

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 BA 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 BA 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 BA essay that identifies their research topic and includes a list of proposed summer readings that are relevant to the BA 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 must 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. To meet the language requirement for the major, these students must also complete three courses in second-year Spanish or Portuguese; eligible students may petition for credit. 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 BA Colloquium and to submit a BA essay.

As early as possible in their studies, students should obtain a worksheet from the program adviser that will assist them with selecting the five required courses. For a list of approved courses, visit the LACS website or consult with the Student Affairs Administrator

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.

BA Essay. All students who are majoring in Latin American Studies are required to write a BA essay under the supervision of a faculty member. The BA essay is due Friday of seventh week of Spring Quarter of the year of graduation. Registration for a BA 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 BA essay.

This program may accept a BA 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 BA 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.

BA Colloquium. The BA Colloquium in Latin American Studies (LACS 29801) is a yearlong course led by the preceptor and BA 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 BA essay and developing their research and writing skills, while providing a forum for group discussion and critiques. Graduating students present their BA 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 (BA Colloquium)
	–	BA essay
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* *Or credit for the equivalent as determined by petition.*

** *These courses must be chosen in consultation with the student affairs administrator.*

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 BA 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 must 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 petition 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 must 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.

Requirements follow for the minor program:

0–1	LACS 16300 or SOSC 24502 (if not taken to meet the general education requirement)
2	SPAN 20100-20200* or PORT 20100-20200*
<u>3</u>	courses dealing with Latin America
5–6	

* *Eligible students may petition for partial credit (for only one language course).*

Faculty

F. Alvarez, F. de Armas, K. Austin, D. Borges, T. Bruguera, R. Coronado, R. de Costa, S. Dawdy, P. Friedrich, K. Fikes, R. Gutiérrez, S. Gzesh, J. Heckman, T. Holt, D. Hopkins, M. Huanca, F. Katz, R. Kendrick, A. Kolata, E. Kourí, A. M. Lima, H. Lopes, M. C. Lozada, J. Lucy, A. Lugo-Ortiz, A. C. Melo, A. Menendez, S. Palmicé, M. Rangel, M. Santana, J. Saville, P. Sereno, R. Shoaps, A. Simpser, L. Sjaastad, R. Smith, M. Tenorio, R. Townsend, D. Tracy, M.-R. Trouillot.

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, CRPC 16101-16102-16103, HIST 16101-16102-16103/36101-36102-36103, SOSC 26100-26200-26300) *This sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies, and need not be taken in order.* This course introduces the history and cultures of Latin America (e.g., Mexico, Central and South America, and the 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 an analysis 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.*

20100/40305. The Inka and Aztec States. (=ANTH 20100/40100) This course is an intensive examination of the origins, structure, and meaning of two native states of the ancient Americas: the Inka and the Aztec. Lectures are framed around an examination of theories of state genesis, function, and transformation, with special reference to the economic, institutional, and symbolic bases of indigenous state development. This course is broadly comparative in perspective and considers the structural significance of institutional features that are either common to or unique expressions of these two Native American states. *A. Kolata. Not offered 2009–10; will be offered 2010–11.*

24501/34501. Human Rights in Mexico. (=HIST 29408/39408, HMRT 24501/34501, LAWS 62411) *PQ: Reading knowledge of Spanish and at least one prior course on Latin American history or culture.* This course examines human rights in Mexico in the contemporary period. We begin with an exploration of the religious and secular sources of Mexican concepts of human rights. We also explore the contemporary human rights movement through civil society responses to the 1968 massacre of students at Tlatelolco and the 1985 Mexico City earthquake. The second half of the course focuses on contemporary case studies, which may include labor rights, the rights of women and indigenous people, and issues of accountability and impunity. Readings are largely drawn from Mexican sources. *S. Gzesh. Not offered 2009–10; will be offered 2010–11.*

25303/35303. Human Rights: Alien and Citizen. (=HMRT 24701/34701, LAWS 62401) This course addresses how international human rights doctrines, conventions, and mechanisms can be used to understand the situation of the “alien” (or foreigner) who has left his or her country of origin to work, seek

safe haven, or simply reside in another country. If human rights are universal, human rights are not lost merely by crossing a border. We use an interdisciplinary approach to study concepts of citizenship and statelessness, as well as the human rights of refugees and migratory workers. *S. Gzesh. Winter.*

26500/36500. History of Mexico, 1876 to the Present. (=HIST 26500/36500)

From the Porfiriato and the Revolution to the present, this course is a survey of Mexican society and politics, with an emphasis on the connections between economic developments, social justice, and political organization. Topics include *fin de siècle* modernization and the agrarian problem; the Revolution of 1910; the making of the modern Mexican state; relations with the United States; industrialism and land reform; urbanization and migration; ethnicity, culture, and nationalism; economic crises, neoliberalism, and social inequality; political reforms and electoral democracy; the zapatista rebellion in Chiapas; and the end of PRI rule. *M. Tenorio, E. Kouri. Autumn.*

27900/47900 Modern Spoken Yucatec Maya I, II, and III.

This course is a basic introduction to the modern Yucatec Maya language, an indigenous American language spoken by about 750,000 people in southeastern Mexico. *Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

28210/48210. Colonial Ecologies. (=ANTH 28210/48210, ENST 28210)

This seminar explores the historical ecology of European colonial expansion in a comparative framework, concentrating on the production of periphery and the transformation of incorporated societies and environments. In the first half of the quarter, we consider the theoretical frameworks, sources of evidence, and analytical strategies employed by researchers to address the conjunction of environmental and human history in colonial contexts. During the second half of the course, we explore the uses of these varied approaches and lines of evidence in relation to specific cases and trajectories of transformation since the sixteenth century. *M. Lycett. Not offered 2009–10; will be offered 2010–11.*

29304/39304. Looking for History: Chronicles of Contemporary Latin America. (=ENGL 22907/42807, HIST 26205/36205)

This course focuses substantively on twentieth-century Latin American history, but also gives attention to the particular style of literary journalism or “chronicles” characteristic of the instructor’s own writings. In other words, this course explores *how* chroniclers of contemporary Latin American history produce this particular genre. Texts give an overview of the contemporary history of Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, with a full course session devoted to chronicles of Che Guevara. All work in English. *A. Guillermoprieto. Autumn.*

29600. The “Southern” Age of Revolution: The Independence of Latin America.

Between 1804 and 1844, mostly as a result of wars, most countries of Latin America became independent from France, Portugal, or Spain. This cycle of political and social upheaval received little attention from scholars of the so-called Age of Revolutions, even though it comprised the sole victorious slave rebellion in the history of the Americas (Haiti), the collapse of the world’s leading

producer of silver (Mexico), and the only case of an European empire shifting its epicenter to the New World (from the Portuguese to Brazil). This course not only focuses on the global dimension of Latin America's struggle for independence but also emphasizes the local dimensions of a series of conflicts tainted by class and ethnic issues as well. *L. Fernando Granados. 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. Autumn, Winter, Spring, Summer.*

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

29900. Preparation of the BA 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.*