning Lab with 25 computers integrated with Sanako software for language practice, and virtual reality hardware and development space.

The center provides spaces for quiet study as well as for group meetings. Departments, programs, and student organizations are welcome to host conversation hours, film nights, study groups, workshops, and more. Peer education services include peer tutoring programs in many of the languages taught in DWLLC, with both in-person and online availability, as well as the Directed Independent Language Study, through which faculty, staff, or students can be paired with a tutor to learn a language not taught in the DWLLC. Tutors are trained to use the Three Ms for Effective Learning, including developing a growth mindset, using memory strategies to retain knowledge, and reflecting on learning gains.

Courses

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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

Course #	Title	Hours
ANTH:2220/ LAS:2220	The Olmec, Maya, and Aztecs: Archaeology of Mesoamerica	3

Communication Studies

Course #	Title	Hours
COMM:4171	Community Media	3

Dance

Course #	Title	Hours
DANC:1150/ LAS:1150	Brazilian Culture and Carnival	3
DANC:2150	Brazilian Social Dance: The Samba	2

English

Course #	Title	Hours
ENGL:3525	Literature and Culture of the Americas	3
ENGL:3535/ LAS:3535	Topics in Literature and Culture of the Americas (when content is Latin America)	3

History

Course #	Title	Hours
HIST:3217/ LAS:3217/ LATS:3217	Latina/o/x Immigration	3
HIST:3501/ LAS:3501	Rebel Island: A History of Cuba	3
HIST:3502/ LAS:3502/ NAIS:3502	History of Mexico	3
HIST:3508/ GHS:3508/LAS:3508	Disease and Health in Latin American History	3
HIST:3515/ LAS:3515	Introduction to Modern Latin America	3
HIST:4505	Topics in Latin American History	3

Music

Course #	Title	Hours
MUS:2311/ LAS:2311	Music of Latin America and the Caribbean	3
MUS:3163	Iowa Steel Band	1

Political Science

Course #	Title	Hours
POLI:2415/ LAS:2415	Latin American Politics	3
POLI:3104/ LAS:3104/ LATS:3104	Immigration Politics	3

Portuguese

Course #	Title	Hours
PORT:2850/ LAS:2850/ SPAN:2850	Brazilian Narrative in Translation	3
PORT:4100	Topics in Luso-Brazilian Culture (when topic is Latin American)	3

Spanish

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

Course #	Title	Hours
CINE:4618	Topics in World Cinemas	3
COMM:4157	Advanced Topics in Communication Studies	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

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 pre-Colombian 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:2500 Readings in Spanish American Literature 3 s.h.
Tools for improving reading skills; basic concepts for textual understanding; historical overview of literary works, with focus on Spanish American literature. Requirements: SPAN:1502 or SPAN:1503. Same as SPAN:2500.

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 Medellin 3 s.h.
Medellin, 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:3290 Topics in Cinema and Society 3 s.h.
Film and cultural history of one Latin American nation. Taught in Spanish. Requirements: at least one course taught in Spanish at the 2000 level or above. Same as SPAN:3290.

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:3502 History of Mexico 3 s.h.

Mexican history since the eve of the Spanish invasion, with focus on the national period; indigenous groups, conquest and demographic disaster, Native survival, labor and migration, social protest and rebellions, nationhood, revolution, regional differences, religions, popular culture, economic growth and distribution, state building, environmental change, international relations; survey. Same as HIST:3502, NAIS:3502.

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: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:4925 Topics in Film Narrative 3 s.h.

Exploration of relationship between film narratives and social systems. Taught in English. Same as SPAN:4925.

LAS:4990 Independent Project in Latin American Studies arr.

Independent work completed under the supervision of Latin American studies faculty.