Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Fall 2015
Graduate Course Booklet

Academic Director: Dr. Belkys Torres
Phone: (305) 284-1854
Email: b.torres@miami.edu
Website: www.as.miami.edu/ias
Facebook: www.facebook.com/UMLASP
MASTER OF ARTS IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS*

The Master of Arts in Latin American Studies consists of thirty (30) credit hours of study, organized as follows:

- **The required introductory seminar, LAS601 (formerly 501) (3 credits)**
- **The required research design seminar, LAS602 (formerly 502) (3 credits)**
- **A disciplinary research methods course (3 credits)**
  A research methods course may be chosen from any available and accessible research methods courses available at the University of Miami. However, it must be appropriate to the course of study chosen by the student and requires approval of the degree director.
- **Two regional fundamentals courses (6 credits)**
  Regional fundamentals are those courses that have a clear regional or sub-regional focus (e.g. Andean Region; the Caribbean; South America; Central America; Southern Cone; Brazil; South Florida).
- **Three electives (9 credits)**
  Electives may be taken from any pre-approved co-listed, cross-listed, or core LAS courses at the 600-level or above, or with the approval of the degree director.
- **Two pre-candidacy thesis courses (6 credits)**
  Students are required to write a master’s thesis, create an equivalent capstone project, or pass a comprehensive exam. The latter two options require the approval of the degree director. For each of these options, a committee consisting of at least three faculty members is required.

Students must demonstrate advanced language competence in Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, or French by passing a course taught in the target language at the 600-level or above, or by passing a language competency exam.

We strongly encourage our students to travel in the region, either through faculty-led travel courses offered by our program, or courses offered by other programs and departments at the University of Miami.

*Please note that the LAS course numbering for graduate-level courses has changed to conform to new university requirements. Beginning in the 2015-2016 academic year, graduate courses in the LAS Program will have a 600-level designation or higher. This should not affect students’ transcripts, degree conferrals or course curriculum requirements. Please contact Dr. Belkys Torres, Academic Director, with questions or concerns on this matter.*
FALL SEMESTER COURSE OFFERINGS

• GRADUATE-LEVEL COURSES

LAS 601 1S: INTERDISCIPLINARITY IN LAS (FORMERLY LAS501)
Instructor: Yaffe
Room: MM 125 D
T 3:30-6:00pm
Interdisciplinary methods and politics of Latin American and Caribbean area Studies.
This course is combined with GEG 625 and INS656.

LAS603 46: MAJOR ISSUES IN US-LATIN AMERICA RELATIONS (FORMERLY LAS503)
Instructor: Moss
Room: MM 125 K
W 2:00-4:30pm
Political, economic and strategic aspects of U.S.-Latin American relations; the historical experience and contemporary issues, including the influence of extra-regional parties such as Europe and China.
This course is combined with INS 566 and INS 638.

LAS620 1P: ENERGY AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH IN LATIN AMERICA
Instructor: DePaula
Room: MM 125 D
T 11:00am-1:30pm
This course aims to address the main challenges of the energy sector in Latin America. Although the region has a diversified energy portfolio, the Latin American energy industry is still struggling with infrastructural aspects and lacks a solid regulatory framework and policies, both of which are necessary to boost its competitiveness and thus generate sustainable growth in the region.
This course is combined with INS 656.

LAS640 4J: US INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION
Instructor: Steinfatt
Room: Communication Intl 4051
W 5:00-7:30pm
Course description forthcoming
This course is combined with COS 545 and COS 645.

LAS650 2T: 20TH CENTURY LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE
Instructor: Arce
Room: MM 101
T 5:00-7:30pm
Course description forthcoming. **Taught in Spanish.**

This course is combined with SPA 636

**LAS660 1E: EU & RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA**

*Instructor: Roy*

*Room: MM125 D*  

*M 12:30-3:00pm*

This graduate seminar, open to advanced undergraduates, will be composed of thematic blocs. The first one will open with a consideration of the fundamental structural and historical dimensions of the European Union (topic #1), with special attention to the EU’s development, its essence and theoretical framework, and considered as a potential model and point of reference for regional integration. Then an analysis of its main institutions (topic #2) and policies (topic #3), with a focus on the common agricultural, the development aid programs and the impact of the euro, all in a comparative setting, will follow. **This course is combined with INS 594 and INS 638.**

- **LAS APPROVED COURSES**

  *Courses approved for MA students*

**COM 602 5T: METHODS OF COMMUNICATION RESEARCH**

*Instructor: Carcioppolo*  

*Room: Wolfson 4026*  

*R 5:00- 7:30pm*

A comprehensive survey of communication research methods. Qualitative and quantitative approaches will be explained and practiced.

**COM 605 48: THEORIES AND METHODS FOR MASS COMMUNICATION RESEARCH**

*Instructor: TBD*  

*Room: Communication Intl 4051*  

*M 4:00 - 6:40pm*

Course description forthcoming.

**POR 635 H: PORTUGUESE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS**

*Instructor: Butterman*  

*Room: TBD*  

*MW 3:35-4:50pm*

Portuguese 635 is designed to enhance graduate student's communication skills in the Portuguese language, at the low advanced level of proficiency. It is intended principally for those students who will be carrying out research in areas related to the Lusophone world.
**POR 691: BRAZILIAN WOMEN WRITERS IN TRANSLATION (WRI)**

*Instructor: Butterman*

*Room: MM 125 D  MW 5:00-6:15pm*

Brazilian Women Writers in Translation is an interdisciplinary, multimedia cultural studies course designed to examine gender, culture, and social justice in contemporary Brazilian society (1900 to present). Opening a wide window to meet our objective of studying representations of, by, and for Brazilian women, this course will include selected readings from a number of literary genres, films and documentaries, oral history and testimonials, and finally, Brazilian popular music. This course is taught in English.

*This course is combined with LAS 301 and POR 310.*

**SOC 613 7S: QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS**

*Instructor: Belgrave*

*Room: TBD  R 3:30 - 6:00pm*

In-depth introduction to qualitative, inductive methods, with emphases on grounded theory and action research. Focus on qualitative interviewing (including focus groups) and participant observation for the collection of data in naturalistic social settings, with simultaneous data analysis; qualitative methods in mixed-methods research introduced. Covers ties between methods and theory, additional basic methods used in qualitative research, and typical analytic approaches; touch on more esoteric methods; study current issues and debates relevant to this set of approaches to generating knowledge.

**INDEPENDENT STUDY COURSES**

**LAS 605 01: INTERNSHIP IN LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES (FORMERLY 505)**

*Arranged*

*On-site experience in business, governmental organization, or non-profit organization dealing with Latin America and/or the Caribbean. Permission from the Academic Director is required in order to receive credit for an internship.*

**LAS 606 01: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT (FORMERLY 506)**

*Arranged*

*On site experience in a civic engagement project in Latin America or the Caribbean.*

**LAS 694 01: DIRECTED READINGS IN LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES (FORMERLY 594)**

*Arranged*

*Independent Study leading to an original piece of research, or creative project on a Latin American or Caribbean interdisciplinary topic.*
**LAS697 01: READINGS FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE EXAM (FORMERLY 597)**

*Arranged*

Readings for graduate students who are preparing for comprehensive examinations.

**LAS 810 01: PRE-CANDIDACY THESIS CREDITS (FORMERLY 710)**

*Arranged*

The student working on his/her master's thesis enrolls for credit, before student has been admitted to candidacy. Credit is not awarded until the thesis has been accepted. Six (6) credits of 810 are required for MA students in Latin American Studies.

**LAS 820 01: RESEARCH IN RESIDENCE (FORMERLY 720)**

*Arranged*

Used to establish research in residence for the thesis for the master's degree after the student has enrolled for the permissible cumulative total in LAS 810 (usually six credits). Credit not granted. May be regarded as full time residence.