

An interdepartmental program

Courses of Study:
Minor

Journalism

Objectives

The Journalism Program examines the place of the media in the American experience. The program offers students a unique, liberal-arts approach to the study of journalism. A diverse faculty of scholars and journalism professionals teach students about the role of the media in domestic and international affairs and train students in the skills necessary for the accomplished practice of journalism. In class and in professional environments, students wrestle with the challenges and responsibilities of communicating the essence of world events, domestic and human issues, in print and broadcast journalism.

The program is part of the University's larger effort to train students to be critical thinkers and forceful writers. While there are a few courses that teach specific journalistic skills, the Journalism Program is not a nuts-and-bolts communication program; rather it features a strong liberal arts curriculum that grounds students in an academic subject area and gives them the tools to translate and transmit knowledge to a general audience.

In the core courses and electives, students study the history and organization of media institutions; examine the ethical responsibilities of media practitioners; analyze the relationships among the media and other American social, political, and corporate institutions; and learn the reporting, writing, and editing skills needed by the print and broadcast media.

While some of our graduates advance directly to graduate programs in journalism and communications, and others take jobs in journalistic venues including public relations and advertising, many go on to other vocational areas where the skills and learning impacted by the program are found to be highly valuable.

How to Become a Minor

This minor is open to all Brandeis undergraduates, subject to limitations on appropriate class size. Students who complete the requirements of the program receive journalism certificates and notations on their transcripts.

Committee

Michael Socolow, Director
(American Studies)

Jeffrey Abramson
(Politics)

John Burt
(English and American Literature)

Jacob Cohen
(American Studies)

Thomas Doherty
(American Studies)

Gordon Fellman
(Sociology)

Andrew Hahn
(The Heller School)

Martin Levin
(Politics)

Janet McIntosh
(Anthropology)

Laura Miller
(Sociology)

Peter Petri
(Brandeis International Business School)

Stephen Whitfield
(American Studies)

Requirements for the Minor

Students are expected to complete a minimum of six courses from the following options:

A. Core Courses: Students will be required to take (at least) two out of the following three core courses: AMST 15a (Writing for the Media), AMST 137b (Journalism in 20th Century America), and JOUR 120a (The Culture of Journalism).

B. Students will be required to complete one of the three following options: Internship (students serve in a pre-approved outside internship along with JOUR 92a [Contemporary Media: Internship and Analysis]); Senior Writing Project (students write a one semester-long paper as an independent study in the Journalism Program—JOUR 98a or b); or Honors Thesis (students write an honors thesis in their major that is on a topic relating to the media).

C. Students will be required to take three electives from the following five special areas of study, no more than two in any one department: Contemporary Affairs and the Media; Analytical and Research Methods; History, Principles, and Practice; Communications Theory; or Politics, Law, and Ethics. Students are strongly encouraged to choose their electives from different groups. Not every course will be offered every year.

Courses of Instruction

(1-99) Primarily for Undergraduate Students

AMST 15a Writing for the Media

[ss]

A hands-on workshop designed to teach basic broadcast newswriting skills, as well as techniques for gathering, producing, and delivering radio and television news. Stresses the importance of accuracy. Issues of objectivity, point of view, and freedom of the press are discussed. Writing assignments will be written on deadline. Usually offered every year.
Staff

JOUR 92a Contemporary Media: Internship and Analysis

Prerequisite: AMST 15a, 137b, or 138b.

Brings together students who are independently engaged in various media internships and provides an opportunity for them to exchange their experiences with other students and to discuss and analyze related readings. Students who choose to satisfy the journalism minor's internship option must take this course. Usually offered every semester.
Staff

JOUR 98a Independent Study

Usually offered every year.
Staff

JOUR 98b Independent Study

Usually offered every year.
Staff

(100-199) For Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students

AMST 137b Journalism in Twentieth-Century America

[ss]

Examines what journalists have done, how their enterprise has in fact conformed with their ideals, and what some of the consequences have been for the republic historically, primarily in the 20th century. Usually offered every year.
Mr. Whitfield

JOUR 103b Advertising and the Media

[ss]

Combines an historical analysis of advertising with an examination of its contemporary practice. Examines the creative process, advertising across media, and the blurring of the line between advertising and editorial content. Usually offered every second year.
Mr. Socolow

JOUR 104a Political Packaging in America

[ss]

Examines the history of political marketing, image-making in presidential campaigns, the relationship between news and ads, and the growth of public-policy advertising by special-interest groups to influence legislation. Usually offered every third year.
Staff

JOUR 107b Media and Public Policy

[ss]

Examines the intersection of the media and politics, the ways in which each influences the other, and the consequences of that intersection for a democracy. Through analytic texts, handouts, and contemporaneous newspaper and magazine articles, explores the relationship between policy decisions and public discourse. Usually offered every second year.
Ms. McNamara

JOUR 110b Ethics in Journalism

[ss]

Should reporters ever misrepresent themselves? Are there pictures newspapers should not publish? Is it ever acceptable to break the law in pursuit of a story? Examines the media's ethics during an age dominated by scandal and sensationalism. Usually offered every year.
Ms. McNamara

JOUR 112b Literary Journalism: The Art of Feature Writing

[ss wi]

Introduces students to signal works of literary journalism. Helps develop the students' own voices by honing and improving students' own work and by critiquing the work of professionals and colleagues. Usually offered every second year.
Staff

JOUR 120a The Culture of Journalism

[ss]

Examines the social, cultural, political, and economic influences on the practice and profession of journalism. Provides the background and concepts for a critical analysis of American journalism. Usually offered every year.
Mr. Socolow

JOUR 125b Journalism of Crisis

[ss]

Analyzes the practice of journalism during times of crisis. Topics include the process of news gathering in a breaking news environment, the framing of news as it occurs, and the often conflicting agendas of the journalist and the actor involved in a crisis. Usually offered every year.
Mr. Socolow

Electives

Contemporary Affairs and the Media

AAAS 117a

Communications and Social Change in Developing Nations

AMST 132b

International Affairs and the American Media

AMST 134b

The New Media in America

AMST 139b

Reporting on Gender, Race, and Culture

JOUR 103b

Advertising and the Media

Analytical and Research Methods

AMST 191b

Greening the Ivory Tower: Researching and Improving the Brandeis Environment

SOC 181a

Quantitative Methods of Social Inquiry

History, Principles, and Practice

AMST 130b

Television and American Culture

AMST 131b

News on Screen

AMST 196d

Film Workshop: Recording America

ENG 9a

Advanced Writing Seminar

ENG 17a

The Alternative Press in the United States: 1910-2000

JOUR 112b

Literary Journalism: The Art of Feature Writing

Communication Theory

ANTH 26a

Communication and Media

SOC 146a

Mass Communication Theory

Politics, Law, and Ethics**JOUR 104a**

Political Packaging in America

JOUR 107b

Media and Public Policy

LGLS 137a

Libel and Defamation, Privacy and Publicity

POL 110a

Media Politics and Society

POL 115a

Constitutional Law

POL 116b

Civil Liberties in America

Latin

See Classical Studies.

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)

Charles Golden

(Anthropology)

Donald Hindley

(Politics)

James Mandrell

(Romance and Comparative Literature)

Jeremy Mumford

(Mellon Fellow in Atlantic World History)

Wellington Nyangoni

(African and Afro-American Studies)

Ángela Pérez-Mejía

(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. Four semester courses from the course listings under Latin American studies below.

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

Courses of Instruction

(1-99) Primarily for Undergraduate Students

LAS 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

LAS 92b 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

LAS 98a Independent Study

Usually offered every year.
Staff

LAS 98b Independent Study

Usually offered every year.
Staff

LAS 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

LAS 100a Seminar: Topics in Latin American Studies

[wi]

May be repeated for credit.

Examines major themes and problems in Latin American studies from an interdisciplinary perspective. Topics vary from year to year. For 2004-05 only, ANTH 131b counts for LAS 100a. Usually offered every year.
Staff

Elective Courses

AAAS 133b

The Literature of the Caribbean

ANTH 131b

Latin America in Ethnographic Perspective

ANTH 147b

The Rise of Mesoamerican Civilization

COML 111b

Creating the Transnational Caribbean: Language, Gender, Race

ENG 107a

Caribbean Women Writers

ENG 127b

Migrating Bodies, Migrating Texts

FA 24b

Twentieth-Century and Contemporary Latin American Art

HIST 71a

Latin American History, Pre-Conquest to 1870

HIST 71b

Latin American History, 1870 to the Present

HIST 174a

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

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

SECS 169a

Travel Writing and the Americas: Columbus's Legacy

SOC 125b

U.S.-Caribbean Relations

SPAN 108a

Spanish for Bilingual Students

SPAN 111b

Introduction to Latin American Literature

SPAN 155b

Latin America Between Baroque and Kitsch

SPAN 163a

The Latin American Boom and Beyond

SPAN 164b

Studies in Latin American Literature

SPAN 166b

Writing the Latin American City

SPAN 168b

Latin America Narrated by Women

SPAN 195a

Latinos in the U.S.: Perspectives from History, Literature, and Film

Electives (requiring a 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.

AAAS 123a

Third World Ideologies

AAAS 126b

Political Economy of the Third World

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

ANTH 153a

Writing Systems and Scribal Traditions

ANTH 184b

Cross-Cultural Art and Aesthetics

HIST 115a

History of Comparative Race and Ethnic Relations

HIST 171a

New World Revolutions: United States, Haiti, Peru

HIST 172a

Native Peoples of the Americas to 1824

POL 128a

The Politics of Revolution: State Violence and Popular Insurgency in the Third World

POL 180b

Sustaining Development

SOC 112a

Topics on Women and Development

SOC 122a

The Sociology of American Immigration

SOC 171a

Women Leaders and Transformation in Developing Countries

Electives (if Latin America or Caribbean is primary focus)

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

FREN 165b

Haiti, Then and Now

POL 146b

Seminar: Topics in Revolutions in the Third World

SPAN 191a

Hispanic Topics in Translation

SPAN 192a

Women's Fiction in Translation

SPAN 193b

Topics in Cinema