

Latin American Studies

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Program of Study

Students majoring in Latin American Studies gain a thorough grounding in selected aspects of Latin American history, politics, economics, or related subjects; knowledge of one or more of the social sciences as they deal with Latin American materials; and competence in Spanish or Portuguese as a tool for further work. The B.A. program in Latin American Studies can provide an appropriate background for careers in business, journalism, government, teaching, or the nonprofit sector, or for graduate studies in one of the social sciences disciplines. Students more interested in the languages and/or literatures of Latin America may wish to consider the major in Romance Languages and Literatures.

Students in other fields of study may also complete a minor in Latin American Studies. Information follows the description of the major.

Program Requirements

Students majoring in Latin American Studies should complete the general education requirement in civilization studies with Latin American Civilization (LACS 16100-16200-16300) or Latin American Civilization in Oaxaca (SOSC 24302-24402-24502). Either of these sequences provides an excellent introduction to the program.

Depending on whether the student counts two or three Latin American civilization courses toward the general education requirement, the major requires either eleven or twelve courses. Students who use all three quarters of a Latin American civilization sequence to meet the general education requirement will complete an eleven-course major. Students who fulfill the general education requirement with two quarters of the sequence will count the third quarter of the sequence toward the major, for a total of twelve courses in the major. These courses include three in second-year Spanish or Portuguese, by registration or examination credit, plus registration for five courses dealing with Latin America; two courses in the social sciences chosen in consultation with the program adviser; and a B.A. Colloquium, in which the student completes a B.A. essay.

Of the five required courses on Latin America, at least four must be in the social sciences. Courses that focus primarily on disciplinary, methodological,

or comparative topics (e.g., international relations) may also be counted toward this requirement, provided the student successfully completes a paper or other major project on a Latin American theme. The course instructor must certify the completion of such a project by means of a form available from the Center for Latin American Studies.

Students participating in a study abroad program may petition to have courses accepted in partial fulfillment of requirements for the major.

B.A. Essay. All students who are majoring in Latin American Studies are required to write a B.A. essay under the supervision of a faculty member. The B.A. essay is due Friday of seventh week of Spring Quarter. Registration for the B.A. essay preparation course (LACS 29900) is optional. Students who do register for LACS 29900 may count this course as one of the five they must take dealing with Latin America. The grade students will receive for this course depends on the successful completion of the B.A. essay.

This program may accept a B.A. paper or project used to satisfy the same requirement in another major if certain conditions are met and with the consent of the other program chair. Approval from both program chairs is required. Students should consult with the chairs by the earliest B.A. proposal deadline (or by the end of their third year, if neither program publishes a deadline). A consent form, to be signed by both chairs, is available from the College adviser. It must be completed and returned to the College adviser by the end of Autumn Quarter of the student's year of graduation.

Third-Year Statement. In the course of their third year, students majoring in Latin American Studies consult with their preceptor, the program adviser, and appropriate faculty to begin defining a topic for the B.A. essay, and to identify a faculty adviser who will work closely with the student on the project. An informational meeting is held in Spring Quarter to explain and facilitate this process. By Monday of ninth week of Spring Quarter, each third-year student must submit a brief B.A. essay proposal that includes a statement of the topic and a list of proposed summer readings relevant to the project. NOTE: Students who plan to study abroad during Spring Quarter of their third year should meet with the program adviser before leaving campus.

B.A. Colloquium. The B.A. Colloquium in Latin American Studies (LACS 29801) is a yearlong course led by the preceptor and B.A. adviser. Fourth-year students are required to participate in all three quarters, although they register only once in Autumn Quarter. The colloquium assists students in formulating approaches to the B.A. essay and developing their research and writing skills, while providing a forum for group discussion and critiques. Graduating students present their B.A. essays in a public session of the colloquium during Spring Quarter.

Summary of Requirements

<i>General Education</i>		LACS 16100-16200 or SOSC 24302-24402
<i>Major</i>	0-1	LACS 16300 or SOSC 24502 (if not taken to meet the general education requirement)
	3	SPAN 20100-20200-20300* or PORT 20100-20200-21500*
	5	courses dealing with Latin America (four in the social sciences)
	2	courses in the social sciences**
	1	LACS 29801 (B.A. Colloquium)
	—	B.A. essay
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* *Credit may be granted by examination.*

** *These courses must be chosen in consultation with the program adviser.*

Grading. Each of the required courses for the Latin American Studies major must be taken for a quality grade.

Honors. Students who have done exceptionally well in their course work and on their B.A. essay are considered for honors. Candidates must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher overall and 3.25 or higher in the major.

Minor Program in Latin American Studies

The minor program in Latin American Studies provides students majoring in other disciplines the opportunity to become familiar with Latin American social, cultural, economic, and political history, and a major language(s) of the region. It can provide an appropriate cultural background for careers in business, journalism, government, teaching, or the nonprofit sector, or for graduate studies in one of the social sciences. The course of study is designed to be flexible so as to serve students in the humanities, social sciences, biological sciences, and physical sciences. The minor, which can be completed in one year, requires five to six courses, depending on how the student completes the general education requirement in civilization studies.

No courses in the minor can be double counted with the student's major(s) or with other minors; nor can they be counted toward general education requirements. They must be taken for quality grades and more than half of the requirements for the minor must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

Students should complete the general education requirement in civilization studies with Latin American Civilization (LACS 16100-16200-16300) or Latin

American Civilization in Oaxaca (SOSC 24302-24402-24502). Students who use all three quarters of a Latin American civilization sequence to meet the general education requirement will complete a five-course minor. Students who meet the general education requirement with two quarters of the civilization sequence will count the third quarter of the sequence toward the minor, for a six-course minor.

The minor requires two courses in Spanish or Portuguese at the level of the second year or beyond. Credit may be granted by examination for one of these courses. The minor also requires three Latin American content courses.

Students must submit a research paper treating a Latin American topic for one of their Latin American content courses. The research paper is of intermediate length (ten to fifteen pages) in a course with Latin American content. Each student is responsible for making appropriate arrangements with the faculty member. Completion of the course research paper must be demonstrated to the program adviser in Latin American Studies.

Students who elect the minor program should meet with the program adviser in Latin American Studies before the end of Spring Quarter of their third year to declare their intention to complete the program. The program adviser's approval for the minor should be submitted to the student's College adviser, on a form obtained from the College adviser, no later than the end of the student's third year.

The following groups of courses would comprise a minor in Latin American Studies. Other programs may be designed in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies. Minor program requirements are subject to revision.

Sample Five-Course Minor in Latin American Studies

SPAN 20100-20200 or PORT 20100-20200

Three Latin American content courses

Sample Six-Course Minor in Latin American Studies

LACS 16300

SPAN 20100-20200 or PORT 20100-20200

Three Latin American content courses

Faculty

F. Alvarez, F. de Armas, K. Austin, D. Borges, M. Carneiro da Cunha, R. de Costa, K. Fikes, P. Friedrich, S. Gzesh, J. Heckman, T. Herzog, T. Holt, M. Huanca, K. Jones, F. Katz, R. Kendrick, A. Kolata, E. Kourí, A. M. Lima, H. Lopes, M. C. Lozada, J. Lucy, A. Lugo-Ortiz, A. Menendez, S. Palmié, M. Santana, S. Sassen, J. Saville, P. Sereno, L. Sjaastad, R. Smith, R. Townsend, D. Tracy, M.-R. Trouillot, L. Voigt

Courses: Latin American Studies (LACS)

The LACS faculty selects classes each quarter that are accepted toward the major. For the most recent list, visit clas.uchicago.edu/degree/ctbo.html.

16100-16200-16300/34600-34700-34800. Introduction to Latin American Civilization I, II, III. (=ANTH 23101-23102-23103, HIST 16101-16102-16103/36101-36102-36103, SOSC 26100-26200-26300) *May be taken in sequence or individually. This sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies.* This course is an introduction to the history and cultures of Latin America (e.g., Mexico, Central America, South America, Caribbean Islands). Autumn Quarter examines the origins of civilizations in Latin America with a focus on the political, social, and cultural features of the major pre-Columbian civilizations of the Maya, Inca, and Aztec. The quarter concludes with consideration of the Spanish and Portuguese conquest and the construction of colonial societies in Latin America. Winter Quarter addresses the evolution of colonial societies, the wars of independence, and the emergence of Latin American nation-states in the changing international context of the nineteenth century. Spring Quarter focuses on the twentieth century, with special emphasis on the challenges of economic, political, and social development in the region. *This course is offered in alternate years. Autumn, Winter, Spring. Offered 2007-08; not offered 2006-07.*

20100/40305. The Inca and Aztec States. (=ANTH 20100/40100) For course description, see Anthropology. *A. Kolata. Spring, 2006.*

20107/30107. Slavery, Disease, and Race: A View from Brazil. (=HIST 26204) This course analyzes the interplay of slavery, disease, and racial ideologies, which is a major theme in nineteenth-century Brazilian history and one that suggests the need to seek broad comparative perspectives in such matters. We first examine how slavery divided the dominant classes in Brazil during the 1820s and early 1830s. We then discuss social perceptions of disease that emerged from epidemics of yellow fever and cholera in the 1850s. We finally see how yellow fever in the 1870s and 1880s meant death to European immigrants and a major obstacle to achieving a social configuration that valued the whitening ideal and excluded people of African descent from social and economic opportunities. *S. Chalhoub. Winter.*

20406/30406. History of Modern Spain (ca. 1808 to the 1980s). This course introduces the political, cultural, and social history of Spain from the Napoleonic wars (when the French invasion of Spain produced wars of “independence,” both in the peninsula and in the Americas) to the 1970s Spanish transition to democracy (which very significantly marked the beginning of a new democratic wave in the world). *M. Tenorio Trillo. Autumn.*

20530. Brazilian History and Culture through Film. This course uses movies to provide a survey of Brazilian history from colonial contact to the present. Through

lectures, discussions, and the screening of ten Brazilian films, we introduce Brazilian cinema by covering topics such as cannibalism, colonialism, slavery, nationalism, dictatorship, migration, and violence. *J. Goncalves. Summer.*

21207/31207. Literature and Social History. Brazilian novelists have sought to describe and interpret the history of the nation since independence. As is the case elsewhere, such novelists thought that writing fiction was to analyze social transformations, to debate the meaning of history, and to project the future of the nation. The course focuses primarily on the evidence regarding changes in the politics of social dominance prevailing in the period from slavery and paternalism to the worlds and meanings of “free” labor. We thus emphasize questions of race, class, and gender in the more general context of defining and setting the new limits of citizenship rights. *S. Chalhoub. Spring.*

22207/32207. Comparative Studies of Language Acquisition: Yucatec Maya. *B. Pfeiler. Spring.*

22808. Latina Narratives. This course studies Latina narratives from the late nineteenth century through the present. Texts may include Maria Amparo de Ruiz Burton's *The Squatter and the Don*, Jovita Gonzalez's *Dew on the Thorn*, Luisa Capetillo's *A Nation of Women*, Gloria Anzaldua's *Borderlands/La Frontera*, Cherrie Moraga's *Loving in the War Years*, Ana Castillo's *The Mixquiahuala Letters*, Rosario Ferre's *The House on the Lagoon*, Julia Alvarez's *In the Time of Butterflies* or *In the Name of Salome*, and Christina Garcia's *Dreaming in Cuba*. *S. Lewis. Autumn.*

24301/34302. From Liberalism to Neoliberalism in the Southern Cone: Argentina, Uruguay, and Chile in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. (=HIST 26203/36203) This lecture/discussion course introduces nineteenth- and twentieth-century social and economic history in the Southern Cone (i.e., Argentina, Uruguay, and Chile, with consideration of Paraguay for contrast). Students analyze processes of state building in the nineteenth century. We also examine the social bases of liberal, nationalist, socialist, and military governments in the twentieth century that led to the current conditions in the Southern Cone. *K. Jones. Spring.*

25303/35303. Human Rights: Alien and Citizen. (=HMRT 24701/34701, LAWS 62401) For course description, see Human Rights. *S. Gzesh. Winter.*

27901-27902-27903. Modern Spoken Yucatec Maya I, II, III. This course is a basic introduction to the modern Yucatec Maya language, an indigenous American language spoken by about 750,000 persons in southeastern Mexico. *J. Lucy. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

29700. Reading and Research in Latin American Studies. *PQ: Consent of faculty supervisor and program adviser. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Typically taken for a quality grade. Summer, Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

29801. B.A. Colloquium. *Required of Latin American Studies majors. Students register only once in Autumn Quarter but are required to participate in all three quarters.* This colloquium, which is led by the preceptor and B.A. adviser, assists students in formulating approaches to the B.A. essay and developing their research and writing skills, while providing a forum for group discussion and critiques. Graduating students present their B.A. essays in a public session of the colloquium during the Spring Quarter. *Register Autumn Quarter only; meets Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

29900. Preparation of the B.A. Essay. *PQ: Consent of faculty supervisor and program adviser. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Typically taken for a quality grade. Summer, Autumn, Winter, Spring.*