

Latin American Studies

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Latin American studies offers an interdisciplinary structure for the systematic study of Latin America, an area that encompasses countries in North, Central, and South America as well as the Caribbean, whose distinct geography and cultures are unified by elements of a common heritage. Profound geographic variations, differing economic resources, and the intermingling of multiple racial, ethnic, and cultural groups have yielded complex and diverse societies. Increasing socioeconomic contacts among states and societies in the Americas and the growing presence of Latinos in the United States underscore the need for U.S. citizens to deepen their understanding of the region.

Overview of the Major and Concentration

The Latin American studies program offers courses, a Latin American studies major and a Latin American studies concentration with an interdisciplinary and cross-cultural approach that contributes to the investigation of political, economic, ethnic, gender, religious, and cultural issues in Latin America. The support of perspectives and methodologies of several disciplines inspires students to seek a deeper understanding of Latin America and its complex relationships with the United States, and, for those majoring in Latin American studies, with Spain. In addition, students find opportunities for reflecting on their own culture and society.

Intended Learning Outcomes for the Major (<http://wp.stolaf.edu/curriculum-committee/latin-american-studies-major-ilos>)

Intended Learning Outcomes for the Concentration (<http://wp.stolaf.edu/curriculum-committee/latin-american-studies-concentration-ilos>)

Special Programs

Latin American studies majors and concentrators are encouraged to take advantage of the many off-campus programs available to them. Foreign study opportunities in the Spanish-speaking world currently offered to St. Olaf students include: periodic Interims in Cuba (HIST 244 Collective Memory in Revolutionary Cuba (abroad)), and Spain (SPAN 270 Spain's Cultural and Linguistic Legacy (abroad)); the CIEE program in Seville, Spain; the Augsburg program in Central America (Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua); ACM programs in Costa Rica; HECUA programs in Ecuador; and IES and CIEE programs in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Valparaíso, Chile. Students must secure prior approval for foreign study from the Latin American studies director. Latin American studies faculty members participate in the Foreign Languages Across the Curriculum program, which offers students the opportunity to use their foreign language skills in selected courses. (See Foreign Languages Across the Curriculum

(<http://catalog.stolaf.edu/archive/2015-2016/academic-programs/foreign-languages-across-curriculum>) under Academic Programs in this catalog.)

Requirements

Requirements for the Latin American Studies Major

The requirements for the completion of a Latin American studies major consist of nine courses.

Foundational course

HIST 242	Modern Latin America	1.00
or PSCI 264	Latin American Politics	

Required courses in Spanish

SPAN 250	Gateway to the Spanish-Speaking World	1.00
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Select one of the following: ¹ 1.00

SPAN 270	Spain's Cultural and Linguistic Legacy (abroad)	
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SPAN 271	Cultural Heritage of Spain	
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SPAN 274	Contemporary Issues in the Spanish-Speaking World (with a focus on Spain)	
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Select one of the following: ¹ 1.00

SPAN 272	Cultural Heritage of Latin America	
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SPAN 274	Contemporary Issues in the Spanish-Speaking World (with a focus on Latin America)	
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Electives

Select four courses from among history, economics, education, English, anthropology, sociology, political science, religion, and art, with no more than two courses in any one discipline (including the discipline of the foundational course) 4.00

Interdisciplinary seminar

LAMST 333	Contemporary Latin American Issues	1.00
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Total Credits 9

¹ Or appropriate substitute courses for any of the 270-level required Spanish courses approved by the director of Latin American studies

- Students may count one independent research course towards the major
- Students may count up to three study-abroad courses taken in Latin America or Spain.
- With the approval of the Latin American studies director, students may have any course with substantial Latin American content counted toward their major.
- A maximum of three courses that focus on Latinos in the United States may count toward the major.
- Either SOAN 264 or RACE 121 may be included in the major, but not both .

Students should contact the Latin American studies director as early as possible to plan a major.

Requirements for the Latin American Studies Concentration

Students majoring in any discipline except Latin American studies can pursue a Latin American studies concentration, which enables them to enhance their understanding of Latin American countries and the interconnectedness of Latin America and the United States. It differs from the Latin American studies major in that it does not require course work in Spanish.

The requirements for the completion of the Latin American studies concentration consist of a minimum of five approved courses.

Foundational course

Electives

HIST 242	Modern Latin America	1.00
or PSCI 264	Latin American Politics	

Select three electives from among history, economics, education, English, anthropology, sociology, political science, religion, and art, with no more than two courses in any one discipline (including the discipline of the foundational course)	3.00
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Interdisciplinary seminar

LAMST 333	Contemporary Latin American Issues	1.00
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Total Credits **5**

- A maximum of two study-abroad courses taken in Latin America or Spain may be counted.
- A maximum of two courses that focus on Latinos in the United States may count toward the concentration.
- Either SOAN 264 or RACE 121 may be included in the concentration, but not both.

Courses

Latin American Studies Courses

LAMST 294: *Academic Internship*

LAMST 298: *Independent Study*

LAMST 333: *Contemporary Latin American Issues*

This seminar focuses on the implications of studying Latin America, or the way in which different conceptualizations of this region have helped to shape Latin America as an object of study. Possible topics for approaching this question include the history of Latin American studies in the United States and the relation between scholarship on Latin America and U.S. policy in the region; Latin American responses to U.S. representations of the region; the production of images of *lo indigena* according to Western expectations; and indigenous cultures and globalization. FLAC option available. Offered in alternate years.

LAMST 394: *Academic Internship*

LAMST 396: *Directed Undergraduate Research*

This course provides a comprehensive research opportunity, including an introduction to relevant background material, technical instruction, identification of a meaningful project, and data collection. The topic is determined by the faculty member in charge of the course and may relate to his/her research interests. Offered based on department decision. May be offered as a 1.00 credit course or .50 credit course.

Prerequisite: determined by individual instructor.

LAMST 398: *Independent Research*

Required Spanish Courses

See Spanish (<http://catalog.stolaf.edu/archive/2015-2016/academic-programs/spanish>)

Elective Courses

RACE 121 Introduction to Race and Ethnic Studies OR SOAN 264 Race and Class in American Culture

ECON 243 Economic Development

ENGL 251 Major Chicano/a Authors

HIST 126 Conquest and Colonization

HIST 240 Major Seminar: Non-Western History (with approval of the director of Latin American Studies)

HIST 242 Modern Latin America

HIST 243 20th-Century Cuba

HIST 244 Collective Memory in Revolutionary Cuba (abroad)

HIST 245 Environmental History of Latin America

PSCI 252 Politics and Development (with approval of the director of Latin American Studies)

PSCI 257 U.S. - Latin American Relations

PSCI 264 Latin American Politics

PSCI 367 Seminar in Latin American Politics

SOAN 237 Forging a Latin American Culture

SOAN 264 Race and Class in American Culture OR RACE 121 Introduction to Race and Ethnic Studies

Faculty

Director, 2015-2016

Jeane DeLaney

Associate Professor of History

Latin American history; Argentina and Brazil; Cuba

Gwendolyn Barnes-Karol

Professor of Romance Languages - Spanish

Peninsular literature and culture; contemporary Spain; orality literacy; second language acquisition

Seth I. Binder

Assistant Professor of Economics and Environmental Studies

environmental and natural resource economics and policy;
development economics; applied microeconomics; environmental
economics

Maggie A. Broner

Associate Professor of Romance Languages - Spanish
Hispanic linguistics; culture; second language acquisition

Sylvia G. Carullo

Professor of Romance Languages - Spanish
Spanish-American literature; colonial 20th century Spanish-American
literature; Afro-Hispanic literature; Hispanic-American literature; art
and literature-female portraits in Spanish-American literature

Christopher L. Chiappari

Associate Professor of Sociology/Anthropology
Guatemala; religion; immigration

Kristina Medina-Vilarriño

Assistant Professor of Romance Languages-Spanish
Caribbean Studies; 20th and 21st century Latin American studies;
contemporary Latino studies; race and ethnic studies

Leon Narvaez

Professor of Romance Languages - Spanish
Hispanic culture, language and literature; migration and other
interdisciplinary studies

Jonathan P. O'Conner

Assistant Professor of Romance Languages-Spanish
Peninsular early modern/golden age literature and cultures; cultural
and intellectual histories; humanism; colonial Latin America

Nancy Paddleford

Professor of Music
piano; piano pedagogy

Kathleen L. Shea (on leave)

Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies, Curator of Natural
Lands
plant ecology and evolution; restoration ecology; agroecology

Ariel T. Strichartz (on leave)

Associate Professor of Romance Languages - Spanish
contemporary Latin American theatre and narrative; Argentine
theatre; literary food studies; memory studies

Kristina E. Thalhammer

Professor of Political Science
comparative politics; Latin American politics; political tolerance;
human rights

Alberto Villate-Isaza (on leave)

Associate Professor of Romance Languages - Spanish
Latin American colonial literature and historiography; social and
political theory of the Baroque; discourses of Latin American national
identity; 19th and early 20th-century Latin American literature