

Latin American Studies

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Program of Study

Students who major 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 who are 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.

Application to the Program. Students who plan to apply for the major in Latin American Studies should follow the guidelines below. An informational meeting is held each spring to describe the program and its requirements, as well as to explain and facilitate the application process.

- (1) As early as possible in their studies and in consultation with their College adviser and the program adviser, students should prepare a preliminary plan of study that would meet program requirements.
- (2) In their third year, students should choose a suitable faculty adviser to supervise the development of their B.A. essay project.
- (3) Students must then submit an application with a Third-Year Statement to the program adviser for approval. This statement is a brief proposal for their B.A. essay that identifies their research topic and includes a list of proposed summer readings that are relevant to the B.A. essay project. The deadline for submission of the Third-Year Statement is Monday of ninth week of Spring Quarter. NOTE: Students who plan to study abroad during Spring Quarter of their third year should meet with the program adviser before leaving campus.

Program Requirements

Students who are 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. These students should also complete three courses in second-year Spanish or Portuguese, by enrollment in courses or with examination credit, to meet the language requirement for the major. To meet requirements for the specialization in Latin American Studies, students must also take five courses that focus on Latin America or the Caribbean (at least four of the five must be in the social sciences) and two additional courses that cover any social science topic. All students who are majoring in Latin American Studies are required to participate in the B.A. Colloquium and to submit a B.A. essay.

As early as possible in their studies, students should obtain a worksheet from the program adviser that will assist them with course selection. Any LACS course will qualify as one of the five required courses. Courses that focus primarily on disciplinary, methodological, or comparative topics (e.g., international relations) may also be counted toward this requirement, provided that the student successfully completes a B.A. essay project with a Latin American theme. The course instructor must certify the completion of such a B.A. essay 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.

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.

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 a 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. essay project used to satisfy the same requirement in another major if certain conditions are met and with the consent of both program chairs. 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.

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

General Education 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 meets 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. Coronado, R. de Costa, S. Dawdy, P. Friedrich, K. Fikes, S. Gzesh, J. Heckman, T. Holt, D. Hopkins, 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. Rangel, M. Santana, S. Sassen, J. Saville, P. Sereno, A. Simpson, L. Sjaastad, R. Smith, M. Tenorio, R. Townsend, D. Tracy, M.-R. Trouillot, L. Voigt

Courses: Latin American Studies (LACS)

Each quarter the LACS faculty selects courses that meet requirements for 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 introduces 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 every year. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

27001-27002-27003. Spoken Nahuatl I, II, III. This course is a basic introduction to modern spoken and written Nahuatl, an indigenous American language spoken in Mexico. *J. Amith. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

27701/37701. Independence and State-Formation in Nineteenth-Century Latin America: New Research Perspectives. This course explores approaches to the political and institutional history of Latin America from 1810 to 1880. We emphasize the study of elections, citizenship, and the various elements contributing to the formation—or absence—of a public sphere in Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Mexico. *J. Meyers. Autumn.*

27702/37702. Identity, Ritual, and Music-Making in Brazil. *S. Rieley. Autumn.*

28801/38801. The Construction of Latin America: Cultural History and the Definitions of Latin America's Continental Identity. This course is a survey of a series of classic texts in the "cultural history" of Latin America, as this was defined during the middle decades of the twentieth century. Our purpose is to examine the manner in which this corpus contributed to an affirmation and definition of "Latin Americanness" in terms that were neither biological and racial—as in the Positivist era—nor militant and politicized—as in the period following the Cuban Revolution. *J. Meyers. Winter.*

28802/38802. Indigeneity and State Building in the Southern Cone: Argentina and Chile in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. This lecture/discussion course introduces the contributions of indigenous societies to shaping nineteenth- and twentieth-century economic, military, and social life in the Southern Cone. Students will analyze the frontier process in state building in the nineteenth century and the role of liberal, nationalist, socialist, and military governments in the twentieth century in disenfranchising and criminalizing indigenous peoples. *K. Jones. Spring.*

28803/38803. Poverty, Inequality, and Social Policy in Latin America. *R. Paes de Barros. Winter.*

28804/38804. National Allegories in Mexican and Brazilian Cinema: The Representation of History. *I. Xavier. Spring.*

28805/38805. Productividad estética de lo urbanos: La ciudad en el tiempo presente. *B. Sarlo. 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 students who are majoring in Latin American Studies. Students participate in all three quarters but register only in Autumn Quarter. 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. 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.*