LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

http://www.as.miami.edu/las

Dept. Code: LAS

Introduction

Latin American Studies offers an interdisciplinary approach to learning about the politics, economics, cultures, and societies of Latin America and the Caribbean. Undergraduate courses are offered in African Studies, American Studies, Anthropology, Architecture, Art and Art History, Biology, Communication, Economics, Geography, History, Journalism, International Studies, Marketing, English, Modern Languages and Literatures, Music, Musicology, Political Science, Religious Studies, Sociology, and Women’s and Gender 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, law, business, research, journalism, education or public health. Students are strongly encouraged to spend at least one semester abroad on a program with a Latin American and/or Caribbean Studies component.

Educational Objectives

The goal of the BA in Latin American Studies is to acquire, advance and disseminate knowledge of the history, literature, culture, politics, economics, and natural and social sciences of the regions within an interdisciplinary framework. This program also places special emphasis on the languages and cultures of Hispanophone, Francophone and Lusophone Americas, including the transnational study of Latin Americans, Caribbeans and their descendants in the United States. Students should leave the program with the following:

- the analytical and methodological tools needed to conduct interdisciplinary research;
- the ability to read, write and think critically about primary and secondary sources;
- a general knowledge of the different regions that comprise Latin America, the Caribbean and their Diaspora as well as a critical understanding that the geographic, political, and cultural boundaries that have traditionally defined the “area” as an object of study are not isomorphic and are connected to the interests of European and North American powers;
- a critical understanding of the competing ways in which Latin American and Caribbean peoples have represented themselves paying particular attention to race/ethnicity, class, gender and sexuality, language, religion, migration, transculturation, and other historical, social, economic, and political factors;
- a language competency in either French, Spanish, Portuguese, or Haitian Creole at an intermediate level and a beginning competency in a second language spoken in the region (either French, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole indigenous language of Latin America and the Caribbean);
- a “Beyond the Books” experience that will bridge the gap between the university and the surrounding communities, and will help solidify a long-term interest in and commitment to the regions.

Degree Programs

- Bachelor of Arts

Departmental Honors

The Latin American Studies Program invites its undergraduate majors and minors to apply for departmental honors and expand their knowledge of Latin America and the Caribbean. Admission into the departmental honors program is by invitation, but any student who believes her or himself qualified may apply to the academic director of Latin American Studies, preferably during the sophomore or early junior year. Candidates for departmental honors work closely with one faculty member for two semesters to engage in original research in an area of her/his choice. LAS majors and minors with a cumulative G.P.A. of at least 3.0 and an overall G.P.A. of at least 3.5 in the LAS major or minor may earn departmental honors by completing two honors thesis courses, LAS 495 and LAS 496 (Honors I & II). Candidates for departmental honors are responsible for finding a faculty member who is willing to serve as honors thesis advisor and obtain written approval of the Academic Director. The faculty member with whom the student works will help determine the nature of the independent research project. Candidates must complete a thesis (with a grade of at least a B+, which must be approved by the thesis advisor) and present the work at the LAS Annual Student Symposium or another similar event showcasing undergraduate research at the university.

Advanced Writing and Communication Requirement

To satisfy the College of Arts and Sciences writing requirement in the discipline, students majoring in Latin American Studies should take at least one course with a “W” designation. These courses include (please refer to CaneLink or the LAS Course Booklet for details on courses that fulfill the writing requirement, as offerings change every semester):

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Requests for Information

Latin American Studies Program
University of Miami
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Coral Gables, FL 33146
Ph: 305.284.3034
Fax: 305.284.2796
lasgrad@miami.edu

LAS 101. Introduction to Latin American and Caribbean Studies. 3 Credit Hours.
Course will focus on culture, economy, geography, history, politics, and society of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as on the ways in which scholars have studied the region.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

LAS 110. Students in Latin America and the Caribbean. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies Courses taken at other institutions with no direct equivalent.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.

LAS 111. Studies in Latin America and the Caribbean. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies Courses taken at other institutions with no direct equivalent.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.

LAS 112. Studies in Latin America and the Caribbean. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies Courses taken at other institutions with no direct equivalent.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.

LAS 113. Studies in Latin America and the Caribbean. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies Courses taken at other institutions with no direct equivalent.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.

LAS 114. Studies in Latin America and the Caribbean. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies Courses taken at other institutions with no direct equivalent.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.

LAS 115. Studies in Latin America and the Caribbean. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies Courses taken at other institutions with no direct equivalent.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.

LAS 200. Introduction To Latina/O Studies. 3 Credit Hours.
Do all Americans who descend from Spanish-speaking countries have something in common? By what label—“Hispanic, Latino, Chicano”—should descendants from Latin America or the Caribbean identify? Are Latinos a race, an ethnic group, or neither? This course addresses these concerns while analyzing the competing and complementary theoretical perspectives on the “‘Latinization’” of the United States. Our readings, discussions and assignments will explore how multifaceted groups of people have met the various political, social, cultural and economic complexities of U.S. Society.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Spring.

LAS 211. Studies in Latin America and the Caribbean. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies Courses taken at other institutions with no direct equivalent.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.

LAS 212. Studies in Latin America and the Caribbean. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies Courses taken at other institutions with no direct equivalent.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.

LAS 213. Studies in Latin America and the Caribbean. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies Courses taken at other institutions with no direct equivalent.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.

LAS 214. Studies in Latin America and the Caribbean. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies Courses taken at other institutions with no direct equivalent.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.

LAS 215. Studies in Latin America and the Caribbean. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies Courses taken at other institutions with no direct equivalent.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.

LAS 301. Interdisciplinary Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. 3 Credit Hours.
Topics vary, Interdisciplinary focus may be thematic (e.g.: revolutions, new social movements, women’s rights, Latin Americanism, testimonio, culture industries,etc.) or regional/national (e.g.: Andean Studies, Southern Cone Studies, Caribbean Studies, Mexican Studies, etc.)
Components: SEM.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

LAS 302. Interdisciplinary Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Studies-Travel Course. 3 Credit Hours.
Topics vary, Interdisciplinary focus is thematic and regional (i.e. tourism in Yucatan; civil society in Chile, civil society in Haiti, cultural policy in the Caribbean, environmental policy in Panama.). Course involves travel during Spring Break and it has a program fee.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Spring.
LAS 311. Studies in Latin America and the Caribbean. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies Courses taken at other institutions with no direct equivalent.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.

LAS 312. Studies in Latin America and the Caribbean. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies Courses taken at other institutions with no direct equivalent.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.

LAS 313. Studies in Latin America and the Caribbean. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies Courses taken at other institutions with no direct equivalent.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.

LAS 314. Studies in Latin America and the Caribbean. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies Courses taken at other institutions with no direct equivalent.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.

LAS 315. Studies in Latin America and the Caribbean. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies Courses taken at other institutions with no direct equivalent.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.

LAS 320. Special Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Environment. 3 Credit Hours.
Topics vary. Interdisciplinary focus on policies and impact on globalization on the environment.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

LAS 321. Latin American Environmental Issues. 3 Credit Hours.
A comprehensive course on Latin American and Caribbean environmental issues in their political, economic, and social dimensions.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall.

LAS 330. Special Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Religions. 3 Credit Hours.
Topics vary. Interdisciplinary focus may be thematic or regional (eg: Liberation Theology, Latin American and Latino Religions, Caribbean Religions.)
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

LAS 340. Special Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Economics. 3 Credit Hours.
Topics vary. Focus may be thematic or regional, but will address issues in Latin American and Caribbean Economics and Economic Development.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

LAS 350. Special Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Art and Culture. 3 Credit Hours.
Topics vary. Focus may be thematic or regional, but will address issues in Latin American and Caribbean Art and Culture.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.

LAS 360. Special Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Politics. 3 Credit Hours.
Topics Vary. Interdisciplinary focus may be thematic or regional (eg: democracy, new social movements, globalization, politics and society.)
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

LAS 362. Drug Trafficking In Latin America And The Caribbean. 3 Credit Hours.
This course introduces students to the study of drug trafficking in LatinAmerica and the Caribbean and its relationship with organized crime, understanding both as important aspects in the dynamics of globalization, international relations, and domestic politics.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

LAS 370. Special Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Media and Communications. 3 Credit Hours.
Topics vary. Focus may be thematic or regional, but will address issues in Latin American and Caribbean Media and Communication.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

LAS 410. Studies in Latin America and the Caribbean. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies Courses taken at other institutions with no direct equivalent.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.

LAS 411. Studies in Latin America and the Caribbean. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies Courses taken at other institutions with no direct equivalent.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.

LAS 412. Studies in Latin America and the Caribbean. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies Courses taken at other institutions with no direct equivalent.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.

LAS 413. Studies in Latin America and the Caribbean. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies Courses taken at other institutions with no direct equivalent.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.

LAS 414. Studies in Latin America and the Caribbean. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies Courses taken at other institutions with no direct equivalent.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
LAS 415. Studies in Latin America and the Caribbean. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies Courses taken at other institutions with no direct equivalent.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.

LAS 491. Debates On Current Issues In Latin American And Caribbean Studies. 3 Credit Hours.
Content may vary from semester to semester. This is an upper level course to allow debate and discussion on current issues and events affecting Latin America, the Caribbean and Latino communities in the United States.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

LAS 494. Independent Study in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Independent study leading to a thesis, original piece of research, or creative project on a Latin American or Caribbean subject.
Components: THI.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

LAS 495. SENIOR HONORS THESIS I. 3 Credit Hours.
This course pairs students with a faculty mentor to set and guide a research agenda in preparation for writing the senior honors thesis. Students will study advanced topics in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, according to faculty interests.
Prerequisite: LAS 101.
Components: IND.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, & Summer.

LAS 496. SENIOR HONORS THESIS II. 3 Credit Hours.
This course pairs students with a faculty mentor to guide the writing process for the senior honors thesis. Students will study advanced topics in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, according to faculty interests.
Prerequisite: LAS 101.
Components: IND.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, & Summer.

LAS 501. Interdisciplinary In Latin American And Caribbean. 3 Credit Hours.
Interdisciplinary methods and politics of Latin American and Caribbean Studies.
Components: SEM.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall.

LAS 502. Research Design in Latin American Studies. 3 Credit Hours.
Interdisciplinary research methods and skills in Latin American and Caribbean studies.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Spring.

LAS 503. Program Seminar in Latin American Studies and Caribbean Studies. 3 Credit Hours.
Content of course will vary by semester.
Components: SEM.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

LAS 504. Interdisciplinary Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Studies - Travel Course. 3 Credit Hours.
Topics vary. Interdisciplinary focus is thematic and regional (e.g.: tourism in Yucatan; civil society in Chile, Haiti-Dominican Republic relations, cultural policy in the Caribbean, environmental policy in Panama.) Course involves travel during Spring Break and it has a program fee.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Spring.

LAS 505. Internship in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. 1-3 Credit Hours.
On-site experience in business, governmental organization, or non-profit organization dealing with Latin America and/or the Caribbean.
Components: IND.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, & Summer.

LAS 506. Civic Engagement In Latin America. 1-3 Credit Hours.
On site experience in a civic engagement project in Latin America or the Caribbean.
Components: IND.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, & Summer.

LAS 520. Interdisciplinary Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Environments. 3 Credit Hours.
Topics vary. Interdisciplinary focus on policies and impact of globalization on the environment.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall.

LAS 521. Latin American Environmental Issues. 3 Credit Hours.
A comprehensive course on Latin American and Caribbean environmental issues in their full political, economic, and social dimensions.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall.

LAS 530. Special Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Religions. 3 Credit Hours.
Topics vary. Interdisciplinary focus may be thematic or regional (eg: Liberation Theology, Latin American and Latino Religions, Caribbean Religions), but will address Latin American and Caribbean Religion.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

LAS 540. Special Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Media and Communication. 3 Credit Hours.
Topics vary. Interdisciplinary focus may be thematic or regional (eg: global media, Spanish- or Portuguese-language television or radio, social media) but will address Latin American and Caribbean Media and Communication.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

LAS 550. Special Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Art and Culture. 3 Credit Hours.
Topics vary. Interdisciplinary focus may be thematic or regional, but will address Latin American and Caribbean Art & Culture.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.
LAS 560. Special Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Politics. 3 Credit Hours.
Topics vary. Interdisciplinary focus may be thematic or regional (e.g., democracy, new social movements, globalization, politics and society), but will address Latin American and Caribbean Politics.

Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

LAS 580. Special Topics in Latin American and Caribbean History. 3 Credit Hours.
Topics vary. Interdisciplinary focus may be thematic or regional, but will address the history of political, social and economic development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

LAS 591. Debates On Current Issues In Latin American And Caribbean Studies. 3 Credit Hours.
Content may vary from semester to semester. This is a graduate course to allow debate and discussion on current issues and events affecting Latin America, the Caribbean and Latino communities in the United States.

Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.