
LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Director: Nila Wiese

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About the Program

The Latin American Studies Program offers an interdisciplinary approach to the study of Latin America. The United States and the countries of Latin America have historically exerted great influence on each other and today, in the age of hyper-globalization, are more intertwined than ever before. The required gateway course to the program is Latin American Studies 100, which fulfills the Humanistic Approaches core and explores the interaction of politics and culture at national and international levels by considering the historical legacies affecting present-day Latin American societies. Drawing on courses from Hispanic Studies, Politics and Government, Business, Art History, Anthropology, Philosophy, International Political Economy, and History, students minoring in Latin American Studies gain an in-depth understanding of the region, past and present, through the application of and different analytical tools and disciplinary perspectives. Students are encouraged to gain some experience abroad, particularly through the university's semester abroad programs in Latin America (primarily Mexico, Argentina, and Chile). In addition, the Latin American Studies Program serves to stimulate interest and awareness at the university by sponsoring discussions, presentations, and cultural events dealing with Latin American issues.

Upon completion of the program, students should be able to do the following:

1. Understand the historical conditions and relations that shaped Latin America as a distinct regional, political, and cultural entity, and understand how that history informs contemporary relations both within the region and with other global actors;
2. Identify the central people, places, events and processes that define the region, with an emphasis on the heterogeneous, transnational nature of regional politics and culture;
3. Examine and compare conceptual and theoretical approaches that have sustained and challenged the idea of Latin America and the stakes of this idea for different communities in and beyond the region;
4. Apply diverse, interdisciplinary tools to critically evaluate and engage contemporary issues concerning Latin America;
5. Engage Latin American/Latinx culture and communities through experiential learning or internships here in the U.S. or abroad; and
6. Possess a basic competence in Spanish language.

General Requirements for the Minor

General university degree requirements stipulate that 1) three units of the minor be taken in residence at Puget Sound; 2) students earn a GPA of 2.0 in courses taken for the minor; and 3) all courses taken for a minor must be taken for graded credit. Any exceptions to these stipulations are indicated in the minor degree requirements listed below.

Requirements for the Minor

1. Completion of a minimum of five units, to include:
 - a. LAS 100 Latin American Studies (1 unit);
 - b. One course from each of the following three categories (see lists below): Humanities, Social Sciences, and History (3

units);

- c. One elective course from any of the categories below (1 unit).
2. At least two of the five courses taken for the minor must be at the 300 or 400 level.
 3. An internship in or related to Latin America or Latin Americans in the United States can count as the elective if it meets university requirements and is approved by the director of Latin American Studies.
 4. Students minoring in Latin American Studies must complete two semesters of Spanish at the 101-102 level, or one semester at the 200 level, or the equivalent, with a passing grade.
 5. Upon approval by the Latin American Studies Program, students may complete up to two of the required units of study for the minor when enrolled in a study abroad program in Latin America or in a Spanish- or Portuguese-speaking country.

Students may count only two courses taken to fulfill requirements in their major or another minor towards the LAS minor.

Humanities

- ARTH 302 The Art of Mexico and Mesoamerica
- LAS 380 Around Macondo in Eighty Days
- LAS 399 Latin American Travel Seminar (offered occasionally)
- PHIL 312 Latin American Philosophy
- SPAN 212 Latin American Culture and Civilization (in Spanish)
- SPAN 300 Literature, Theory, and Practice (when Latin American content) (in Spanish)
- SPAN 301 Literature of the Americas and Critical Inquiry (in Spanish)
- SPAN 303 Hispanic Short Story (in Spanish)
- SPAN 304 Hispanic Poetry (in Spanish)
- SPAN 306 Latin American Film (in Spanish)
- SPAN 308 Modern Latin American and Latino Theatre (in Spanish)
- SPAN 310 Special Topic Seminar (when Latin American content) (in Spanish)
- SPAN 311 Migration Narratives (in Spanish)
- SPAN 312 Visual Culture and Modernity in Latin America (in Spanish)
- SPAN 402 Seminar in Colonial and/or Nineteenth-Century Latin America (in Spanish)
- SPAN 405 Seminar in Twentieth and/or Twenty-First Century Latin America (in Spanish)
- SPAN 410 Special Topic Seminar (when Latin American content) (in Spanish)

Social Sciences

- BUS 472 Business in Latin America
- CONN 395 China and America: Toward a New Era of Transpacific Relations
- PG 311 Politics of Detention: Criminal Justice, Immigration, and the War on Terror
- PG 330 Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation in Latin America
- PG 380 Latin American Politics
- SOAN 303 Contemporary Immigration, Race, and Immigration Regimes in the U.S.
- SOAN 315 Identity Politics in Latin America
- SOAN 316 Cultural Politics of Global Development (when Latin American emphasis)
- SOAN 350 Border Crossings: Transnational Migration and Diaspora Studies (offered occasionally; LAS credit only when taught by Professor DeHart)

History

HIST 280 Colonial Latin America
HIST 281 Modern Latin America
HIST 367 Immigration in the U.S.
HIST 376 History of Cuba and the Cuban Diaspora
HIST 380 Modern Mexico
HIST 381 Film and History: Latin America
HIST 382 Comparative Revolutions in Twentieth-Century Latin America
HIST 384 Transnational Latin America (offered occasionally)
LAS 387 Art and Revolution in Latin America

Course Offerings

Unless otherwise specified, each course carries 1 unit of credit and is offered at least once each academic year. Please see "Frequency of Course Offerings" on page 18.

Seminars in Scholarly Inquiry. See *Seminars in Scholarly Inquiry in the Core Curriculum section of this Bulletin for course descriptions (page 18)*. While these courses cannot count toward a major or minor, the following are recommended for their focus on important aspects of Latin American Studies.

SSI1/SSI2 112 Salsa, Samba, and Soccer: Popular Culture in Latin America

SSI1 123/SSI2 125 Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo: Lives of Art and Politics

Other courses offered by Latin American Studies faculty. See *Connections in the Core Curriculum section of this Bulletin for course descriptions*.

CONN 395 China and Latin America: A New Era of Transpacific Relations

Satisfies the Connections core requirement.

LAS 380 Around Macondo in Eighty Days

Satisfies the Connections core requirement.

LAS 387 Art and Revolution in Latin America

Satisfies the Connections core requirement.

LAS 399 Latin America Travel Seminar

Satisfies the Connections core requirement.

Latin American Studies (LAS)

100 Introduction to Latin American Studies This course introduces students to the history, literature, and culture of the different Latin American regions. It examines the products of individual and collective experience and creativity in a variety of ways. Using historical and anthropological texts, the course provides a brief overview of historical periods and legacies, and considers how anthropologists have understood the cultures of urban and rural, racial and ethnic existence. In addition, using a series of literary works, students reflect on the cultural and national identity, moral and religious values, and individual experience of Latin Americans as well as the cultural, intellectual, and linguistic influence of these people in the United States. Classes are organized around discussion and occasional presentations by guest speakers. In addition to exams, students write several short evaluations of readings and are involved in several group presentation projects. The course serves as a required introduction to the Latin American Studies minor. *Satisfies the Humanistic Approaches core requirement. Satisfies the Knowledge, Identity, Power graduation requirement.*

380 Around Macondo in Eighty Days See Connections in the Core Curriculum section of this *Bulletin* for course description.

387 Art and Revolution in Latin America See Connections in the Core Curriculum section of this *Bulletin* for course description.

398 Latin American Studies Travel Seminar Activity Variable credit up to 0.25 activity units. This activity credit course supplements LAS 399 Latin American Travel Seminar that includes a study-travel component following the end of the term. Students can enroll for 0 units or 0.25 units. *Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment in LAS 399. Cannot be audited.*

399 Latin America Travel Seminar See Connections in the Core Curriculum section of this *Bulletin* for course description.

495 Independent Study Variable credit up to 1.00 unit. Independent study is available to those students who wish to continue their learning in an area after completing the regularly offered courses in that area. *May be repeated for credit up to 4.00 units. Cannot be taken Credit/No Credit.*