

Latin American Studies

AN INTERDEPARTMENTAL MAJOR

Directors: *Renjilian-Burgy (Spanish)*, *Wasserspring^{A2} (Political Science)*

Advisory Committee: *Agosin (Spanish)*, *Elkins (Religion)*, *Guzauskyte (Spanish)*, *Levitt (Sociology)*, *McEwan^{A2} (Economics)*, *Oles (Art)*, *Osorio^{A2} (History)*, *Renjilian-Burgy (Spanish)*, *Vega (Spanish)*, *Wasserspring^{A2} (Political Science)*

The Latin American Studies major is designed to provide students with a broad understanding of the Latin American experience through an interdisciplinary program of study.

The Latin American Studies major at Wellesley offers a flexible, multidisciplinary concentration that promotes an understanding of the diverse cultural and historical development of Latin America over time. A central goal of this major is to allow students to acquire an in-depth multidisciplinary knowledge of the political, economic, historical, and cultural development of the major regions of Latin America: Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean Basin. In order to achieve these goals, courses in Latin American Studies are designed to familiarize students with classic works on Latin America, the ways in which various disciplines have contributed to understandings of its culture, politics and history, as well as with newer and challenging perspectives on the region. The Latin American Studies major emphasizes the acquisition of critical analytical skills for understanding and evaluating the diversity of realities in both past and present Latin America.

LAST 250 Research or Individual Study

Prerequisite: Two units of course work in Latin American Studies.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

LAST 250H Research or Individual Study

Prerequisite: Two units of course work in Latin American Studies.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 0.5

LAST 350 Research or Individual Study

Prerequisite: Open to Latin American Studies and Spanish majors.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

LAST 350H Research or Individual Study

Prerequisite: Open to Latin American Studies and Spanish majors.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 0.5

LAST 360 Senior Thesis Research

Prerequisite: By permission of department. See Academic Distinctions.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

LAST 370 Senior Thesis

Prerequisite: 360 and permission of department.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

Related Courses

For Credit Toward the Major

AFR 265 African-American Biographies

AFR 340* Seminar. Health, Medical Professionals, and the Body in the African Diaspora

AFR 341* Seminar. Neglected Africans of the Diaspora

ARTH 236 Art, Architecture, and Culture of the Ancient Americas

ARTH 338 Seminar. Topics in Latin American Art: Latin American Art on Display

CAMS 240/WGST 223 Gendering the Bronze Screen: Representations of Chicanas/Latinas in Film

ES 214/POL2 214* Social Causes and Consequences of Environmental Problems

ES 312/POL2 312 Seminar. Environmental Policy

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HIST 206 From Conquest to Revolution:
A History of Colonial Latin America

HIST 378 Seminar. Women and Social Movements in Latin America

POL2 204* Political Economy of Development and Underdevelopment

POL2 214/ES 214* Social Causes and Consequences of Environmental Problems

POL 2 307* Seminar. Women and Development

POL2 310* Seminar. Politics of Community Development

POL2 312/ES 312* Seminar. Environmental Policy

POL3 321* The United States in World Politics

POL3 332* Seminar. People, Agriculture, and the Environment

POL3 348* Seminar. Problems in North-South Relations

PSYC 347* Seminar. Culture and Social Identity

REL 226* The Virgin Mary

REL 326* Seminar. Liberation Theology

SOC 221* Globalization

SOC 231* The Sociology of Art, Media, and Culture—Comparative Perspectives

SOC 303* Comparative Perspectives on Religion and Politics

SPAN 253 The Latin American Short Story

SPAN 255 Chicano Literature: From the Chronicles to the Present

SPAN 259 Inhabiting Memory

SPAN 271 Intersecting Currents: Afro-Hispanic and Indigenous Writers in Latin American Literature

SPAN 307 Seminar. The Clothed and the Naked in Colonial Latin America

SPAN 320 Seminar. Topics in Cross-Cultural Hispanic Studies

SPAN 327 Seminar. Latin American Women Writers: Identity, Marginality, and the Literary Canon

WGST 216 Women and Popular Culture: Latinas as Nannies, Spitfires, and Sex Pots

WGST 223/CAMS 240 Gendering the Bronze Screen: Representations of Chicanas/Latinas in Film

WGST 326 Crossing the Border(s): Narratives of Transgression

Courses may be taken in the Program for Mexican Culture and Society in Puebla, Mexico and in approved programs in other Latin American sites. Courses focusing Latin America in the PRESHCO program in Spain or in other study-abroad programs can be counted with permission of the directors.

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Upon enrollment, the student must notify the instructor that the course is to be counted for Latin American Studies and that, as such, the student will be required to do a research paper which focuses on Latin America.

Requirements for the Major

The Latin American Studies major consists of 11 courses: two language courses and nine courses from the detailed list above. The language requirement normally consists of two Spanish courses at the 241 level or above. In exceptional circumstances when a student can demonstrate oral and written mastery of Spanish, she may be exempted from this requirement by taking an oral and written examination.

For the nine courses beyond the language requirement, students need to choose a concentration consisting of four courses taken in one of the following disciplines: art history, history, political science, sociology, or Spanish. (In special circumstances, students may petition the directors for an alternative field of concentration.) Overall, students must complete courses in at least three different disciplines. Out of the nine required units, at least two must be taken at the 300 level. At least one 300-level course must be in the student's field of concentration. It is also recommended that one 300-level course be a seminar.

Upon declaring the major, students must submit to the directors a plan of study for approval. In cases where the student's chosen concentration is in a discipline other than those of the directors, a second advisor in the student's field of concentration must also be arranged.

Students should note that those courses listed with an asterisk (*) above require that the student upon enrollment inform the instructor that the course is to be counted towards her Latin American Studies major. Students enrolled in these courses must complete a research paper on a Latin American theme.

Honors

The only route to honors in the major is writing a thesis and passing an oral examination. To be admitted to the thesis program, a student must have a grade point average of at least 3.5 in all work in the major field above the 100-level; the department may petition on her behalf if her GPA in the major is between 3.0 and 3.5. Students who are interested in writing an honors thesis in Latin American Studies should submit a proposal to the faculty committee by the end of their junior year. The proposal should include a description of the thesis project, a sample bibliography and a copy of the student's transcript. It is required that the student has already completed fundamental coursework in the area in which she proposes to do her honors work. See Academic Distinctions.

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Graduate Study

Majors may also apply to the Five-Year Cooperative Degree Program at Georgetown University in Latin American Studies. This program enables the student to apply upper-level Latin American Studies courses taken at Wellesley toward the master's degree at Georgetown. A summer of study at the Universidad Catolica in Santiago, Chile, taken during an undergraduate summer, and a year of academic work at Georgetown are required to earn the master's degree at Georgetown in one year. Interested students should contact the directors of Latin American Studies or the Center for Work and Service.

Study Abroad

Qualified juniors are encouraged to spend a semester or a year in Latin America. Both the directors and the Study Abroad Office have information to help students select appropriate sites for study in Latin America. Wellesley offers several opportunities, including its own program in Puebla, Mexico, as well as exchange opportunities in Argentina. In addition, the Wellesley Internship Program in Costa Rica (WICR) offers funded summer internships to qualified students. To be eligible for study in Latin America, a student is expected to have completed a course at or above SPAN 241.