# Latin American Studies

*Director:* Alberto Ribas-Casasayas

The interdisciplinary minor in Latin American Studies (LAS) provides students with an understanding of the culture, society, and history of the nations of the Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking peoples in Latin America. The minor provides breadth and depth in the study of Latin America. It requires two foundational courses that offer an overall view of the major historical periods in Latin America, and offers specialized courses dealing with specific countries or themes. The minor prepares students to understand the connections between Latin America and Latin American immigrant communities in the United States and other parts of the world, and helps students gain an understanding of discipline specific or interdisciplinary research methods and analytical tools to investigate and analyze issues in Latin America. The minor serves as a foundation for graduate studies in Latin America Studies and other disciplines including anthropology, history, political science, and sociology. It provides an innovative opportunity for students seeking careers in business, government, international marketing, law, and nonprofit organizations.

## Requirements for the Minor

Students must complete the following requirements for a minor in Latin American studies: seven courses, with at least four upper-division courses from at least three departments. No more than two elective courses can be from the department in which a student majors. Two of the required courses are foundational courses that provide students with a comprehensive understanding of Latin America as a world region. Each of the foundation courses covers a major historical period.

**Foundational Course I**

Serves as an introduction to Latin American culture and civilization from the Native American experiences, through the Spanish Conquest, to the independence of Latin American nations. Note: The director may add new courses that fulfill this requirement.

Students must select one of the following courses:

* ANTH 185. Peoples of Latin America
* ANTH 186. Mesoamerican Prehistory
* HIST 166. Latin America: Empires
* SPAN 130. Survey of Latin American Literature I

**Foundational Course II**

Serves as an introduction to Latin American culture and civilization by focusing on the formation in the 19th century of nation states and the forces shaping 20th and 21st century experiences. Note: The director may add new courses that fulfill this requirement.

Students must select one of the following courses:

* HIST 95. Modern Latin America
* POLI 137. Politics in South America
* SPAN 131. Survey of Latin American Literature II
* SPAN 137. Latin American Cultures and Civilizations

**Language Requirement**

Successful completion of SPAN 100 or 101, or equivalent Spanish or Portuguese language proficiency demonstrated by passing an examination given by the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, or successful completion of one upper-division course in Latin American literature and culture taught in Spanish. Note: SPAN 100 and 101 do not count towards the seven required courses for the LAS minor.

**Electives**

Four electives (at least three of which must be upper-division) selected from three different departments. Only two electives can be from a student’s major. In lieu of one of the electives, juniors and seniors can design an independent study with the approval of the director of Latin American Studies and an affiliated faculty member. The courses that may be used to fulfill this requirement are:

## Anthropology Courses

ANTH 184. Religion and Culture in Latin America

ANTH 185. Peoples of Latin America

ANTH 186. Mesoamerican Prehistory

## Art History Courses

ARTH 152. Arts of Ancient Mexico: From Olmec to Aztec

## English Courses

ENGL 56. Global Literatures

ENGL 156. Global Literatures

## Environmental Studies Courses

ENVS 141. Environmental Biology in the Tropics

ENVS 144. Natural History of Baja

ENVS 146. Agriculture, Environment, and Development: Latin America

## History Courses

HIST 64. Central America

HIST 95. Introduction to the History of Modern Latin America

HIST 161. Modern Mexico

HIST 162. Argentina

HIST 163. Cuba and the Caribbean

HIST 164S. Seminar: The Catholic Church in Latin America

HIST 166. Latin America: Empires

HIST 169. Special Topics in Latin American History

HIST 196S. Seminar in Latin American History

## Modern Languages and Literatures Courses

SPAN 112. Mexican Culture

SPAN 113. The Revolution in Mexican Culture

SPAN 114. Culture and Society of the U.S.-Mexico Border

SPAN 130. Survey of Latin American Literature I

SPAN 131. Survey of Latin American Literature II

SPAN 132 - Hispanic Voices for Social Change

SPAN 135. Colloquium: Latin American Literature and Culture

SPAN 136. Contemporary Latin American Short Story

SPAN 137. Latin American Cultures and Civilizations

SPAN 139. Haunted Literature: Ghosts and the Talking Dead in Latin American Narrative

SPAN 140. Modern Latin American Literature I

SPAN 141. Modern Latin American Literature II

SPAN 145. Mid-20th-Century Latin American Literature

SPAN 147. Cinema, Politics, and Society in Latin America

SPAN 148. 20th-Century Latin American Women Writers

## Political Sciences Courses

POLI 136. Politics in Central America and the Caribbean

POLI 137. Politics in South America

POLI 147. Politics of Mexico

## Public Health Course

PHSC 170. Public Health in El Salvador

## Religious Studies Courses

RSOC 33. Maya Spirituality

RSOC 91. Native Spiritual Traditions

RSOC 136. Religion in Latin America

RSOC 139. Mexican Popular Catholicism and Gender

TESP 60. Hispanic Popular Religion

TESP 65. U.S. Hispanic Theology

TESP 109. Hispanic Spirituality: Guadalupe

TESP 165. Romero and the Salvadoran Martyrs

## Sociology Course

SOCI 135. Women and Social Change in Latin America

## Latinas/os Living Outside of Latin America Requirement

Students are required to complete one of the following courses.

Note: This requirement can also be fulfilled with a seminar/senior thesis course or an independent study course. The director may add new courses that fulfill this requirement.

ENGL 36. Introduction to Latino/a Literature

ENGL 136. Latino/a Literature and Cultural Studies

ENGL 137. Native American Literature

ETHN 20. Introduction to Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies

ETHN 112. Native Peoples of the United States and Mexico

ETHN 120. Mexican Immigration to the United States

ETHN 121. Chicana/Chicano Families and Gender Roles

ETHN 122. Chicana/Chicano Communities

ETHN 125. Latinas/os in the United States

ETHN 126. Latina/o Immigrant Detention and Incorporation in the Age of Terrorism

ETHN 165. Community-Based Research Methods

RSOC 12. Latinos and Lived Religion in the United States

RSOC 139. Mexican Popular Catholicism and Gender

SOCI 150. Immigrant Businesses in the United States

SOCI 180. Immigrant Communities

SPAN 133. Mexican American Literature

SPAN 176. Spanish in the U.S.

TESP 60. Hispanic Popular Religion

TESP 65. U.S. Hispanic Theology

TESP 109. Hispanic Spirituality: Guadalupe

THTR 14. Chicana/o and Native American Theatre

Students are strongly encouraged to focus on Latin American/Latino peoples and cultures for the experiential learning requirement in the new Core Curriculum. Students are encouraged to participate in a study abroad program in Latin America. Courses taken in these programs may be accepted as requirements for the minor. Students must meet with the director of the Latin American Studies program before enrolling in Latin American study abroad programs.