Latin American & Latino Studies Option

The Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS) major provides students interested in Latin American and Latino history, culture, and language with valuable interdisciplinary skills. Because this is an interdisciplinary program, students will enroll in courses in Modern Languages & Literatures and History & Philosophy. Students may also take courses with relevant content from other departments such as Sociology & Anthropology, Political Science, and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. The LALS major complements other fields of study: health care, government, agriculture, engineering, history, literature, political science, sociology, international business, and more. The major strengthens the skill-sets of students who wish to become more competitive in the Spanish-speaking job market, both in Latin America and in the United States. A major in LALS will prepare students for the close relationship developing between Latin American and the United States in trade agreements, the growing number of immigrant laborers, and the expansion of Latino communities in the United States with significant political and economic power.

The equivalent of four semesters of Spanish language is required. Students with prior experience in Spanish language or heritage speakers may have some requirements waived. Students interested in the LALS major should consult with LALS faculty in the Department of Modern Languages & Literatures immediately upon their decision to fulfill the major so that they can ascertain the language requirements that are appropriate for them.

Required Courses

Language Requirements (15 credits)  

Students must demonstrate proficiency in a language (other than English) spoken in Latin America by completing one of the following:

- Coursework. Successfully complete the equivalent of two years of college language classes plus one advanced grammar or writing course.
- Placement Exam. Score must be equivalent to coursework level described above.
- Experience to be approved by LALS advisor.

Some examples of languages include Spanish, Portuguese, Nahuatl, Quechua, Creole, and Garifuna.

Foundation courses (4 credits)

HSTR 130D Latin American History 3

Area Requirements (24 credits)

6 credits must be in HSTR and 6 credits in SPNS. The other 12 credits may come from courses in the list below or from courses with relevant content from any other field or combination of fields approved by an LALS faculty adviser.

HSTR 430 Latin Amer Social History  
HSTR 431 Race in Latin America  
HSTR 432 Colonial Latin America  
HSTR 433 Latin American Perspectives  
HSTR 434 Gender in Latin America  
HSTR 436 Armed Conflict Mod Lat Am  
PSCI 423 Politics of Development  
SOCI 485 Political Sociology  

SPNS 250 Spanish for Healthcare Professionals  
SPNS 329 Early Cultures of Latin America  
SPNS 330 Modern Cultures Latin America  
SPNS 332 Contemp Latin Amer Literature  
SPNS 333 To Infinity and Beyond: Jorge Luis Borges  
SPNS 335IH Travel in Latin Am Lit & Film  
SPNS 350 US Latino Cultures  
SPNS 351 US Latino Literature  
SPNS 352IH US Latino Text and Cinema  
SPNS 361 Latin American Text and Cinema  
SPNS 371 Latin America in Focus  
SPNS 416 Latin America: Culture and Revolution  
SPNS 430 Latin Amer Perspectives  
SPNS 445 Hispanic Caribbean: Cuba, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic  

Research Requirement (3 credits)

Choose one (must focus on Latin American or Latino Studies theme):

HSTR 490R Undergraduate Research  
ML 490R Undergraduate Research  
SPNS 470R Seminar: Hispanic Literature

Experiential Learning (1-3 cr)

Choose one:

ML 497 Teaching Language for Proficiency  
SPNS 196 Service/Experiential Learning  
SPNS 296 Service/Experiential Learning  
SPNS 396 Service/Experiential Learning  
SPNS 496 Service/Experiential Learning  
Las Tías youth center in León, Nicaragua  
Health Clinic in León, Nicaragua  
Other opportunity approved by LALS advisor

Summary of Requirements

Total credits: 47-49  
Language requirements: 15  
Foundation course: 4  
Area requirements: 24  
Research: 3  
Experiential Learning: 1-3
Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Times was used instead of Adobe Garamond Pro.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.