

LATIN AMERICAN, CARIBBEAN, AND LATINX STUDIES

Department Overview

Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies (LACLAS) is an interdisciplinary program at Skidmore College that seeks to create an intellectual community in which students acquire a well-rounded knowledge of Latin American, Caribbean, and Latina/o/e/x communities and their geographies, histories, cultures, and artistic traditions. Students learn to develop questions and think critically about the issues that such communities face from an interdisciplinary perspective. LACLAS offers a space for students, faculty, and staff interested in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Latinx U.S. to come together, learn from each other, build community, and promote a feeling of belonging.

Director of the Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies Program:
Bernardo Ramirez Rios

Administrative Assistant: Beth Miller

Affiliated Faculty

Anthropology: Heather Hurst, Michael Ennis-McMillan, Bernardo Ramirez Rios

Art History: Kristi Peterson

Dance: Kieron Sargeant

Economics: Rodrigo Schneider

English: Jamie Parra

History: Jordana Dym

Psychology: Pablo Gómez

World Languages and Literatures: Abel Arango, Diana Barnes, Alexandra Brown, María Fernanda Lander, Beatriz Loyola, Aurélie Matheron, Viviana Rangil

Theater: Eunice Ferreira, Lisa Jackson-Schebetta

Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies Minor

The Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies (LACLAS) minor gives students the opportunity to undertake the comparative study of the political, economic, cultural, artistic, and performing traditions and contemporary realities of Latin American, Caribbean, and Latina/o/e/x communities through a flexible structure and a wide variety of course options. The skills and knowledge students gain are valued by employers across sectors such as foreign policy, international relations, public administration, education, healthcare, information services, communications, and commerce. The minor consists of a minimum of 18 credit hours (five to six courses), with at least two 300-level courses.

The minor includes the following:

Code	Title	Hours
Broad Perspectives on Latina/o/e/x Studies		4
LA 201	Introduction to Latina/o/e/x Studies	
Broad Perspectives on Latin American and Caribbean Studies		
Select one of the following:		3-4
AH 109	Ways of Seeing: Visual Cultures of the Americas	
EC 282	Economics of Latin America	
HI 111	Latin American History: An Introduction	
WLS 212	Spanish-American Literature and Culture	
Breadth and Specialization Electives		
Select three to four courses. At least two 300-level courses.		10-11
Total Hours		17-19

Course Listing

Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies Courses

LA 201 - Introduction to Latina/o/e/x Studies

Credits: 4

A comprehensive exploration of the diverse cultures, histories, and experiences of Latina/o/e/x communities and individuals in the United States. From the early migrations to contemporary issues, students examine topics such as immigration, labor, politics, media portrayals, and social justice movements. Students in this course navigate the complexities of Latina/o/e/x identity formation, drawing on critical theories and case studies to analyze the power dynamics inherent in representation and develop a nuanced understanding of the rich cultural landscape of Latina/o/e/x communities. This course encourages critical thinking and civic engagement, empowering students to become informed advocates for social change.

Prerequisites: SSP 100.

Note(s): Fulfills Bridge Experience requirement.

LA 206 - The Frontera Effect

Credits: 3

An investigation into the question of authorized identity and social hierarchy generated from a history of policies regulating border-crossing from Mexico to the United States. Students will examine the myths and the realities of rhetoric surrounding the U.S./Mexico border wall, and the frontera effect (the border effect) that influences the American psyche. Students study key historical landmarks that have fortified the essence of division beginning at the border and spreading across the country, to consider present-day policies and imagined narrative that inform our understanding of power and identity based on a physical and a psychological border. Theory and practice combine in this course as students study the geopolitical psychology of border divisions as a prelude to field trips to meet with human rights activists in Western New York who advocate for undocumented dairy farm workers, and to tour the backstretch of the Saratoga thoroughbred racetrack to meet a community of border-crossers in Saratoga Springs.

Prerequisites: SSP 100.

Note(s): Fulfills Humanities requirement; fulfills Bridge Experience and Humanistic Inquiry requirements.

LA 231 - Latinidades: Reconfiguring Identities in the U.S.

Credits: 3

An exploration of the work of Latino/a writers considering the ways in which they have depicted and imagined the experiences of moving between and within nations. Students will consider the impact these movements have had in the configuration of Latino/a identities.

Note(s): Fulfills Cultural Diversity and Humanities requirements; fulfills Humanistic Inquiry and Global Cultural Perspectives requirements.

LA 251 - Topics in Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies

Credits: 1-4

Typically organized courses at the intermediate level focused on selected problems, areas, and issues of special interest in Latin American Studies. Topics vary from year to year, depending upon specialization and research interests of the instructor.

Note(s): May be repeated for credit with a different topic.

LA 305 - Working with Latin American and Latinx Communities

Credits: 1

A learning and community engagement class for which students volunteer or work in an internship in a Latin American country or Latinx communities in the United States or internationally. Students are introduced to the history and culture relevant to the places and peoples engaged and to the role that the international community (in particular the United States government, organizations, and volunteers) has played in past and present. Enrollment in this course is a co-requisite for participating in an alternative spring break off-campus experience developed by LALS and the Office of Community Services. Since 2014, the program has supported an alternate spring break in Guatemala.

Note(s): Must be taken S/U.

LA 351 - Advanced Topics in Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies

Credits: 1-4

Typically organized courses at the advanced level focused on selected problems, areas, and issues of special interest in Latin American Studies. Topics vary from year to year, depending upon specialization and research interests of the instructor.

Prerequisites: HI 111; PL 209 or WLS 212.

Note(s): May be repeated for credit with a different topic.

LA 371 - Independent Study

Credits: 3

An opportunity for qualified students to pursue independent study or research in Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies under the supervision of an appropriate faculty member. The written study proposal must be approved by the Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies Coordinator, in consultation with the Advisory Board.

LA 377 - Colloquium in Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies

Credits: 1

The course includes presentations and discussions by students, faculty, and guest lecturers, instruction on library research, writing, and oral presentation skills. It may also include field trips or a small community service project.

Note(s): Fall semester only. Must be taken S/U. May be repeated for credit with a different topic.

LA 399 - Professional Internship In Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies

Credits: 1-4

Internship or professional experience at an advanced level for juniors and seniors with substantial academic and cocurricular experience in the minor field. With faculty sponsorship and program approval, students will select an internship and also produce a major research paper related to the area of internship.

Note(s): Research topic must be approved by the faculty sponsor and the on-site supervisor.

Cross-Listed Courses that Count for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies

Code	Title	Hours
AH 151	Special Topics in Art History (when topic is Visual Cultures of America)	3
AH 208	Art and the Environment in Ancient Mesoamerica and South America	3
AN 205	Mesoamerican Archaeology	3
AN 229	Mexican Cultures	3
AN 322	Sports in the Americas	3
AN 328	Built Environments: Archaeology of Architecture	3
AN 349	Medical Anthropology	3
EC 282	Economics of Latin America	3
HI 111	Latin American History: An Introduction	3
HI 251A-D	(when topic relates to Latin America)	1-4
HI 228	Race, Class, and Gender in Latin America	3
HI 229	War and Peace in Twentieth-Century Latin America	3
HI 230	History Through Travel: Latin America 1500-1900	3
HI 330	Politics/Society in Latin Amer	3
HI 351A-D	(when topic relates to Latin America)	1-4
IA 351C-D	(when topic is Colorism in Paradise)	1-4
PL 209	The Latin American Puzzle	4
PL 309	Latin America and the United States	3
SO 204	Introduction to Race, Class, and Gender	3
SO 251A-D	(when topic relates to Latin America)	1-4
SO 351A-D	(when topic relates to Latin America)	1-4
WLL 265		3
WLS 212	Spanish-American Literature and Culture	4
WLS 221	Spanish for Heritage Speakers	4
WLS 301		4
WLS 319	Contemporary Spanish-American Fiction	3
WLS 321		3
WLS 323	Spanish in the Media	4
WLS 324B		4
WLS 330	Spanish-American Thought	3
WLS 331	Tales of the Wondrous Lands: The Hispanic Transatlantic World	3
WLS 363	Special Studies in Spanish (when topic relates to Latin America or is Crime Without Punishment)	3
WLS 376	Senior Seminar (when topic relates to Latin America or French Caribbean)	3

Cross-Listed Courses - Partial Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies Courses

Code	Title	Hours
AH 103		4
AM 231	Ethnic and Immigrant Experience	3
AM 236		4
BI 325	Tropical Ecology	3
EC 314	International Economics	3
EC 334	International Political Economy	3
PL 315	Immigration Politics and Policy	4
PL 339	International Political Economy and the Environment	4
TH 334	Special Studies in Theater History and Theory (when topic is Theater for Social Change)	3
WLF 220	Language Across the Curriculum	1
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