

An interdepartmental program

Latin American Studies

Courses of Study:

Minor

Major (B.A.)

Objectives

Latin American studies provides a major and a minor (open to students in any major) for those who wish to structure their studies of Latin America. It 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 Minor

Students in the major and the minor work closely with an advisor to develop an individualized plan of study that combines breadth with a focus in one discipline (usually 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. 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 Boston-area 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

Silvia Arrom, Chair
(History)

Roxanne Dávila
(Romance and Comparative Literature)

Elizabeth Ferry
(Anthropology)

Ricardo Godoy
(The Heller School)

Donald Hindley
(Politics)

James Mandrell
(Romance and Comparative Literature)

Wellington Nyangoni
(African and Afro-American Studies)

Dora Older
(Romance and Comparative Literature)

Angela Pérez
(Romance and Comparative Literature)

Laurence Simon
(The Heller School)

Faith Smith
(African and Afro-American Studies/English and American Literature)

Ibrahim Sundiata
(African and Afro-American Studies/History)

Eva Thorne
(Politics)

Javier Urcid
(Anthropology)

Dessima Williams
(Sociology)

Requirements for the Major

A. Passing grade in any 30-level Spanish course or the equivalent, or reading competency examination in Spanish or Portuguese (administered by LAS). Another foreign language spoken in Latin America or the Caribbean may be substituted with the permission of the Latin American studies committee.

B. HIST 71a or b; POL 144a or b; and one semester course on Latin American or Caribbean Literature.

C. An upper-level writing-intensive seminar that may be LAS 100a (Seminar: Topics in Latin American Studies) or another advanced seminar to be designated as fulfilling the seminar requirement.

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

E. No more than five of the 10 required courses may be from the same department.

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

Requirements for the Minor

A. At least two courses from HIST 71a or b, POL 144a or b, or the offerings on Latin American or Caribbean literature.

B. An upper-level writing-intensive seminar that may be LAS 100a (Seminar: Topics in Latin American Studies) or another advanced seminar to be designated as fulfilling the seminar requirement.

C. Two additional semester courses from the list provided below.

D. No more than two of the five required courses may be from the same department.

Courses of Instruction

(1-99) Primarily for Undergraduate Students

LAS 92a and b Internship

Signature of the instructor required.

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

LAS 98a Independent Study

Signature of the instructor required.

Usually offered every year.
Staff

LAS 98b Independent Study

Signature of the instructor required.

Usually offered every year.
Staff

LAS 99d Senior Research

Signature of the instructor required.

Independent research and writing, under faculty director, of a senior thesis. Usually offered every year.
Staff

(100-199) For Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students

LAS 100a Seminar: Topics in Latin American Studies

Signature of the instructor required. May be repeated for credit. A library-intensive course.

Examines major themes and problems in Latin American studies from an interdisciplinary perspective. Topics vary from year to year. For 2003-04 only, POL 131b (Social Movements in Latin America) counts for LAS 100a. Usually offered every year.
Staff

Elective Courses

The following courses may be counted toward the major or minor if approved by the student's advisor as fitting into the individualized plan of study. Courses marked with an asterisk (*), 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 or the Caribbean. Courses marked with a double asterisk (**) count toward LAS only in those years when they analyze films or texts from Latin America, the Caribbean, or the Latin American diaspora. Students may apply no more than two single-starred courses to their Latin American studies major or minor.

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

AAAS 123a*
Third World Ideologies

AAAS 126b*
Political Economy of the Third World

AAAS 133b
The Literature of the Caribbean

AAAS 134b*
Novel and Film of the African Diaspora

AAAS 158a*
Theories of Development and Underdevelopment

AAAS 167a*
African and Caribbean Comparative Political Systems

ANTH 55a*
Models of Development: Third World

ANTH 84b*
Cross-Cultural Art and Aesthetics

ANTH 131b
Culture and Economy in Latin America

ANTH 147b
The Rise of Mesoamerican Civilization

ANTH 153a*
Writing Systems and Scribal Traditions

COML 193a
Topics in New World Studies: The Empire Writes Back

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

FREN 165b**
Topics in Francophone Literatures

HIST 71a
Latin American History, Pre-Conquest to 1870

HIST 71b
Latin American History, 1870 to the Present

HIST 115a*
Comparative Race and Ethnic Relations

HIST 173b
Latin American Women: Historical Perspectives

HIST 174a
The Legacy of 1898: U.S.-Caribbean Relations since the Spanish-American War

HIST 175a
The Making and Unmaking of the Mexican Revolution

POL 128a*
The Politics of Revolution: State Violence and Popular Insurgency in the Third World

POL 131b
Social Movements in Latin America

POL 132b
Political Economy of Latin America

POL 144a
Latin American Politics I

POL 144b
Latin American Politics II

POL 145b
Research Seminar: Topics in Latin American Politics

POL 146b**
Revolutions in the Third World

POL 179a*
Seminar: Politics and Hunger

POL 180b*
Sustaining Development

SECS 169a
Travel Writing and the Americas: Columbus's Legacy

SOC 112a*
Topics on Women and Development

SOC 125b
U.S.-Caribbean Relations

SOC 171a*
Women Leaders and Transformation in Developing Countries

SPAN 108a
Spanish for Bilingual Students

SPAN 111b
Introduction to Latin American Literature

SPAN 135a
Modern Latin American Literature

SPAN 155b
Latin America between Baroque and Kitsch

SPAN 161a
Latin American Poetry

SPAN 163a
The Latin American "Boom" and Beyond

SPAN 164b
Studies in Latin American Literature

SPAN 166b

Writing the Latin American City

SPAN 190b

Latin American Fiction in Translation

SPAN 192a**

Contemporary Hispanic Women's Fiction in Translation

SPAN 168b

Latin America through the Eyes of Women

SPAN 191a**

Hispanic Topics in Translation

SPAN 193b**

Topics in Hispanic Cinema

An interdepartmental program

Courses of Study:

Minor

Legal Studies

Objectives

The law, one of the most significant institutions in the life of any society, is an important subject of study for all students—especially so in the United States, where our lives are so critically affected by the legal system, and where citizen knowledge and participation are vitally needed.

The law also represents a body of ideas, values, and functions of serious concern to scholars in the various fields of the social sciences and humanities. The Legal Studies Program (minor) is an interdisciplinary one, designed to offer students the opportunity of studying law not as a subject of professional practice, but as one worthy of liberal inquiry. It examines law from many perspectives: historical, anthropological, sociological, philosophical, political, economic, psychological, and literary.

Through classroom courses and internships in public-service law and health care organizations, the minor combines “real world” experiential education with academic methods and insights. Students considering careers in law or health policy may find the minor a useful way to test their interest in working with legal materials, but the minor is not intended as a preprofessional course of study. Individual courses are open to all Brandeis students who meet the prerequisites.

The law and society track examines the role of law in broad aspects of social life: the public policy process, economic development, and cultural expression. Seminars give students an opportunity to explore, in depth, such fields as international and comparative law, sex discrimination, civil liberties, and environmental safety.

How to Become a Minor

The Legal Studies Program is open to all Brandeis undergraduates. To enroll in the program, students fill out declaration forms from the Office of Academic Affairs *and* from the Office of the Legal Studies Program (Brown 325).

Students who complete the requirements of the program for either track receive legal studies certificates and notations on their transcripts.

Committee

Richard Gaskins, Chair
(American Studies)

Jeffrey Abramson
(Politics)

Gila Hayim
(Sociology)

Anita Hill
(The Heller School)

Reuven Kimelman
(Near Eastern and Judaic Studies)

Lyman Stookey
(Legal Studies)

Andreas Teuber
(Philosophy)

Michael Willrich
(History)

Peter Woll
(Politics)

Faculty

Richard Gaskins, Director
American legal culture. Legal rhetoric.
Environmental policy.

Lyman Stookey, Internship Director
Health law. Family law. Human services
administration.

Requirements for the Program

A. Core Course: LGLS 10a (Introduction to Law), preferably no later than the student's junior year.

B. One legal studies seminar or a seminar (listed with an asterisk) under Departmental Electives. Students normally take the seminar during their junior or senior year.

C. At least three additional departmental electives, no more than two of which may be taken in the same department. Students who take several seminars may substitute all but one for electives.

D. Either of the following:

1. A Senior Thesis in the student's major, with an emphasis on some aspect of law. In addition to the departmental thesis advisor, students may request an advisor or mentor for legal studies.

2. An internship arranged through the program office and the correlative seminar, LGLS 92a or LGLS 92b.

E. A passing letter grade must be obtained in each course taken for program credit. (Pass/Fail courses are not allowed.) Students must achieve a grade point average of at least 2.00 in program courses.

Courses of Instruction

(1-99) Primarily for Undergraduate Students

LGLS 10a Introduction to Law

[ss]

Enrollment limited to 200.

Surveys the nature, process, and institutions of law: the reasoning of lawyers and judges, the interplay of cases and policies, the impact of history and culture, and the ideals of justice and responsibility. Usually offered every year. Will be offered in the spring of 2004.

Mr. Gaskins

LGLS 92a Law and Society Internship and Seminar

Prerequisites: LGLS 10a and one seminar or departmental elective, or permission of the instructor. Signature of the program administrator required. To obtain an internship, students must discuss their placements with the LGLS program administrator by April 1 for fall-term internships or by November 1 for spring-term internships. This course may not be repeated for credit. A library-intensive course.

Biweekly seminar and a supervised law-related internship in a public agency or nonprofit organization. Examples of internship activities include investigating discrimination cases, negotiating between consumers and small business, and researching victim assistance policies. Internships must be arranged through the program administrator. Usually offered every semester. Will be offered in the fall of 2003.

Mr. Stookey

LGLS 92b Law, Medicine, and Health Policy Internship and Seminar

Prerequisites: LGLS 114a and one Law, Medicine, and Health Policy seminar or elective, or permission of the instructor. Signature of the program administrator required. To obtain an internship, students must discuss their placements with the LGLS program administrator by April 1 for fall-term internships or by November 1 for spring-term internships. This course may not be repeated for credit. A library-intensive course.

Biweekly seminar and a supervised internship in health care or policy organization, for example, helping Medicaid with new quality control programs, researching health-related laws and services for Latino immigrants in Massachusetts, helping develop models of integrated healthcare networks for the Massachusetts Hospital Association. Internships must be arranged through the instructor. Usually offered every semester. Will be offered in the fall of 2003.

Mr. Stookey

LGLS 98a Independent Research

Signature of the instructor required.

Usually offered every year.

Staff

LGLS 98b Independent Research

Signature of the instructor required.

Usually offered every year.

Staff

(100-199) For Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students

Legal Studies Seminars

All seminars are limited in enrollment and usually restricted to juniors and seniors, with preference to legal studies students.

LGLS 114a American Health Care: Law and Policy

[ss]

Not recommended for freshmen.

Highlights issues of access, quality, and cost. Introduces laws and regulations that affect every aspect of American health care from planning and finance to patient treatment. Traces development of Medicare and Medicaid. Discusses malpractice, "birth of the Blues," expansion of HMOs, and influence of employer-purchased insurance on cost and delivery of health care. Portrays the important role courts, Congress, and administrative agencies play in organization and delivery of health services. Usually offered every year. Will be offered in the fall of 2003.

Mr. Stookey

LGLS 120a Sex Discrimination and the Law

[ss]

Signature of the program administrator required.

Traces the evolution of women's rights in the family, in employment, and in the reproductive process, as well as constitutional doctrines. Examines gender inequalities and assesses if and how the law should address them. Legal cases studied emphasize how law reflects society. Usually offered every third year. Last offered in the fall of 2002.

Ms. Kramer

LGLS 121b Law and Social Welfare: Citizen Rights and Government Responsibilities

[ss]

Signature of the program administrator required.

The U.S. welfare system has changed dramatically. Examines the legal implications of recent debates and changes in social welfare policy at federal and state levels. Concentrating on welfare reform, child welfare, and disability welfare, the class explores the lives of welfare recipients, looks at history, examines statutes and legal cases to challenge assumptions of our social welfare policy and tries to create better solutions. Usually offered every second year. Last offered in the fall of 2001.

Ms. Stimell

LGLS 124b International Law and Development

[nw ss]

Signature of the program administrator required.

Surveys public and private forms of international law with special application to developing countries, and to political and social development in the global economy. Examines basic legal concepts of property, contract, and rule-of-law in the context of national and cultural transformations. Usually offered every second year. Last offered in the fall of 2002.

Mr. Lorite

LGLS 125b International Law, Organizations, and Conflict Resolution

[ss]

Signature of the program administrator required.

Introduction to international law, its nature, sources, and application, e.g., its role in the management of international conflicts. Topics may include international agreements, international organizations including the United Nations and the International Court of Justice, states and recognition, nationality and alien rights, territorial and maritime jurisdiction, international claims, the laws of war and human rights. Usually offered every second year. Will be offered in the fall of 2003.

Staff

LGLS 126b Marriage, Divorce, and Parenthood

[ss]

Signature of the program administrator required. A library-intensive course.

Examines recent developments in family law concerning cohabitation, open adoption, no-fault divorce, joint custody, and same-sex marriage. Explores social and political developments that bring about changes in law and impact of new law. Usually offered every third year. Last offered in the spring of 2003.

Mr. Stookey

LGLS 127b Law and Letters in American Culture

[ss]

May be repeated for credit if topic differs. Signature of the instructor required.

Explores interactions between the vocations of law and letters, between the legal imagination and literature. Examines ways in which ideas and ideals of the law have marked the American character, and how literature reflects this process. Various themes and periods may be chosen for special emphasis. Usually offered every second year. Last offered in the spring of 2003.

Staff

LGLS 128b Comparative Law

[ss]

Signature of the program administrator required.

Compares constitutional practices in the United States, the reformed communist nations of Eastern Europe, and the modernizing nations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Focuses on the creation and evolution of constitutional structures, problems of federation and ethnicity, and protection of fundamental rights. Usually offered every fourth year. Last offered in the spring of 1999.

Staff

LGLS 129b Law, Technology, and Innovation

[ss]

Signature of the program administrator required.

Study of interaction of the law and technology, including how law encourages and restrains the processes of technological innovation and change and how technological innovation and change affect the law. Topics include such issues as intellectual property rights and new information technologies, biotechnology engineering, and reproductive technologies. Shows how law balances personal, social, and economic interests. Usually offered every second year. Last offered in the spring of 2003.

Ms. Kramer

LGLS 130a Conflict Analysis and Intervention

[ss]

Signature of the program administrator required.

Focuses on the theories of conflict and on dispute resolution management approaches other than litigation. Students will have an opportunity to assess their own attitudes about and skills in conflict resolution through simulations and interactive exercises. Usually offered every second year. Last offered in the spring of 2003.

Ms. Stimell

LGLS 131b Autonomy and Self-Determination in Critical Health Care Decisions

[ss]

Signature of the program administrator required. A library-intensive course.

Examines how decisions are made to treat critically ill patients. Ethical and philosophical aspects of the physician-patient relationship, the doctrine of informed consent, "medical futility," "physician-assisted suicide," and "right-to-die" cases will be explored. Usually offered every third year. Last offered in the spring of 2002.

Mr. Stookey

LGLS 132b Environmental Law and Policy

[ss]

Signature of the program administrator required.

Examines public health and environmental problems, including regulation of harmful substances in our environment, wilderness preservation, and protection of wetlands and endangered species. Explores use of risk assessment and cost-benefit analysis; also considers the impact of political ideologies on legislation and adjudication. Evaluates law's efforts and limitations in protecting public health and the environment. Usually offered every second year. Will be offered in the fall of 2003.

Mr. Gaskins

LGLS 133b Criminal Law

[ss]

Topics may vary from year to year and may be repeated for credit with permission of the program administrator. Signature of the program administrator required.

Examines the criminal justice process, focusing on changing roles of prosecution, defense, judges, and juries. Reviews statutory powers and constitutional restraints on officials, and analyzes discretion in arrest, prosecution, and punishment. Explores the mutual impact of crime and community structure. Usually offered every second year. Last offered in the fall of 2002.

Staff

LGLS 137a Libel and Defamation, Privacy and Publicity

[ss]

Signature of the instructor required. A library-intensive course.

Consideration of the historical, cultural, and constitutional roots—and judicial application—of laws defining libel and defamation. Part of the course will be devoted to "privacy rights" as they apply to issues of artistic freedom and integrity. Usually offered every fourth year. Last offered in the spring of 1999.

Staff

LGLS 138b Science on Trial

[qr ss]

Signature of the program administrator required.

Surveys the procedures and analytic methods by which scientific data enter into litigation and regulation/policy making. Introduces basic tools of risk analysis and legal rules of evidence. Case studies of breast implant litigation and regulation, use of DNA and fingerprint evidence in litigation, court-ordered caesarian sections, polygraph testing, alternative medicine, and genetically modified foods. Usually offered every second year. Last offered in the spring of 2002.

Ms. Kramer

LGLS 139b Medical Error and Quality of Care

[ss]

Prerequisite: LGLS 114a. Signature of the program administrator required.

Addresses three fundamental issues of responsibility and caring in American health care: How, through law, compensation should be arranged for persons who suffer medical injury; substandard care should be deterred; and, high-quality care should be promoted. Usually offered every third year. Last offered in the spring of 2001.

Mr. Stookey

LGLS 150a Law and Society in Cyberspace

[ss]

Signature of the LGLS program administrator required.

Examines how legal practices expand and restrain the digital revolution, how legal authority itself is challenged by the Internet, forcing new strategies of response, and how social/political forces shape legal policy on copyright, privacy, harassment, libel, and free speech. Usually offered every third year. Will be offered in the spring of 2004.

Mr. Katsh

Cross-Listed Seminars in Law and Society**AMST 187a**

The Legal Boundaries of Public and Private Life

AMST 188b

Justice Brandeis and Progressive Jurisprudence

PHIL 74b

Foundations of American Pragmatism

Departmental Electives

The following law-related courses given by the various departments are approved for the Legal Studies Program. They are not all given in any one year, and therefore the *Course Schedule* for each semester should be consulted. Legal studies students are required to take three electives, no more than two in any one department.

Departmental electives taught as seminars may fulfill either the seminar requirement or the elective requirement, but not both.

Legal Studies Electives

An asterisk (*) indicates that the course may serve as a legal studies seminar or elective.

AMST 102a

Women and the Environment and Environmental Justice

AMST 160a*

U.S. Immigration History, Policy, and Law

AMST 170a

The Idea of Conspiracy in American Culture

AMST 191b*

Environmental Research Workshop

ANTH 156a

Power and Violence: The Anthropology of Political Systems

ANTH 163b

Economic Anthropology: Production and Distribution

ANTH 164a*

Topics in Economic Anthropology

CHSC 6a

Forensic Science: Col. Mustard, Candlestick, Billiard Room

ECON 60b

The Economics of International Trade Disputes

ECON 57a

Environmental Economics

ECON 60a

The Economics of International Trade Disputes

ECON 74b

Law and Economics

ECON 177b

Economic Regulation and Deregulation

ENG 44a

Rights: Theory and Rhetoric

ENG 197b

Testimony, Law, Literature

HIST 160a

American Legal History I

HIST 160b

American Legal History II

HIST 161b

American Political History

HIST 201a*

Major Problems in American Legal History

HS 120a

Race and the Law

LGLS 114a

American Health Care: Law and Policy

LING 130a

Semantics: The Structure of Concepts

NEJS 25a

(formerly NEJS 53b)
Introduction to Talmud

NEJS 59a

(formerly NEJS 105b)
Modern Jewish Philosophy

NEJS 105b

Philosophy of Jewish Law

NEJS 113b*

Near Eastern Law: Source, Sense, and Society

NEJS 126a

(formerly NEJS 120b)
Intermediate Talmud

NEJS 154b

(formerly NEJS 110a)
Images, Roles, and Status of Women in Jewish Law and Tradition

NEJS 186a

Introduction to the Qur'an

NEJS 196a

Marriage, Divorce, and Sexual Ethics in Islamic Law

PHIL 19a

Human Rights

PHIL 20a

Social and Political Philosophy: Democracy and Disobedience

PHIL 22b

Philosophy of Law

PHIL 74b*

Foundations of American Pragmatism

PHIL 111a

What is Justice?

PHIL 114b*

Topics in Ethical Theory

PHIL 116a*

Seminar in Political Philosophy: Justice

PHSC 7b

Technology and the Management of Public Risk

POL 110a

Media, Politics, and Society

POL 112a*

National Government of the United States

POL 115a

Constitutional Law

POL 115b*

Seminar: Constitutional Law and Theory

POL 116b

Civil Liberties in America

POL 117a

Administrative Law

POL 158b

Comparative Perspectives on the Law and Politics of Group Rights

POL 192b*

Seminar: Topics in Law and Political Theory

SOC 106a*

Issues in Law and Society