

Latin American Studies

The **Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies** offers Washington University students the opportunity to pursue a multidisciplinary focus on this region of the world while completing their PhD degree. The certificate combines discipline-based learning with cultural studies, thus allowing for a rigorous approach to Latin America's social, economic, and political history. At the same time, students are exposed to new theories and current debates on the topics of nation formation, governance, colonialism, development, regionalism, public health, modernization, globalization, and neoliberalism.

At the national level, programs in Latin American Studies date back to the late 1940s, when the area studies paradigm became central to the internationalization of academic focus in the context of the Cold War. Today, as globalization has made internationalization an even more pressing concern, Latin American Studies is part of a new need for the better understanding of other world regions. In fact, Latin American countries consistently play an important role within the intellectual and political spheres of the United States. Latin America is the single largest source of immigrants to the United States today. It contains the third-largest trade partner of the United States (Mexico); one of the most vibrant emergent economies in the world (Brazil); countries that have been at the core of U.S. foreign policy for decades (Colombia, Venezuela, Cuba, and the Andean region, for instance); and a vibrant population and culture that are increasingly the focus of U.S. students.

Application

Students are required to apply to be considered for the certificate program. Their applications are evaluated by the Graduate Certificate Committee. This application is submitted at the beginning of the student's doctoral courses in Arts & Sciences and requires a support letter from the director of graduate studies of the student's PhD home department or program. The chair of the Graduate Certificate Committee will forward recommendations for admission to the Office of Graduate Studies, Arts & Sciences, for final approval. All applicants to the certificate program are expected to be in good academic standing as defined by the Office of Graduate Studies, Arts & Sciences.

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Faculty

Core Faculty

Mabel Moraña

William H. Gass Professor in Arts & Sciences
PhD, University of Minnesota
(Romance Languages and Literatures)

Ignacio Sánchez Prado

Jarvis Thurston and Mona Van Duyn Professor in the Humanities
PhD, University of Pittsburgh
(Romance Languages and Literatures)

Eliza Williamson

Lecturer
PhD, Rice University
(Latin American Studies; Romance Languages and Literatures)

Faculty with Courtesy Appointments

Bret Gustafson

Professor
PhD, Harvard University
(Anthropology)

Ila Sheren

Associate Professor
PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
(Art History and Archaeology)

Miguel Valerio

Assistant Professor
PhD, Ohio State University
(Romance Languages and Literatures)

Faculty Specialized in Latin America

William Acree

Professor
PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
(Romance Languages and Literatures)

Sarah Baitzel

Assistant Professor
PhD, University of California, San Diego
(Anthropology)

J. Andrew Brown

Professor
PhD, University of Virginia
(Romance Languages and Literatures)

Rebecca Clouser

Lecturer
PhD, Indiana University
(International and Area Studies)

Brian Crisp

Professor
PhD, University of Michigan
(Political Science)

Javier García-Liendo

Associate Professor
PhD, Princeton University
(Romance Languages and Literatures)

Steven Hirsch

Professor of Practice
PhD, George Washington University
(International and Area Studies)

Stephanie Kirk

Professor
PhD, New York University
(Romance Languages and Literatures)

Tabea Linhard

Professor
PhD, Duke University
(Romance Languages and Literatures)

Diana Montaña

Assistant Professor
PhD, University of Arizona
(History)

Christina Ramos

Assistant Professor
PhD, Harvard University
(History)

Guillermo Rosas

Professor
PhD, Duke University
(Political Science)

Elzbieta Sklodowska

Randolph Family Professor in Arts & Sciences
PhD, Washington University
(Romance Languages and Literatures)

Professors Emeriti

David L. Browman

PhD, Harvard University
(Anthropology)

Pedro C. Cavalcanti

PhD, University of Warsaw
(Anthropology)

David Freidel

PhD, Harvard University
(Anthropology)

John F. Garganigo

PhD, University of Illinois
(Romance Languages and Literatures)

Joseph Schraibman

PhD, University of Illinois
(Romance Languages and Literatures)

Richard J. Walter

PhD, Stanford University
(History)

Degree Requirements

- Latin American Studies, Graduate Certificate

Courses

Visit online course listings to view semester offerings for L45 LatAm.

L45 LatAm 512 Studies in Literature of 16th and 17th Centuries: Colonial Masculinities /Masculinidades Coloniales

Same as L38 Span 512
Credit 3 units.

L45 LatAm 525 Latin American Studies Research

For LAS students who are completing a research project.
Same as L45 LatAm 425
Credit 3 units.

L45 LatAm 537 The Production of Culture: Jos Mara Arguedas and the Migrating Andes

Taking the oeuvre of writer, folklorist, and anthropologist José María Arguedas as a case study, this graduate seminar will examine the way 20th-century intellectuals dealt with material transformations in the production and circulation of cultures in the Andean region. Through the analysis of literary texts, ethnographies, journalism, practices of cultural promotion and recordings, we will explore the role of orality, writing and other, more recent technologies (such as the voice recorder, the radio, and music records), as well as that of capitalist markets and cultural commodification, in the configuration of public spheres in the Andes. Similarly, we will analyze the impact of the emergence of said public spheres on the imaginaries and materialities of nation, ethnicity, and the political dimension of culture. Conceptualizing immigration and urbanization as the key historical processes for our case study, the seminar will offer a historical and theoretical framework for understanding the transformations. rural and urban cultures in the Andean region region underwent during the past century, paying close attention to the classical debates these transformation generated in the field of Andean studies. This seminar will have a strong interdisciplinary approach, combining topics such as cultural production, intellectual and cultural history, media studies, culture history, and public sphere. Readings in English and Spanish; course taught in Spanish. Prereq: Graduate standing.
Same as L38 Span 537
Credit 3 units.

L45 LatAm 538 Literature and Modernity in 20th-Century Mexico

This class will develop a critical reading of the literary history of Mexico from the late Porfiriato to the year 2000. The course will focus on the way in which different genres (novel, short story, essay, chronicle, poetry) engage with four different moments of capitalist modernization in Mexico: The Porfirian reforms, the Mexican Revolution, the "Mexican Miracle" of the 1950s and 1960s and Neoliberalism. Each session will engage in the comparative study of representative texts of two and three authors, with key works of theory and criticism, in order

to understand phenomena such as cultural mediation, ideology, urbanization, technology, national identity, cosmopolitanism and the construction of literary institutions. Authors and movements include late MODERNISMO, the stridentist movement, Octavio Paz, Juan Rulfo, José Revueltas, the CASA DE LAGO movement, LA ONDA and the CRACK group. Prereq: Graduate Standing. In Spanish.

Same as L38 Span 538

Credit 3 units.

L45 LatAm 540 Baroque Intellectuals: Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz and Sigüenza y Gongora

The multifaceted intellectual and literary production of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz and Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora dominates the cultural landscape of seventeenth-century colonial Mexico. In this class we will examine representative works from both of these authors, addressing a wide variety of genres - history, theology, poetry, theater, scientific writing, autobiography and biography - to plot the contours of elite baroque culture. In bringing these two authors together in one class we will be able to examine in detail the preoccupations of these baroque intellectuals - their inferior status as criollos (Mexicans of pure Spanish descent), the challenges involved in disseminating their works, as well as the difficulties imposed by an absolutist state and orthodox religious power structure. We will also focus on the differences in their works and lives that sprang from their respective genders, taking a close look at the production of femininity and masculinity in colonial Mexico. This class will also strive to create a detailed socio-cultural and historical context in which to place the works of these two figures. Primary texts will include Paraíso occidental, Respuesta a Sor Filotea de la Cruz, Autodefensa espiritual, Infortunios de Alonso Ramírez, Teatro de virtudes políticas, Neptuno alegórico, Libra astronómica, Carta Atenagórica, as well as a selection of Sor Juana's poetry and villancicos. Secondary sources will include works by Foucault, Paz, Moraña, Merrim, More, Glantz and Ross. Graduate standing. In Spanish.

Same as L38 Span 540

Credit 3 units.

L45 LatAm 5549 Art of Mexico

This survey course draws from selected examples of art and architecture to tell the changing story of Mexico. Beginning with the Aztec and ending with contemporary works, this course chronologically traces artistic manifestations of beliefs, politics, and placemaking. Through movements, revolutionary moments, individuals, and trends, the course creates a portrait of Mexico that is multicultural, dynamic, and creative. Course themes include international relationships, diversity, identity, and politics. Prerequisites: L01 113, Intro to Western Art; L01 215, Intro to Modern Art; L45 165; or permission of instructor.

Same as L01 Art-Arch 3549

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Art: AH, GFAH BU: IS EN: H

L45 LatAm 5631 The Binational Condition: The Mexico-U.S. Relationship in Mexican History and Culture

From the 19th century onwards, the relationship between Mexico and the United States has been defined by intense tensions and contradictions. Closely intertwined by geopolitical engagement and integrations, mutual migration flows, and rich cultural exchange, both countries belong to a binational system with few equivalents around the world, which defines the lives of people living across North America. And yet, few people in the United States have access to a clear and rigorous understanding of the Southern neighbor, often leading to conflict at the political and social levels. This class explores this historically, from the early frictions caused by territory and slavery to the binational conditions of the present. The class emphasizes the Mexican perspective of the relationship, often erased in discussions from the U.S. From this perspective, the course will engage critical moments in the history of the relationships, such as the underground railroad to the South, the Mexican American War, the Guadalupe

Hidalgo treaty, and the Cold War. The class will also discuss the ways in which Mexico has influenced the United States culturally, from the impact of Mexican post-Revolutionary art in the New Deal to the rise of film directors like Alfonso Cuarón and Guillermo del Toro. Finally, the class will lay out the ways in which Mexicans and scholars of Mexican studies think about questions such as regional development, the border, immigration, and the Drug War. Prereq. L45 165D or prior coursework on Global Studies, Latin American Studies or American Studies. The course covers the seminar requirement for majors and minors in Latin American Studies.

Same as L45 LatAm 4631

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: ETH, IS EN: H

L45 LatAm 564 Nation and Desire in Latin America

The purpose of this course is to analyze the process of nation formation in Latin America, since the imaginaries of the "Creole nation" to the first half of the 20th century. Class discussion will encompass the study of theories on nation formation and nationalism as well as textual representations of national projects, such as Simon Bolivar' letters and discourses, selections from Facundo, Civilization and Barbarism by Domingo F. Sarmiento, selected texts by Andres Bello, Alfonso Reyes, et al, Ariel, by J. E. Rodo, Pedro Henriquez Urena's Seis ensayos en busca de nuestra expresion, Jose Vasconcelos' La raza cosmica, Jose Carlos Mariategui, Siete ensayos de interpretacion de la realidad peruana, Jose Marti's Nuestra America and other essays. Some of the main topics to be discussed are the leading role of Creole elites in the consolidation of national cultures, the marginalization of women as well as indigenous and Afro-Hispanic populations, and the role of nationalism in the shaping of modern societies. Colonialism, Occidentalism, liberalism, positivism, nationalism and modernity are some of the concepts that will be explored both theoretically and in their particular discursive usages. Finally, the concept of nation(alism) will be studied as a political/rhetorical device and as the resulting expression of agency, interest, and desire, in peripheral societies.

Same as L45 LatAm 464

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

L45 LatAm 5691 Citizenship in the Hot Seat. Migration and Borders in Latin America

This course is an introduction to concepts, interpretations, and debates related to different forms of human mobilization across borders, particularly in contemporary Latin America. However, class discussions will expand to other scenarios in order to contextualize the experience and characteristics of migration today. Some of the notions to be analyzed in connection to this topic are freedom of movement, citizenship, inequality, the labor market, borders, territoriality, and national security. Borders will be studied as material constructions (i.e., walls, wire fences, technological surveillance, funnel systems, and strategies of deterrence) and as conceptual/symbolic representations. In addition to migratory movements, other phenomena such as diaspora, exile, and forced displacements will also be introduced as they have developed in Latin America. Cultural and psychological aspects related to migratory experiences -- such as the role of memory and affect, individual and collective trauma, social effects of deportation, stereotyping, the role of race and gender, and so on -- will also be considered, as they constitute integral aspects of migratory studies. The course will be conducted in English as a combination of lectures, student presentations, and collective discussions of assigned readings. Fulfills the seminar requirement for Latin American Studies majors and minors. Prerequisite: L45 165D.

Same as L45 LatAm 4691

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: BA, IS EN: H

L45 LatAm 5885 Advanced Seminar: Medicine, Disease and Empire

This course examines the history of medicine in connection to the politics of colonialism and empire-building, spanning the sixteenth century through the twentieth century. Topics covered include: epidemic disease outbreaks (e.g. smallpox, cholera, malaria); the role of science and medicine in endorsing the "civilizing missions" of empires; tropical climates and tropical diseases as western constructs; tensions between western medicine and indigenous healing practices and beliefs; ideas of race and racism in science and medicine; modern advancements in sanitation and public health and their implementation overseas; and the historical roots of the modern global health movement.

Same as L22 History 4885

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM, IS EN: H
