Latin American Studies

Latin American studies (LAS) is a gateway to the region and its cultures, politics and history. The major in Latin American studies allows students to engage with one of the most fascinating historical trajectories in the world, with diverse cultures where the traditional and the modern are always negotiating, and with the opportunity to participate in vibrant business, intellectual and political scenes. Latin America is a region at the forefront of policy reform, embedded in the complex networks of global economics, development, social engagement and cultural expression. Because of the region's importance, the LAS major provides key skills for today's jobs, providing knowledge about a region valuable for employers across different fields and industries.

A major or minor in Latin American studies is also an excellent complement to any other major program. Latin America is the location of major U.S. trade partners, and Latin American immigrants constitute the largest segment of market growth in the U.S. This makes the LAS major a great companion to a business degree. Pre-medical and public health students will find value in the fact that the growing Latino population and the diverse Latin American peoples are two major fields in public health and medical attention. Majors in international and area studies (IAS), political science, economics and other social sciences can complete their studies by becoming experts in one of the most economically and politically complex realities in the world, a true policy laboratory. Scientists of all disciplines work with the region's spectacular biodiversity. LAS students can attend study abroad programs across the region, earning credit toward graduation and exploring any field of study.

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The Major in Latin American Studies

The major in Latin American studies allows students to take courses across the university's disciplinary spectrum — in anthropology, art history, history, literature and culture, and political science — framed by courses on theoretical and methodological issues regarding Latin America. There is a close relationship between LAS and the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures.

Total units required: 33

All students must keep track of their progress through the Latin American studies major checklist.

Required courses:

- 3 units of introductory course work (LatAm 165C Survey of Latin American Culture). Students also pursuing a major in international and area studies may count the course for both programs.
- 3 units, at least, of courses in Latin American history
- 3 units, at least, of courses in Political Science related to Latin America
- 3 units, at least, of courses in Anthropology of Latin America
- 3 units, at least, of courses focused on Pre-Columbian cultures
- 9 units of elective credit at the 300 or 400 level (3 units of which may come from the Focus Argentina or the Focus Cuba program, provided the student completed the program in full.)
- 9 units of 400-level credits. 3 of these units must come from a designed "Latin American Seminar" course home-based in L45 (Latin American Studies) and taught by a core member of the LAS faculty. 3 of these units may come from LatAm 425 (Independent Study) or LatAm 486 Latin American Studies Thesis.

Regulations/requirements:

- Completion of all course work with a grade of C+ or higher; all courses for the major must be taken for a letter grade.
- Majors may bring a maximum of 6 units from a summer study abroad program, 9 units from a semester abroad program, and a maximum of 12 units from any combination of abroad programs. Study abroad guidelines for majors and minors in Latin American studies, with details of acceptable credit on each program, may be found on our website (http://lasprogram.wustl.edu/undergraduate/study-abroad).
• Only 300-level requirements may be fulfilled through study abroad programs. Survey of Latin American Cultures and 400-level courses must be taken in residence.

• Transfer students may petition to count courses from other universities, provided that they mirror required classes for the major. All transfer courses are subject to approval by the College of Arts & Sciences and by the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

• All prime LAS majors must complete a capstone experience. This requirement may be fulfilled by writing an Honors Thesis during senior year, completing a Special Project in the spring semester of senior year, or taking the three required courses at the 400 level on campus without any replacements. Students writing a thesis or a project must consult with the Director of Undergraduate Studies as early as junior year to discuss this option.

• No more than 3 units may be from directed readings, research or internships excluding the honors thesis.

Requirements:

• 3 units of introductory course work (LatAm 165C Survey of Latin American Culture). Students also pursuing a major in international and area studies may count the course for both programs.

• 3 units, at least, of courses in Latin American history

• 3 units, at least, of courses in Political Science related to Latin America

• 6 units of elective credit at the 300 or 400 level

• 3 units of 400-level credit, which must come from a designed “Latin American Seminar” course home-based in L45 (Latin American Studies) and taught by a core member of the LAS faculty

Regulations:

• Completion of all minor course work with a grade of C+ or higher; all courses for the minor must be taken for a letter grade.

• Independent study and research may not be counted toward the minor.

• LAS minors may count a maximum of 6 units from each study abroad program, and a maximum of 9 units from combined study abroad programs. Study abroad guidelines for majors and minors in Latin American studies may be found on our website (http://lasprogram.wustl.edu/undergraduate/study-abroad).

• Only 300-level requirements may be fulfilled through study abroad programs. Survey of Latin American Cultures and 400-level courses must be taken in residence.

• All advanced units must be unique to the Latin American studies minor (i.e., not counted toward any other major or minor).

• Transfer students may not transfer credits toward the Latin American studies minor.

Additional Information

Language Requirement for the Major in Latin American Studies: All majors in Latin American studies must complete 4 consecutive semesters of Spanish or Portuguese, regardless of their original placement. Study abroad programs may be counted as one of these semesters. Topics in Hispanic American Cultures (Span 380) and Latin American Literatures and Cultures (Span 343) may count for both a language requirement and for a 300-level elective, as long as they are not counting also for a Spanish major or minor.

Study Abroad: We strongly encourage students to study abroad. Study abroad information is located at: http://lasprogram.wustl.edu/undergraduate/study-abroad. For those students who do not study abroad in Latin America, an additional 3-unit course at the 300 or 400 level is required.

Senior Honors: Students who have maintained a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.65 or above may apply to work toward Latin honors by writing an honors thesis during senior year.

Minors

The Minor in Latin American Studies

The minor in Latin American studies allows students to obtain basic knowledge on Latin America and to systematize their course work and their abroad experiences in Latin America in a coherent program. This minor is an ideal program for students pursuing other majors with secondary interests in Latin America.

Total units required: 18

All students must keep track of their progress through the Latin American studies minor checklist.

Additional Information

Language Requirement for the Minor in Latin American Studies: All minors in Latin American studies must complete three consecutive semesters of Spanish or Portuguese, regardless of their original placement. Study abroad programs may be counted as one of these semesters. Topics in Hispanic American Cultures (Span 380) and Latin American Literatures and Cultures (Span 343) may count for both a language requirement and for a 300-level elective, as long as they are not counting also for a Spanish major or minor.

Study Abroad: We strongly encourage students to study abroad. Study abroad information is located at: http://lasprogram.wustl.edu/undergraduate/study-abroad. For those students who do not study abroad in Latin America, an additional 3-unit course at the 300 or 400 level is required.
Courses

Visit https://courses.wustl.edu to view semester offerings for L45 LatAm.

L45 LatAm 165C Survey of Latin American Culture
This class is an introduction to Latin American Studies. At the end of the semester, students are able to recognize some of the main issues in Latin American politics, history and culture, both in the region at large and in the specific regions and sub-regions within it. Students develop research tools to approach the study of Latin America. The class begins a discussion on the concept of Latin America and then proceeds to case studies regarding the cultures of different regions. Prerequisite: none. This class is required of majors and minors in Latin American Studies and fulfills some requirements of IAS majors.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S IQ: HUM, LCD BU: IS EN: H

L45 LatAm 301L Historical Methods: Latin American History
This is a small-group reading course in which students are introduced to the skills essential to the historian's craft. Emphasis is on acquiring research skills, learning to read historical works critically, and learning to use primary and secondary sources to make a persuasive and original argument. See Course Listings for current topics. Required for history majors. Preference given to history majors; other interested students welcome.
Same as History 301L
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L45 LatAm 3092 Indigenous Peoples and Movements in Latin America
An overview of Amerindian peoples, cultures, and contemporary socio-political movements in core indigenous regions of Latin America (the Maya highlands of Mexico and Guatemala, and the Andes, Chaco, and Amazon of South America). Expressions of indigenous cultural, linguistic, and social difference are considered in relation to histories of European colonialism and modern Latin American nation-building. Emphasis is placed on current dimensions of indigenous demands for territorial, political, and cultural rights in the context of global economic development, natural resource exploitation, military violence, and legal recognition of ethnic pluralism in some Latin American nation-states.
Same as Anthro 3092
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS, CD, SD A&S IQ: LCD, SSC Art: SSC BU: IS

L45 LatAm 3093 Anthropology of Modern Latin America
A survey of current issues in the anthropological study of culture, politics and change across contemporary Latin American and the Caribbean. Topics include machismo and feminismo, the drug war, race and mestizaje, yuppies and revolutionaries, ethnic movements, pop culture, violence, multinational business, and the cultural politics of U.S.-Latin American relations. Attention is given to the ways that anthropology is used to understand complex cultural and social processes in a region thoroughly shaped by globalization.
Same as Anthro 3093
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS, CD A&S IQ: LCD, SSC Art: SSC BU: IS EN: S

L45 LatAm 310C Ancient Civilizations of the New World
An examination of the Inca empire in Peru, and the Maya and Aztec empires in Mexico, through the inquiry into the roots, development, form, and evolutionary history of pre-Columbian civilization in each region from its earliest times to the rise of the classic kingdoms. Examples of respective artistic accomplishments are presented and discussed.
Same as Anthro 310C
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Art: AH BU: HUM

L45 LatAm 321C Introduction to Colonial Latin America
This course surveys the history of Latin America from the pre-Columbian civilizations through the Iberian exploration and conquest of the Americas until the Wars of Independence (roughly 1400–1815). Stressing the experiences and cultural contributions of Americans, Europeans and Africans, we consider the following topics through primary written documents, firsthand accounts, and excellent secondary scholarship, as well as through art, music and architecture: Aztec, Maya, Inca and Iberian civilizations; models of conquest in comparative perspective (Spanish, Portuguese and Amerindian); environmental histories; consolidation of colonialism in labor, tributary and judicial systems; race, ethnicity, slavery, caste and class; religion and the Catholic Church and Inquisition; sugar and mining industries, trade and global economies; urban and rural life; the roles of women, gender and sexuality in the colonies. Geographically, we cover Mexico, the Andes and, to a lesser extent, Brazil, the Southwest, Cuba, and the Southern Cone. Premodern, Latin America.
Same as History 321C
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD, SD A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, SD BU: HUM, IS

L45 LatAm 3220 Modern Mexico
This course is designed to provide students with an overview of the political, social, economic and cultural history of Mexico from the era of Independence (roughly 1815) to the present. Lectures outline basic theoretical models for analyzing historical trends and then present a basic chronological historical narrative.
Same as History 3220
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD, SD A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, SD BU: IS EN: H

L45 LatAm 322C Modern Latin America
Latin American history from Independence to the present. Topics covered include the Wars of Independence; slavery and indigenous people in new Latin American nations; postcolonial Latin American state and society; ideas of race and ethnicity in Latin America and the Caribbean; U.S.—Latin American relations; Peron, Vargas and Populism; the Mexican and Cuban Revolutions; the Cold War in Latin America; Latin American arts and popular culture; terror and violence under military dictatorships and popular resistance movements; and the left-turn in recent Latin American politics.
Same as History 322C
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S IQ: HUM, LCD BU: IS

L45 LatAm 326B Latin American Politics
This course is an introduction to the politics in Latin America, focusing on the trend toward the establishment of democracy. We examine the impact of political culture, economic development, and the legacy of authoritarian regimes on
contemporary politics. The course also reviews many of the most pressing challenges confronting governments Latin American governments: the role of the military in politics, the reform of political institutions, threats from radical guerrillas and drug traffickers, debt and economic restructuring, and relations with the United States. Country studies focus on Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Mexico, and Nicaragua. Prerequisites: 100-level introductory course in Political Science or its equivalent in History or IAS.
Same as Pol Sci 326B
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS & SIQ: LCD; Art: SSC; BU: IS

L45 LatAm 331 Hispanic Art/Arte Hispano
This course focuses on the most important movements, artistic expressions and its representatives of the art history of Latin America and Spain. From the pre-Columbian art of the Mayas, Aztecs and Incas, to the syncretism of Postcolonial Latin American art, the Mexican Muralism and the self-reconstruction portraits of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo to the Chicano Art in the U.S. From the Medieval paintings of religious Spain, to the criticism of the Spanish nobility by Diego Velazquez, to the Spanish Civil War of Guernica by Pablo Picasso, to the Surrealism of Salvador Dalí and Antonio Gaudi. The students visit the St. Louis and the Kemper Art Museums. Prerequisite: Span 308E. May be used for elective credit in the Spanish major or minor. In Spanish.
Same as Span 331
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH & SIQ: HUM, LCD; BU: IS; EN: H

L45 LatAm 3351 The Ancient Maya: Archaeology and History
This course focuses on the ancient Maya civilization because there are many exciting new breakthroughs in the study of the Maya. The Olmec civilization and the civilization of Teothuacan in the Valley of Mexico are considered as they related to the rise and development of the Maya civilization. The ancient Maya were the only Pre-Columbian civilization to leave us a written record that we can use to understand their politics, religion and history. This course is about Maya ancient history and Maya glyphic texts, combined with the images of Maya life from their many forms of art. The combination of glyphic texts, art and archaeology now can provide a uniquely detailed reconstruction of ancient history in a New World civilization.
Same as Anthro 3351
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS, CD & SIQ: LCD; SSC Arts: SSC BU: IS
EN: S

L45 LatAm 3352 Spanish-American Literature of the Long 19th Century
This survey examines the changing roles of literature and its creators during the period that saw the end of the powerful Spanish empire and the emergence of the political framework of independent nations we are familiar with today. Students are introduced to prominent themes such as independence writing, the experience of race in literature, romanticism, civilization vs. barbarism, the appeal of literature to popular classes, modernismo, the place of literature in nation building and in shaping national identity, and the idea of the past as present.
Prerequisite: Span 307D or permission of instructor; concurrent enrollment in Span 308E is allowed; completion of Span 308E is recommended. In Spanish.
Same as Span 3352
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH & SIQ: HUM, LCD, LS

L45 LatAm 335C Spanish-American Literature I
A survey of major figures and literary trends in Spanish America from 1492 to Modernismo (1880). Emphasis on the writings of either Colón or Columbus, Cortés, Bernal Díaz, Las Casas, Inca Garcilaso de la Vega and Aztec reactions to the Conquest in the early period and on Sor Juana in colonial times. After the period of independence from Spain (1810–24), the focus is on the literary representation of the making of the new nations, and cultural autonomy. Readings include chapters of a picaresque novel, the representation of dictatorship, civilization vs. barbarism, the gaucho epic, and 19th-century fiction. Lectures and class discussions of the readings; exams, papers, and short reports. Prerequisites: Span 307D; concurrent enrollment in Span 308E is allowed; completion of Span 308E is recommended. In Spanish.
Same as Span 335C
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD & SIQ: HUM, LCD, LS; BU: IS; EN: H

L45 LatAm 336C Spanish-American Literature II
A survey of major Latin American literary works focusing on canonical works of the 20th and 21st centuries in their cultural and historical contexts. The course includes discussions of major literary movements such as the avant-gardes, the Boom, and the post-Boom. Other topics may include the literary and cultural responses to revolution, dictatorship and the evolving definitions of Latin America. Authors may include Quiroga, Neruda, Guillén, Vallejo, Borges, Cortázar, Ruíz, Carpentier, García Márquez, Poniatowska, Fuentes, Ferré and others.
Prerequisites: Span 307D; concurrent enrollment in Span 308E is allowed; completion of Span 308E is recommended. In Spanish.
Same as Span 336C
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD & SIQ: HUM, LCD, LS; BU: IS; EN: H

L45 LatAm 343 Latin American Literatures and Cultures
How did Latin America become Latin America? This course explores the different inventions and reinventions of the region through its literatures and cultures. Beginning with the encounter of Europeans with America, students engage themes like colonization and colonialism, urban and rural cultures, nation formation, modernization, media and popular culture, as well as gender and race relations. Authors studied may include Colón, Sor Juana, Sarmiento, Neruda, Borges, García Márquez, or Morejón. Prerequisites: Spanish 308E or concurrent enrollment in 308E. Taught in Spanish.
Same as Span 343
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD & SIQ: HUM, LCD, LS; BU: IS; EN: H

L45 LatAm 356 Andean History: Culture and Politics
Since pre-Columbian times, the central Andean mountain system, combining highlands, coastal and jungle areas, has been the locus of multietnic polities. Within this highly variegated geographical and cultural-historical space, emerged the Inca Empire, the Viceroyalty of Peru — Spain’s core South American colony, and the central Andean republics of Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. Taking a chronological and thematic approach, this course examines pre-Columbian Andean societies, Inca rule, Andean transformations under Spanish colonialism, post-independence nation-state formation, state-Indian relations, reform and revolutionary movements, and neo-liberal policies and the rise of new social movements and ethnic politics. This course focuses primarily on the development of popular and elite
political cultures, and the nature and complexity of local, regional and national power relations.
Same as IAS 336
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS, CD A&S IQ: LCD, SSC BU: IS EN: S

L45 LatAm 382 Latin American DissemiNations: Migrations and Identities in the 20th and 21st Centuries
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, SD A&S IQ: HUM, SD EN: H

L45 LatAm 3824 Film and Revolution in Latin America
This class is a Writing Intensive course focused on the study of the way in which four landmark Latin American revolutions (The Independence Wars, The Mexican Revolution, The Cuban Revolution and The Bolivarian Revolution) are represented in cinema. Each one of these revolutions constitutes a unit of study, and students are expected to work with historical texts, films and works of film theory and criticism for each one of them. The course engages in subjects such as the difference between fiction and nonfiction films when representing history; the politics that underlie specific representations; the way in which cinema questions and revises ideas developed by historians; and the uses of film in creating popular views of history in Latin America. Students develop a research project comparing two revolutionary processes over the semester. Prerequisite: L97 IAS 165C (Survey of Latin American Cultures) for LAS majors. Otherwise none.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, WI A&S IQ: HUM, WI EN: H

L45 LatAm 3951 Blacks, Latinos and Afro-Latinos: Constructing Difference and Identity: WI History Seminar
Dominant discourses on Black-Latino relations focus on job competition, while a few others celebrate the future of an America led by "people of color." What is at stake in these narratives? How did we come to understand what is "black" and "Latino?" Students taking this course examine the history of African Americans’ and Latinos’ racialization under British, Spanish, and American empires, paying attention to both the construction of the racial "Other" by European elites, the reclaiming of identities by the racially marginalized through the Black and Brown liberation movements of the 1960s and 1970s, and the movements' impacts on black-Latino electoral and grassroots coalitions, mass incarceration of youth, and Afro-diasporic productions of hip-hop.
Same as History 39SL
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD, SD, WI A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, SD, WI BU: BA EN: H

L45 LatAm 4107 Latin America and the Rise of the Global South
The rise of the global south — and the reordering of global geopolitics, economics and cultural imaginaries — is characterized by progressive change and intense conflict. Economic growth coincides with the impacts of global warming, the assault on natural resources, the rise of new consumers and the entrenchment of deep inequalities. We also see the emergence of cultural and political formations that range from the horrific to the inspiring. Latin America is a central node in the region, we consider south-south articulations (theoretical, cultural, political-economic) between Latin America, China, Africa and India, and we reflect on the changing role, meaning and relationships of the United States in the region.
Same as Anthro 4102
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS, CD A&S IQ: LCD, SSC BU: IS EN: S

L45 LatAm 416 Latin American Theater
Survey of dramatic and theatrical currents from the late 19th century to the present. The course focuses on tracing the themes of nationalism, cultural identity, immigration, class displacement and the effects of consumerism in representative plays from the Rio de la Plata, Chile, Colombia and Mexico. The course studies manifestations of the sainete, the grotesco criollo, theater of the absurd, as well as the popular independent theater movements of the '60s and '70s. Theoretical works studied include those of Brecht, Piscator, Esslin. Authors studied: Dragun, Payro, Cossa, Wolff, Sanchez, Diaz, Carballido, Gambaro, Buenaventura. Prerequisites: Span 307D and Span 308E and at least two 300-level literature courses taught in Spanish. One-hour preceptorial for undergraduates only; in Spanish.
Same as Span 426
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, SD

L45 LatAm 4231 Contemporary Issues in Latin America
How do the institutional designs of contemporary democratic governments help us understand the nature and quality of representation? We concentrate on variations in the powers granted presidents by constitutions as well as the institutional determinants of whether executives are likely to find support for their policies in the legislature. In addition, we explore how incentives established by electoral laws influence the priorities of members of congress. Given all these variations in democratic institutional design, can voters go to the polls with the confidence that politicians will implement the economic policies for which their parties have long stood or which they promised in their campaigns?
Same as Pol Sci 4231
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS A&S IQ: SSC Art: SSC BU: IS

L45 LatAm 4240 Latin American Literature and Theory: Reading the State, Culture and Desire
In this course, we pair literary and theoretical texts in order to hone a way of reading in which theory and literature are mutually informative, provocative and inspiring. The idea of these loose groupings is not to prescribe a particular relationship between given literary and theoretical texts but rather is a way to begin negotiating the necessarily multiple relationships of theory and literature. These pairings come to seem more artificial over the course of the semester as we trace a network of relations that begins to look more and more like the Borgesian map that covered up the entire territory it described. The object of the course is, thus, not to define or prioritize a particular set of relations but rather to practice a way of reading literature theoretically and theory literarily, by which the strengths of both are allowed to come to the forefront in their complexity. Thematically, the course has several nuclei: the triangulation of State, culture and art (Piglia/Foucault, Burman/Agamben); a psychoanalytic approach to art as desire (Lispector/Lacan/Cixous); and finally, a third nucleus about which the first two commingle completely: "post-State," proliferating desire, libidinal economies wherein the State is anachronism and failure (Arlt/
and the connections between print media or print culture and the eve of the wars for independence to the eve of Mexican revolution (1800–1910). Several reasons make this period a rich backdrop for observing how symbolic communication through print, and it is easy to see why this period offers such a rich backdrop for observing how print and power fit into the landscape we now know as Latin America. We pay special attention to themes including writing as a legitimizing force, writing and nation building, and the intersection of print with war, race, identity formation, modernity and ideologies. Readings include archival materials, wartime and popular poetry, novels by authors such as Jorge Isaacs and Ignacio Altamirano, writings by Simon Bolivar and Domingo Sarmiento, and modernista poetry and prose. Historical and theoretical selections guide our analysis of primary sources.

Prerequisites: Span 307D, Span 308E and at least two 300-level literature courses taught in Spanish. One-hour preceptorial for undergraduates only; in Spanish.

L45 LatAm 425 Latin American Studies Capstone Project
For LAS majors who are completing a research project as their capstone.
Credit 3 units.

L45 LatAm 426 The Erotics of Violence in Latin America
Same as Span 4261
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM, LCD EN: H

L45 LatAm 428 Voice Into Print: The Art of Storytelling in Spanish-American Short Story
The short story has been a central part of the extraordinary originality and vitality of Spanish American writing, and it enjoys great popularity among scholars and general public alike. Integrating a wide range of complementary sources (critical essays, paintings, film), this course brings together the best examples of the genre that span over a hundred years of the history of Spanish American literature and exemplifies a variety of themes and forms: from the fantastic to the "magical-realist," from crime fiction to romance, from rural to urban. Special emphasis is placed on the topics of gender, ethnicity, religious syncretism, political resistance, and popular culture. Students familiar with the "canonical" works of Quiroga, Borges, Rulfo, Fuentes, Cortázár, García Márquez or Valenzuela discover many more vibrant voices representing a variety of national literatures: Sommers and Roa Bastos (Paraguay), Ponte, Bobes and Padura (Cuba), Vega and Ferré (Puerto Rico), Onetti and Peri Rossi (Uruguay). Significant selections of pertinent criticism and theory are required of graduate students. Prerequisites for undergraduate students: Span 307D and Span 308E and at least two 300-level literature courses taught in Spanish. One-hour preceptorial for undergraduates only; in Spanish.

Same as Span 4301
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM, LCD EN: H

L45 LatAm 430 Latin American Essay
Study of the principal movements and outstanding figures in the Spanish-American essay from the colonial period to the present. Sor Juana, Sarmiento, Alberdi, Martí, Rodó, Paz, Freire, Ortiz, Sabato, H.A. Muren. Prerequisites: Span 307D, Span 308E and at least two 300-level literature courses taught in Spanish. One-hour preceptorial for undergraduates only. In Spanish.

Same as Span 439
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Art: HUM

L45 LatAm 430 Print and Power in 19th-century Latin America
Open to advanced undergraduate and graduate students, this seminar covers one of the most fascinating periods in Latin America history and cultural production, spanning from the eve of the wars for independence to the eve of the Mexican revolution (1800–1910). Several reasons make this period and the connections between print media or print culture and power worthwhile. This long century was the most war-torn in the region's history. Not only did writers engage issues of war on what was almost a daily basis, but war generated a wealth of new modes of literature. Debates on the slave trade and abolition also occurred during the 1800s, and largely in writing. And while places such as Lima, Peru and Mexico City were established printing centers during the Iberian occupation of the Americas, true printing revolutions were not widespread until during and after the wars for independence. One of the results to emerge during the first third of the century was that writing and print media gave legitimacy to incipient republican states, wedding print to power in new ways. And by the end of the century, educators and state bureaucrats teamed up to push for public primary education and literacy as components of progressive, “civilized” nations. Add to this the visual technologies and an overall surge in new forms of symbolic communication through print, and it is easy to see why this period offers such a rich backdrop for observing how print and power fit into the landscape we now know as Latin America. We pay special attention to themes including writing as a legitimizing force, writing and nation building, and the intersection of print with war, race, identity formation, modernity and ideologies. Readings include archival materials, wartime and popular poetry, novels by authors such as Jorge Isaacs and Ignacio Altamirano, writings by Simon Bolivar and Domingo Sarmiento, and modernista poetry and prose. Historical and theoretical selections guide our analysis of primary sources.

Prerequisites: Span 307D, Span 308E and at least two 300-level literature courses taught in Spanish. One-hour preceptorial for undergraduates.

Same as Span 432
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Art: HUM

L45 LatAm 432 Latin American Poetry II
Survey of contemporary Latin American poetry, “postmodernismo” to the present. Poets studied include González Martinez, Vallejo, Neruda, “New Left” poets, Paz, Orozco, Piglia, Foucault, Agamben, Bolaño, Zizek, Lispector, Lacan, Cixous, as well as the films Garaje Olimpo and Historias mínimas. Prerequisites: Span 307D, Span 308E and at least two 300-level literature courses taught in Spanish. One-hour preceptorial for undergraduates only.

Same as Span 432
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM, LCD EN: H

L45 LatAm 443 The Inconvenient Indio: Imagining Indigenous Cultures in Peru and Bolivia
In the cultural history of the Andean nations, the Indio has always been a powerful yet perpetually unstable signifier, whose meaning is constantly redefined by non-Indians. An archaic residue for some, the bedrock of a new society for others, the Indio conjures contradictory imaginaries of articulation, combination, disjunction and metamorphosis that have shaped a wide range of debates: from assimilation and mestizaje in the context of nation-building and modernity, to the politicizing of ethnic identities in the context of immigration and globalization. Focusing on Peru and Bolivia, this course examines these cultural imaginaries and the debates in which they appear, as well as the models of community and identity they suggest. In doing so, we discuss topics such as the discourse of illness, indigenismo, transculturation, heterogeneity, violence and memory. Materials analyzed include poetry by César Vallejo and Carlos Oquendo de Amat; essays by José Carlos Mariátegui and Ángel Rama; José María Arguedas’s novel Los ríos profundos; Jorge Sanjinés’s film El Coraje del pueblo; and theatrical performances by Grupo Yuyachkani.

Prerequisites: Span 307D
L45 LatAm 4517 Anthropology and Development

The Bolivia-Brazil Project. This writing-intensive seminar examines the cultural politics of global "development" through an in-depth focus on Bolivia and Brazil. Brazil, a rising giant, has taken a central place in global energy and agroindustry and leads the Global South on the world stage. Bolivia, rich with natural gas, fuels Brazil and suffers collateral resource conflicts, yet inspires many through indigenous struggles to rethrive economy, nature and society. Both countries express changing global geopolitics repositioning Latin American economies along east-west (China-India-Africa) — as well as north-south (U.S./Europe) — axes. In this course we consider how global political economies linking Bolivia and Brazil are interwoven with change in public cultures, territorial orders and flows, environmental dislocations, nationalism and identity, and how social movement struggles gendered inequalities, poverty, racism, indigeneity and democracy. Students acquire a foundation in anthropological approaches to development theory and ethnography and in-depth knowledge of Bolivia and Brazil. Through independent case studies tied to the instructor's "Bolivia-Brazil Project," students gain skills in research and writing on the cultural, social and political complexities of this thing we call "development." Knowledge of Spanish and/or Portuguese and some prior knowledge of Latin America is encouraged, though not required. 

Same as Anthro 4517
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS, WI A&S IQ: SSC, WI BU: ETH EN: S

L45 LatAm 4533 Narratives of Fear: Violence in Latin American Literature

Same as Span 4533
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH Art: HUM

L45 LatAm 457 Gender and Modernity in Latin America

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the particular forms modernity assumes in Latin American countries and to the ways in which national cultures, identity politics and gender issues interweave during the 20th century. The course discusses three particular articulation of this topic: (1) Gender and the national question in Argentina: Peronism; (2) Gender and Visual Arts: Frida Kahlo; and (3) Gender and Ethnicity: Rigoberta Menchu. Through these iconic figures students are introduced to the specific features that characterized three very different but representative cultural scenarios in Latin America. In each case, the context for the emergence of these highly influential public figures is studied from historical, social and cultural perspectives. In order to explore the cultural and political significance of Eva Peron, Frida Kahlo and Rigoberta Menchu, the course utilizes literary texts (speeches, letters, diaries, etc.), visual materials (photography, films and paintings) and critical bibliography.

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L45 LatAm 4572 Primitivism and Modernity in Latin America

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L45 LatAm 460 Postmodern Narratives in Latin America

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L45 LatAm 461 Latin American Cultural Studies: Critical and Theoretical Approaches

The goal of the course is to provide students with critical and theoretical tools that could be used for the analysis of Latin American cultural history from a transdisciplinary perspective, from colonial times to the present. Some of the concepts to be discussed in class are: colonialism and coloniality, national culture, dependency theory, cultural antropofagia, lettered city, miscegenation, heterogeneity, hybridity, transculturation, peripheral modernity, media and mediation, postmodernity, postcoloniality, and collective memory.

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L45 LatAm 4611 Latin American Populism and Neoliberalism

A salient feature of Latin America in the 20th and early 21st centuries has been the recurrence of populism. Mass-based political and social movements animated by nationalist and reformist impulses dominated Latin American politics in the 1920s, 1930s–60s, and 1980s to the present. This course provides a general historical and theoretically informed analysis of the origins, internal dynamics, and outcomes of classical populist and neo-populist governments and parties. Among the notable populist and neo-populist cases examined include: Peronism in Argentina, Velasquismo in Ecuador, Cardenismo in Mexico, APRA in Peru, Vargasismo in Brazil, Garcia/Fujimori in Peru, Menen/Kirchners in Argentina, and Hugo Chávez in Venezuela. Issues pertaining to leader-follower relations, populist discourses, citizenship rights, populist gender and racial policies, labor and social reforms, and mass mobilization politics also are explored.

Same as IAS 4611
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S IQ: HUM, LCD EN: H

L45 LatAm 462 Latin America and the West

From the perspective of postcolonial theory, the course covers different aspects related to Latin America's cultural history, from the Discovery to the present. Some of the issues discussed in class are: the colonial encounter; Baroque culture and the emergence of Creole societies in the "New World," the connections between Enlightenment and nationalism, as well as the interweaving of "coloniality" and modernity. Prerequisite: Survey of Latin American Culture or an advanced-level course on Latin America.

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L45 LatAm 4622 Labor and Labor Movements in Global History

Focusing on the period from mid-19th century (industrial revolution) until the present neoliberal capitalist era, this course analyzes working class formation, organization, collective action, and politics on a worldwide scale. It seeks to explore the connections between historical and contemporary workers' movements in the global North and global South, eschewing national perspectives and global/local dichotomies. Special attention is given to Latin American workers and labor movements. In particular, it examines the influence of immigration, the role of export workers, the impact of radical ideologies, the development of labor relations systems, the nature of informal work, and recent struggles for workers' control. The principal aim of this course is to introduce students to the key topics and themes pertaining to global labor history.
These themes are varied and complex and range from workers’ struggles. The second half of the course we focus on the role played by the media in contemporary Latin American societies. Some of the cultural expressions analyzed in the course are music (rock, pop, rap), sports, film and video. Prerequisite: IAS 165C Survey of Latin American Culture. Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L45 LatAm 466 Geographies of Development in Latin America: Critical Perspectives and Contemporary Challenges

This course provides an overview to the geographies of development throughout Latin America. We begin by examining a variety of theoretical perspectives, definitions and critiques of “development.” We highlight the uneven processes of development at multiple, overlapping scales and the power imbalances inherent in much of development discourse. In the second half of the course we focus our considerations toward specific contemporary trends and development issues, utilizing case studies drawn primarily from Latin America. These themes include sustainability, NGOs, social movements, social capital, security and conflict, identity, ethnicity and gender issues, participatory development, and micro-credit and conditional cash transfers. Students acquire the critical theoretical tools to develop their own perspectives on how development geographies play out in Latin America. Same as IAS 4660. Credit 3 units. A&S: SS, SD A&S IQ: SSC, SD EN: S

L45 LatAm 474 Mexican Film in the Age of NAFTA (1990–2010)

Starting in the 1990s, as NAFTA came into effect, Mexico revitalized its film industry and managed to produce not only a somewhat sustainable market within the country, but also a set of recognized figures in acting (Salma Hayek, Gael García, Diego Luna), directing (Guillermo del Toro, Alfonso Cuarón, Alejandro González Iñárritu), and moviemaking in general (Emmanuel Lubezki, Rodrigo Prieto and others). This course explores the underlying processes that allowed for such a rebirth. The main focus of the course is to understand the contradictory impact of neoliberalism in film, understanding neoliberalism as the economic doctrine of unbridled free markets, and its social and cultural consequences. Paradoxically, neoliberalism allowed the industry to become financially and aesthetically viable, while becoming inaccessible to the lower classes in Mexico. The course mostly develops four of these processes: the undermining of nationalism as the main topic, the displacement of the target audience from the working classes, both rural and urban, to the urban middle class; the transformation of political cinema from the leftist films of the ‘70s to the conservative ideologies of neoliberal politics and the intersection of Mexican film to the global market of so-called “art house cinema.” Students compare films that have reached an international market with those viewed only within Mexico. In addition, students are introduced to critical approaches that allow them to appreciate these movies in the context of film aesthetics, social identities, and the relationship between film and economic development. Movies are shown outside of class in Spanish with English subtitles. The class is conducted in English. Written course work may be pursued in English or Spanish. No prerequisite. Same as Span 474. Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM, LCD EN: H

L45 LatAm 483 Bodily Injuries: Violence, Fear and Representation in Latin America

The course focuses on the definitions, uses and “languages” of violence in Latin America, particularly during the last decades of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century. Students are introduced to philosophical, ethical and political issues related to the existence of “structural” violence and to the problems connected to the symbolic representation of this phenomenon in literature, fictional/documentary films, and visual arts. One of the course’s objectives is to problematize the conceptualization of violence and to promote critical thinking about its emergence, significance and effects on local/global societies. Some of the topics analyzed are the body in its multiple manifestations (the body politic, the social body, the individual body, the text, the image, the event, the body of the corpse, etc.), the narrativization of violence (violence as discourse, documentation and fictional elaborations, violence and the media, violence and ideology, etc.), violence and the city, citizenry and otherness, bio-politics, etc. Finally, violence is presented in different contexts and associated to different activities (ordinary crime, narco-cultures, maras, political movements, domestic environments) and different situations (e.g., violence in rural areas, violence in the borderlands, violence and migration). In all cases the course calls for a reflection on the interrelations

L45 LatAm 463 Seminar on Urban Cultures in Latin America

The course focuses on the key role urban development and urban cultures have had in Latin America, with particular emphasis on contemporary times. The goal of the course is to discuss the connections between the formation and expansion of cities, the definitions of citizenship, and the role of modernity in the development of “high” and “popular” cultures within different historical and geocultural contexts. Particular attention is paid to the issues of race, class and gender. The course, which uses an interdisciplinary and comparative approach, also focuses on the phenomena of marginality, cultural resistance, nationalism and consumerism as well as on the role played by the media in contemporary Latin American societies. Some of the cultural expressions analyzed in the course are music (rock, pop, rap), sports, film and video. Prerequisite: IAS 165C Survey of Latin American Culture. Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM EN: H
between private/public spheres, gender politics, ideological/aesthetic values, and individual/institutional levels. The role of memory and emotions is emphasized as a crucial element for the construction/mobilization of subjectivity and for the elaboration of agendas that challenge the State's monopoly of legitimate violence and propose alternative and often perverse forms of association and mobilization at the margins of institutional configurations.

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L45 LatAm 485 Latin American Studies Thesis Preparation
This is the first course in the two-semester thesis for Latin Studies thesis writers. Enrollment requires approval of LASP and the undergraduate director.
Credit 3 units.

L45 LatAm 486 Latin American Studies Thesis
This is the second course in the sequence for Latin American Studies thesis writers. Enrollment requires completion of LatAm 485 and permission from LASP and the undergraduate director.
Credit 3 units.

L45 LatAm 488 Narrating Mexico City
The city has been one of the central topics of modern Mexican literature. Ever since the emergence of the modern capital at the end of the 19th century, urban culture became one of the central concerns of Mexican and Latin American intellectuals across the continent. With the emergence of the megalopolis and the new centrality of questions of violence, postmodernity and urban experience, Mexican literature and film have contributed, in the past 20 years, new ways to approach, discuss and narrate the city. This class seeks to tackle different meanings of Mexico City in the cultural discourse of Mexico, by exploring novels (Carlos Fuentes, José Emiló Pacheco, Juan Villoro), poems (Manuel Mapes Arce, Vicente Quirarte, Fabio Morábito), urban chronicles (Carlos Monsiváis, Elena Poniatowska, José Joaquín Blanco) and films (Amores perros, Todo el poder, Vivir mata).
Prerequisites: Span 307D, Span 308E and at least two 300-level literature courses taught in Spanish. One-hour preceptorial for undergraduates only. In Spanish.
Same as Span 488
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM, LCD EN: H

L45 LatAm 489 Cities of the Past Future: Literary Institutions and Peripheral Modernity in the Latin American Avant-garde
This class proposes a study of the Latin American avant-garde as a phenomenon of "divergent modernities." Authors discussed include Arqueles Vela, Manuel Maples Arce, Jorge Cuesta, Xavier Villaurrutia, Jorge Luis Borges, Oliverio Girondo, Roberto Arlt, Mario de Andrade, Oswald de Andrade, Manuel Bandeira, César Vallejo, Pablo Palacio, César Moro and José Carlos Mariátegui. Scholarship includes Peter Bürger, Matei Calinescu, Renato Poggioli, Rubén Gallo, Pedro Angel Palou, Beatriz Sarlo, Fernando Rosenberg, Haroldo de Campos, William Rowe and Roland Forgues. Prerequisites: Span 307D, Span 308E and at least two 300-level literature courses taught in Spanish. One-hour preceptorial for undergraduates. In Spanish.
Same as Span 489
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM, LCD EN: H