Latin American and Latino Studies

Objectives

The Latin American and Latino studies program provides a major and a minor to all interested undergraduate students who wish to structure their studies of Latin America or Latino USA. The program offers an interdisciplinary approach to understanding Mexico, Central America, South America, the Caribbean, and the Latin American Diaspora in the United States. Students with widely ranging interests are welcome.

How to Become a Major or a Minor

Students in the major and the minor work closely with an adviser to develop an individual plan of study that combines breadth with a focus in one discipline (usually anthropology, history, politics, or Spanish). Students whose interests do not easily fit the courses available at Brandeis may arrange independent study with members of the staff. Students may also take advantage of the resources of neighboring institutions through the Boston Area Consortium on Latin America and the Greater Boston Latino Studies Connection. Courses may be taken at Boston College, Boston University, Tufts University, and Wellesley College. Study in Latin America for a term or a year is encouraged. In the past, students have studied at universities in Argentina, Mexico, Ecuador, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Peru, and Brazil, and other possibilities are available. Credit may also be obtained for internships in organizations related to Latin America. Transfer students and those studying abroad may obtain credit for up to half the required courses from courses taken elsewhere, with the approval of the program chair.

Program Faculty

Javier Urcid, Chair  
(Anthropology)

Silvia Arrom (on leave fall 2008)  
(History)

Elizabeth Ferry  
(Anthropology)

Ricardo Godoy  
(Heller School)

Charles Golden  
(Anthropology)

Donald Hindley  
(Politics)

James Mandrell  
(Romance Studies; Women’s and Gender Studies)

Wellington Nyangoni  
(African and Afro-American Studies)

Ronnie Perelis  
(Romance Studies)

Ángela Pérez-Mejía (on leave 2008–2009)  
(Romance Studies)

Lucía Reyes de Deu  
(Romance Studies)

Fernando Rosenberg (on leave spring 2009)  
(Romance Studies)

Laurence Simon  
(Heller School)

Faith Smith (on leave 2008–2009)  
(African and Afro-American Studies; English and American Literature)

Ibrahim Sundiata (on leave spring 2009)  
(African and Afro-American Studies; History)

Eva Thorne  
(Politics)

Patricia Tovar  
(Economics)
Requirements for the Minor

A. Four semester courses from the course listings under Latin American and Latino studies below.

B. LALS 100a {Seminar: Topics in Latin American and Latino Studies} or another upper-level writing-intensive seminar to be designated as fulfilling the seminar requirement.

C. No more than two of the required five courses may be from the same discipline, even if offered by different departments; and no more than two courses may be electives requiring a paper to count for LALS.

D. No course with a final grade below C– can count toward the LALS minor.

Requirements for the Major

A. The major consists of ten semester courses. No more than five of the ten required courses may be from the same department, and no more than three courses may be electives requiring a paper to count for LALS.

B. LALS 100a {Seminar: Topics in Latin American and Latino Studies} or another upper-level writing-intensive seminar to be designated as fulfilling the seminar requirement.

C. HIST 71a or b; POL 144a or b; and one semester course on Caribbean, Latin American, or Latino literature.

D. At least six additional semester courses from the listing provided below.

E. Passing grade in any 30-level Spanish language course. This can be substituted by a reading competency examination in Spanish, Portuguese, or French [administered by LALS]. Another foreign language spoken in Latin America or the Caribbean may be substituted with the permission of the LALS committee.

F. Candidates for the degree with honors in Latin American and Latino studies must be approved by the committee and must complete LALS 99d, a two-semester senior thesis.

G. No course with a final grade below C– can count toward the LALS major.

Courses of Instruction

[1–99] Primarily for Undergraduate Students

LALS 92a Internship
Combines off-campus experience in a Latin America-related internship with written analysis under the supervision of a faculty sponsor. Students arrange their own internships. Counts only once toward fulfillment of requirements for the major or the minor.
Staff

LALS 98a Independent Study
Usually offered every year.
Staff

LALS 98b Independent Study
Usually offered every year.
Staff

LALS 99d Senior Research
Independent research and writing, under faculty director, of a senior thesis. Usually offered every year.
Staff

[100–199] For Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students

LALS 100a Seminar: Topics in Latin American and Latino Studies
May be repeated for credit. In fall 2008, HISP 164b counts for LALS 100a [Mr. Rosenberg]. In spring 2009, ANTH 131b counts for LALS [Ms. Ferry]. Examines major themes and problems in Latin American studies from an interdisciplinary perspective. Topics vary from year to year.
Staff

Elective Courses

The following courses are approved for the program. Not all are given in any one year. Please consult the Schedule of Classes each semester.

AAAS 125b
Caribbean Women and Globalization: Sexuality, Citizenship, Work

AAAS 133b
The Literature of the Caribbean

ANTH 131b
Latin America in Ethnographic Perspective

ANTH 147b
The Rise of Mesoamerican Civilization

ANTH 168a
The Maya

COML 108a
Creating New Histories and Identities beyond the Nation: Transnational Female Voices in the U.S.

ECON 26a
Latin America’s Economy

ENG 107a
Caribbean Women Writers

ENG 127b
Migrating Bodies, Migrating Texts

FA 24b
Twentieth-Century and Contemporary Latin American Art

HECS 169a
Travel Writing and the Americas: Columbus’s Legacy

HISP 108a
Spanish for Bilingual Students

HISP 111b
Introduction to Latin American Literature

HISP 136b
Latino Cultural Expression: Literature, Performance, and Film

HISP 155b
Latin America between Baroque and Kitsch

HISP 160a
Literatura y Justicia en Latinoamerica
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HISP 163a</td>
<td>The Latin American Boom and Beyond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISP 164b</td>
<td>Studies in Latin American Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISP 166b</td>
<td>Writing the Latin American City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISP 168b</td>
<td>Latin America Narrated by Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>HISP 195a</td>
<td>Latinos in the United States: Perspectives from History, Literature, and Film</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 71a</td>
<td>Latin American History, Pre-Conquest to 1870</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 71b</td>
<td>Latin American History, 1870 to the Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 171b</td>
<td>Latino/a History</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 173b</td>
<td>Latin American Women: Heroines, Icons, and History</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 174a</td>
<td>The Legacy of 1898: U.S.-Caribbean Relations since the Spanish-American War</td>
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<tr>
<td>POL 131b</td>
<td>Social Movements in Latin America</td>
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<tr>
<td>POL 132b</td>
<td>Political Economy of Latin America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL 144a</td>
<td>Latin American Politics I</td>
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<tr>
<td>POL 144b</td>
<td>Latin American Politics II</td>
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**Elective Courses (requiring a substantial eighteen- to twenty-page paper)**

The following electives, which include Latin America or the Caribbean as one of the several areas studied, normally count toward the major or minor only if students write a paper on Latin America, the Caribbean, or the Latin American Diaspora.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HISP 140a</td>
<td>Topics in Poetry: Hispanic Poetry of the Twentieth Century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISP 146b</td>
<td>Latin American and Latino Studies</td>
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**Elective Courses (if Latin America or Caribbean is primary focus)**

The following electives count toward LALS only in those years when they analyze films or texts from Latin America, the Caribbean, or the Latin American Diaspora.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FREN 165b</td>
<td>Francophone Literatures</td>
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<tr>
<td>HISP 191a</td>
<td>Hispanic Topics in Translation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISP 193b</td>
<td>Topics in Cinema: Global Latin American Cinema</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL 146b</td>
<td>Seminar: Topics in Revolutions in the Third World</td>
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**AAAS Courses**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 123a</td>
<td>Third World Ideologies</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAAS 126b</td>
<td>Political Economy of the Third World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 134b</td>
<td>Novel and Film of the African Diaspora</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAAS 158a</td>
<td>Theories of Development and Underdevelopment</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAAS 167a</td>
<td>African and Caribbean Comparative Political Systems</td>
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<td>AMST 169a</td>
<td>Ethnicity, Immigration, and Race in the United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 55a</td>
<td>Anthropology of Development</td>
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<td>ANTH 153a</td>
<td>Writing Systems and Scribal Traditions</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 156a</td>
<td>Power and Violence: The Anthropology of Political Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 184b</td>
<td>Cross-Cultural Art and Aesthetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 138a</td>
<td>Making Modern Subjects: Caribbean/Latin America/U.S.A. 1850–1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISP 140a</td>
<td>Topics in Poetry: Hispanic Poetry of the Twentieth Century</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 115a</td>
<td>History of Comparative Race and Ethnic Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>POL 128a</td>
<td>The Politics of Revolution: State Violence and Popular Insurgency in the Third World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL 180b</td>
<td>Sustaining Development</td>
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