Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Fall 2014 Course Booklet

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LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Latin American Studies offers an interdisciplinary approach to learning about the cultures and societies of Latin America and the Caribbean. Undergraduate courses are offered in departments as diverse as Anthropology, Architecture, Economics, International Studies, Marketing, Musicology, and Religious Studies. The major in Latin American Studies is designed for the student who wants to acquire background knowledge about the area or who is interested in some aspect of Latin American and Caribbean affairs, such as government, business, journalism, or education. Students are strongly encouraged to spend at least one semester abroad on a program with a Latin American and Caribbean Studies component.

Honors students are encouraged to take classes at the 500 level as they are pre-approved for honors credit.

MAJOR IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES—BA OR BS

(36 credits)

- LAS 101 “Introduction to Latin American Studies” (3 credits)
  - NB: As of the Fall of 2012, LAS101 will replace LAS201.
- Language competency (6 credits)
  - 214 level or higher in French, Spanish, Portuguese, or equivalent in Haitian Creole.
  - And 105 (or equivalent) in a language other than the one used to satisfy the above requirement (or in an indigenous language of Latin America, with approval of the Program Director)
- Latin American History (6 credits)
- Six LAS combined courses or LAS-approved electives, 12 credits of which must be completed at the 300-level or higher (18 credits)
- Senior Seminar or Independent Study (3 credits)
  - LAS 494 Independent Study in Latin American Studies - culminates in a project on a Latin American subject carried out under the supervision of a faculty member. The student’s proposal for a project subject must be approved by the Program Director within the first week of the semester of the independent study.
  - LAS 501 Senior Seminar
- Study abroad is strongly encouraged.
- To complete the major, students must maintain a C- or better for all major courses, with an overall GPA of 2.0.
**MINOR IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES**

(15 credits)

- Courses must fall outside the department of the student’s major
- LAS 101 “Introduction to Latin American Studies” or LAS 290 “Andean Societies” (3 credits)
- Four LAS combined courses or LAS-approved electives (12 credits)
- A grade of C- or better is required in the minor with an overall GPA of 2.0.
- Must satisfy the general requirements for either the College of Arts and Sciences or School of Business

**DUAL BA/MA DEGREE IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES (FILAS)**

In this highly selective Honors Program, students follow a rigorous, accelerated curriculum to complete a dual degree (B.A./M.A.) in Latin American and Caribbean Studies in five years. Working with UM faculty in various academic disciplines, FILAS participants design individualized curricula. In addition to the regular general education course requirements of the College of Arts and Sciences, FILAS students choose one focus track for their most advanced courses. For multi-disciplinary preparation, students choose courses that focus on Latin America and the Caribbean from the following categories (at least ten of these courses must be taken at the Master’s level):

- One gateway seminar in Latin American Studies
- Two history courses
- Two international studies courses
- Two economics courses
- Three advanced languages and literatures courses
- Seven courses in study abroad
- Two courses as internship/co-op credits
- Three courses above the 300 level (third-year) in a range of disciplines
- Ten courses in one focus track:
  - Social sciences, Literature and culture, Public Health, Environmental Studies, Communication-New Media, History
- Seminar paper/thesis based on an original research project
- Presentation of findings of thesis in meeting of the UM Center for Latin American Studies in their final semester.

**Note:** At least 10 of these courses must be at the master's level.

150 total credits
Fall Semester Course Offerings

Undergraduate-Level Courses

LAS101 33: Introduction to Latin American Studies

Instructor: Hughes
Room: MM125K  
MW 11:15-12:30

This course will focus inter-disciplinarily on the culture, history, politics, economy, geography, and societies of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as on the ways in which scholars have studied the region. The course objectives are to provide a contextual and theoretical understanding of the region’s issues and peoples so that you can build a program of future study, critically assess information that you receive from mass media and elsewhere, dismantle common stereotypes and generalizations, and engage in self-directed inquiry about the region. The course format is a discussion-based seminar, so attendance and preparation in advance of class are essential. Grades are structured to encourage and reflect the participatory nature of your learning experience. LAS101 replaces LAS201.

LAS301 P: History of Argentina

Instructor: Elena
Room: TBA  
TR 11:00-12:15

How did Argentina, a country that was supposedly among the world’s wealthiest nations, become a land of perennial economic crisis, political instability, and widening poverty? Countless observers have posed variations on this question. This class, however, moves beyond the pat answers associated with this “riddle” to examine Argentinean history from fresh perspectives. The course readings and lectures will introduce students to the latest research on cultural expression, environmental and technological change, race relations, and global capitalism in Argentina. In the process, students will gain a deeper appreciation for how Argentina’s history can help us better understand key challenges facing the 21st century world. No prior expertise in Argentinean or Latin American history is required.

This course is combined with HIS 356 P.

LAS301 Q: After 1492 - Cultures of Globalization and Resistance in Colonial L.A.

Instructor: Diaz-Balsera
Room: TBA  
TR 12:30-1:45

The colonization of indigenous peoples in the New World entailed their insertion by Spain into global socio-economic circuits and a planetary Catholic communitas. A significant part of this colonialist labor was attempted not only by military force but also through the more subtle powers of representation yielded by extensive inquiries into indigenous cosmographies, histories and traditions. The course--interdisciplinary in its sources and approach--will examine historical narratives, legal documents, art works, visual artifacts, poems and testimonies in which knowledge about Amerindians was deployed, debated, and resisted by Spanish, indigenous, criollo, and mestizo cultural agents. The course will emphasize the struggle for producing defining images of indigenous peoples in colonial Mexico and Peru.

This course is combined with SPA 322. Course is taught in Spanish, with some readings in English.
LAS301 S: HISTORY OF THE CARIBBEAN

Instructor: Ramsey
Room: TBA

This course will introduce students to major topics, debates, and themes in Caribbean history from the fifteenth to the early nineteenth centuries. Analyzing primary source documents, images, and objects will be a particular emphasis of our work throughout the semester, and the class will visit the UM Libraries Cuban Heritage Collection and Special Collections, as well as the Lowe Art Museum to examine and discuss archival resources and artifacts connected to our studies.

Areas of focus over the course of the term will include the dynamics of fifteenth-century Amerindian societies; the Columbian “encounter” and Spanish conquest of the Caribbean; piracy in the Spanish Caribbean by the British, French, and Dutch; the establishment by those powers of permanent colonial settlements in the region and the institution of the plantation complex based on the production of sugarcane through the labor of enslaved Africans. We will closely examine histories of slave resistance and rebellion, focusing in particular on the revolts in the French colony of Saint-Domingue that in 1804 culminated in the founding of Haiti, the second independent nation in the Western hemisphere after the United States. We will explore the shifting ways in which the Caribbean can be defined as a region over the course of these histories, and examine the centrality of the Caribbean to larger world histories of colonialism, capitalism, slavery and emancipation, migration, religious transformation, republicanism, and nation-state formation — in short to the making of the modern world. In-depth discussion and the development of critical thinking and writing skills will be emphasized throughout.

This course is combined with HIS 317S and AAS 290.

LAS301 J: CULTURE, LANGUAGE, AND IDENTITY IN SPANISH-SPEAKING SOCIETIES

Instructor: Lynch, Aguiló Mora
Room: TBA

This course implicates language and language use in the construction of local, national, and global identities in contemporary Spanish-speaking societies. The cultural, ideological, political, and social dimensions of Spanish language variation are explored, and cultural production is brought into analysis. Particular emphasis is placed on language policy issues, societal attitudes, cultural imaginaries, and assumptions about the Spanish language in bilingual areas of the Spanish-speaking world, e.g. Spanish/Catalan in Spain, Spanish/English in the US, Quechua/Spanish in Perú, Guarani/Spanish in Paraguay. Facets of ethnicity, gender, power, globalization, and the Internet are highlighted.

This course is combined with SPA 422, and SPA 322. Course taught in Spanish.
LAS321 39: LATIN AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTS
Instructor: Suman
Room: MM125K
MW 5:00-6:15
A comprehensive course on Latin American and Caribbean environmental issues in their political, economic, and social dimensions.

This course is combined with ECS 372, ECS572, and LAS 520.

LAS330 Q: SPIRITUAL HEALING
Instructor: Maldonado
Room: TBA
TR 12:30-1:45
Miraculous and nonmedical healing is often accused of being superstitious and bogus, particularly when it comes in conflict with scientific knowledge, biomedical practices, and government regulation. In spite of this religious healing today has garnered increasing visibility and legitimacy. This course explores an inter-disciplinary discussion of religious healing in the Americas with an emphasis on healing practices in numerous religious traditions and controversies surrounding faith healing.

This course is combined with REL300.

LAS350 P: THE CULTURES OF SPANISH AMERICA
Instructor: Pardo
Room: TBA
TR 11:00-12:15
Historical survey of the arts, letters, science, and political and social institutions in the Spanish-speaking Americas.

This course is combined with SPA 303. Course taught in Spanish.

LAS350 R: LATIN AMERICAN ART AND CULTURE
Instructor: Devine Guzman
Room: TBA
TR 2:00-3:15
Cultural issues in the Portuguese-speaking world. Topics include media, religion, language in society, popular and mass culture, the arts, immigration, social movements, race, ethnicity, and gender. Writing credit. May be repeated for credit if topics vary.

This course is combined with POR322, POR591, and LAS503. Course taught in Portuguese.
LAS350 T: INTRODUCTION TO CUBAN MUSIC

Instructor: Murciano

Room: TBA  

TR 5:00-6:15

A survey of Cuban Music from the early European settlement to the present. Course addressed African and Caribbean influences and the amalgamation into new national styles, as well as current musical activity on the island and in expatriate communities.

This course is combined with MCY333.

LAS360 7U: GOVERNMENT IN METROPOLITAN AREAS

Instructor: Gonzalez

Room: TBA  

R 6:25-9:05

This course will introduce the student to the organization and functions of counties and municipalities in the United States. On occasion guest speakers will be featured. We will examine Miami-Dade County as a concrete example of the course content.

This course is combined with POL343.

LAS370 4H: GLOBAL MEDIA

Instructor: Hughes

Room: TBA  

W 3:35-6:15

An analysis of issues and practices surrounding globalization, regionalization, and global/local as they relate to media industries, journalism, and communication.

This course is combined with CNJ511 and LAS503.

LAS491 3J: IMMIGRATION REFORM – THE CURRENT DEBATE

Instructor: Armony, Uscinski

Room: TBA  

M 5:00-7:30

This is a unique experience that will include high-profile guest speakers (members of Congress, former governors, public officials, media analysts, and political activists). It will be an interactive course taught by Professors Armony and Uscinski, and two renowned professionals with extensive experience in United States politics. The course encourages active student participation through social media. We will examine the debate on immigration including both documented and undocumented workers. The course examines the impact of recent waves of immigration on U.S. society, market, workforce, education, media, culture, healthcare, and law enforcement.

This course is combined with LAS 591, POL491, AMS338, and INS410.
LAS494 01: INDEPENDENT STUDY IN LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES

Instructor: Torres
Room: Arranged

Independent study leading to a thesis, original piece of research, or creative project on a Latin American or Caribbean subject.

GRADUATE-LEVEL COURSES

LAS501 5S: POLITICS AND SOCIETY IN CONTEMPORARY LATIN AMERICA

Instructor: Smith
Room: MM125K
R 3:30-6:00

This course assumes a basic knowledge of Latin American politics, and is designed to foster deeper understanding of political processes in the region and to provide an overview of key debates among political scientists specializing in Latin America. We discuss issues related to democratic consolidation, political participation, representation and governance.

This course is combined with INS 580 and POL 584.

LAS502 1S: RESEARCH DESIGN IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Instructor: Yaffe
Room: MM125K
T 3:30-6:00

Interdisciplinary research methods and skills in Latin American and Caribbean studies. This course is part of the required LAS core.

LAS503 1S: POLITICS, SOCIOLOGY, AND ECONOMY IN CONTEMPORARY BRAZIL

Instructor: Smith
Room: MM125D
T 3:30-6:00

The social, economic, cultural transformations shaping Brazilian politics. In addition to visiting Rio de Janeiro and Salvador, there will be seminars with Brazilian academics and social and political activists.

This course is combined with INS 586 and POL598.
LAS 503 4H: Global Media

*Instructor: Hughes*

*Room: TBA*  

W 3:35-6:15

An analysis of issues and practices surrounding globalization, regionalization, and global/local as they relate to media industries, journalism, and communication.

This course is combined with CNJ511 and LAS370.

LAS 503 46: Major Issues in US-Latin America Relations

*Instructor: Moss*

*Room: MM125K*  

W 2:00-4:30

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.

LAS 503 1R: Travels in Latin America

*Instructor: Elena*

*Room: TBA*  

T 2:00-4:30

The societies of Latin America have long captivated the attention of explorers seeking wealth and conquest, scientific knowledge and religious conversion, and other encounters with the region’s landscape and diverse peoples. These adventurers have journeyed enormous distances to unlock the continent’s mysteries, traversing its remote jungle and mountainous areas as well as its sprawling urban centers. This seminar examines the experiences of foreign and domestic travelers over the course of the last two centuries in Latin America. Course readings include travelogues, memoirs, collections of letters, and secondary sources. Seminar members will look carefully at the shared assumptions and divergent experiences of travelers in the past – and in the process, develop a richer understanding of present-day forms of travel and the business of tourism.

This course is combined with HIS 551 1R.

LAS 503 1T: Geography of South Florida – Metropolitan Miami

*Instructor: Kanai*

*Room: TBA*  

T 5:00-7:30

This course provides interdisciplinary perspectives on the urbanization of South Florida and on Miami’s urban milieu. The course uses the case of Metropolitan Miami to introduce and illustrate a range of basic concepts in urban studies.

This course is combined with GEG552 and URB201.
**LAS503 ST: GLOBAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

*Instructor:* Rodriguez  
*Room:* TBA  
*R 5:00-7:30*

The link between migration and development is a pressing issue in policy and academic debates. However, students seldom have the opportunity to address this issue systematically. This course addresses this complex issue through the analysis of global and regional migration trends, the causes and implications of the process, its links to other transnational processes and global politico-economic structures, and the manifold social and economic strategies launched by the migrants once they move across borders. These issues are examined through critical, research-based interdisciplinary interpretations on the links between migration and development.

For more information, please contact Dr. Rodriguez at margarita.rodriguez@miami.edu

*This course is combined with INS599.*

**LAS503 R: LATIN AMERICAN ART AND CULTURE**

*Instructor:* Devine Guzman  
*Room:* TBA  
*TR 2:00-3:15*

Cultural issues in the Portuguese-speaking world. Topics include media, religion, language in society, popular and mass culture, the arts, immigration, social movements, race, ethnicity, and gender. Writing credit. May be repeated for credit if topics vary.

*This course is combined with POR322, POR591, and LAS350. Course taught in Portuguese.*

**LAS520 39: LATIN AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTS**

*Instructor:* Suman  
*Room:* MM125K  
*MW 5:00-6:15*

A comprehensive course on Latin American and Caribbean environmental issues in their political, economic, and social dimensions.

*This course is combined with ECS 372, ECS572, and LAS 321.*
LAS591 3J: IMMIGRATION REFORM – THE CURRENT DEBATE

Instructor: Armony, Uscinski
Room: TBA

This is a unique experience that will include high-profile guest speakers (members of Congress, former governors, public officials, media analysts, and political activists). It will be an interactive course taught by Professors Armony and Uscinski, and two renowned professionals with extensive experience in United States politics. We will examine the debate on immigration including both documented and undocumented workers. The course examines the impact of recent waves of immigration on U.S. society, market, workforce, education, media, culture, healthcare, and law enforcement.

This course is combined with LAS 491, POL491, AMS338, and INS410.

LAS 505 01: INTERNSHIP IN LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES

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 594 01: DIRECTED READINGS IN LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES

Arranged

Independent Study leading to an original piece of research, or creative project on a Latin American or Caribbean interdisciplinary topic.

LAS597 1U/1G: READINGS FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

Arranged

Readings for graduate students who are preparing for comprehensive examinations.

LAS 710 0: PRE-CANDIDACY THESIS CREDITS

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 710 are required for MA students in Latin American Studies.

LAS 720 0: RESEARCH IN RESIDENCE

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 710 (usually six credits). Credit not granted. May be regarded as full time residence.
**SUMMER SESSION I—UNDERGRADUATE COURSE**

**INS321 51: Political Economy of Human Trafficking**

*Instructor: Mahajan*

*Room: TBA  
Program Dates: May 19th – June 25th, 2014*

The implications of the globalization of trade, production, finance, and culture on equity, social welfare and the quality of democratic institutions and practices in both the Global North and the Global South.

**SUMMER SESSION II—GRADUATE COURSES**

**LAS503 32: Drug Trafficking**

*Instructor: Bagley  
Program Dates: June 30th – August 6th, 2014*

The political economy of the U.S.-Latin American drug trade in the 20th Century along with the dynamics of the U.S.-led war on drugs through the first years of the Twenty First Century.

This course is combined with INS543.

**LAS503 59: INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

*Instructor: Rodriguez  
Program Dates: June 30th – August 6th, 2014*

The link between migration and development is a pressing issue in policy and academic debates. However, students seldom have the opportunity to address this issue systematically. This course addresses this complex issue through the analysis of global and regional migration trends, the causes and implications of the process, its links to other transnational processes and global politico-economic structures, and the manifold social and economic strategies launched by the migrants once they move across borders. These issues are examined through critical, research-based interdisciplinary interpretations on the links between migration and development.

This course is combined with INS599.