

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 five 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) 15

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 course (3 credits) 3

HSTR 130D Latin American History

Area Requirements (24 credits) 24

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.

ARTH 310	Art and Architecture of Ancient Mesoamerica
GH 353	The U.S.-Mexican Border: History, Politics and Culture
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 435	Latin America: Human Rights
HSTR 436	Armed Conflict in Modern Latin America

HSTR 438	Latin American Nature in History and Culture
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	U.S. Latino Text & 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 438	Latin American Nature in History and Culture
SPNS 445	Hispanic Caribbean: Cuba, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic

Research Requirement (3 credits) 3

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

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

Experiential Learning (1-3 cr) 1-3

Choose one:

SPNS 196	Service/Experiential Learning
SPNS 296	Service/Experiential Learning
SPNS 396	Service/Experiential Learning
SPNS 496	Service/Experiential Learning

Other opportunity approved by LALS advisor

Summary of Requirements

Total credits: 46-48

Language requirements: 15

Foundation course: 3

Area requirements: 24

Research: 3

Experiential Learning: 1-3