

Latin American Studies

AN INTERDEPARTMENTAL MAJOR

Directors: *Renjilian-Burgy (Spanish)*, *Wasserspring (Political Science)*

Advisory Committee: *Agosin (Spanish)*, *Elkins (Religion)*, *Fox Tree (Anthropology)*, *Guzauskyte^A (Spanish)*, *Levitt (Sociology)*, *McEwan (Economics)*, *Oles (Art)*, *Osorio (History)*, *Renjilian-Burgy (Spanish)*, *Rubio^A (Spanish)*, *Vega^A (Spanish)*, *Wasserspring (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 consists of 11 courses: 2 language courses and 9 courses from the detailed list below. 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 9 courses beyond the language requirement, students need to choose a concentration consisting of 4 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 3 different disciplines. Out of the 9 required units, at least 2 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 below with an asterisk(*), 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.

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. Additionally, 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.

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.

Majors may also apply to the Five-Year Cooperative M.A. 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.

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 340* Health and Healthcare Professionals in the African Diaspora

ANTH 260 Cultures and People of Mesoamerica

ARTH 237 Mexican Art, Architecture and Visual Culture, from the Conquest to Today

ARTH 338 Seminar. Topics in Latin American Art: Public Art in the Americas

ECON 241 Poverty and Inequality in Latin America

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

HIST 207 Contemporary Problems in Latin American History

HIST 378 Seminar. Women and Social Movements in Latin America

POL2 204* Political Economy of Development and Underdevelopment

POL2 207 Politics of Latin America

POL2 214* Social Causes and Consequences of Environmental Problems

POL2 310* Seminar. Politics of Community Development

POL2 312* Seminar. Environmental Policy

POL2 353 Seminar. The Politics of Contemporary Cuba

POL3 323* International Economic Policy

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

POL4 342* Seminar. Marxist Political Theory

PSYC 347* Seminar. Culture and Social Identity

REL 221* Catholic Studies

SOC 221* Globalization

SOC 303* Comparative Perspectives on Religion and Politics

SPAN 257 The Word and the Song: Contemporary Latin American Poetry

SPAN 265 Introduction to Latin American Cinema

SPAN 267 The Writer and Human Rights in Latin America

SPAN 275 The Making of Modern Latin American Culture

SPAN 279 Jewish Women Writers of Latin America

SPAN 323 Seminar. Modern Mexico

SPAN 329 Seminar. Chile: Literature and the Arts

WOST 216 Women and Popular Culture: Latina Nannies and the Latina Sex Pot

WOST 223 Gendering the Bronze Screen: Representation of Chicanas/Latinas in Film

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

Also: 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.

* 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.