

Latin

See Classical Studies.

An interdepartmental program

Latin American and Latino Studies

Courses of Study:

Minor

Major (BA)

Objectives

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

Students in the major and the minor work closely with an advisor 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
(History)

Roxanne Dávila
(Romance Studies)

Elizabeth Ferry
(Anthropology)

Ricardo Godoy
(Heller School)

Charles Golden
(Anthropology)

Donald Hindley
(Politics)

James Mandrell
(Romance Studies)

Marisol Negrón
(Florence Levy Kay Fellow in Latino Studies)

Wellington Nyangoni
(African and Afro-American Studies)

Ángela Pérez-Mejía
(Romance Studies)

Lucia Reyes de Deu
(Romance Studies)

Fernando Rosenberg
(Romance Studies)

Laurence Simon
(Heller School)

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

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

Eva Thorne
(Politics)

Patricia Tovar
(Economics)

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 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 complete LALS 99d, a two-semester senior thesis.

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

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 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.

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

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May be repeated for credit. In fall 2007, SPAN 193b counts for LALS 100a; Mr. Rosenberg. In spring 2008, HIST 174a counts for LALS; Ms. Arrom.

Examines major themes and problems in Latin American studies from an interdisciplinary perspective. Topics vary from year to year.
Staff

LALS 108a Latin Music in the U.S.: From Bomba to Hip-Hop and Then Some

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Conducted in English with all readings in English translation. Course may be repeated for credit; this course may not be taken for credit by students who took SPAN 191a in fall 2006.

An exploration of “Latin” music in the United States, the agency of artists and fans, and perceptions of “Latinidad” within music. Analyzes music within its historical and aesthetic context, from the early twentieth-century to the recurrent Latin “booms.” Usually offered every year.
Ms. Negron

Elective Courses

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

HIST 71a

Latin American History, Pre-Conquest to 1870

HIST 71b

Latin American History, 1870 to the Present

HIST 171b

Latino/a History

HIST 173b

Latin American Women: Heroines, Icons, and History

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

SPAN 108a

Spanish for Bilingual Students

SPAN 111b

Introduction to Latin American Literature

SPAN 136b

Latino Cultural Expression: Literature, Performance, and Film

SPAN 155b

Latin America between Baroque and Kitsch

SPAN 160a

Literatura y Justicia en Latinoamerica

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 United States: Perspectives from History, Literature, and Film

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.

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

AMST 169a

Ethnicity and Race in the United States

ANTH 55a

Anthropology of Development

ANTH 153a

Writing Systems and Scribal Traditions

ANTH 156a

Power and Violence: The Anthropology of Political Systems

ANTH 184b

Cross-Cultural Art and Aesthetics

ENG 138a

Making Modern Subjects: Caribbean/Latin America/U.S.A. 1850-1950

HIST 115a

History of Comparative Race and Ethnic Relations

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

SPAN 140a

Topics in Poetry: Hispanic Poetry of the Twentieth Century

Elective Courses (if Latin America or the 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.

FREN 165b

Francophone Literature of Africa

POL 146b

Seminar: Topics in Revolutions in the Third World

SPAN 191a

Hispanic Topics in Translation

SPAN 193b

Topics in Cinema: Global Latin American Cinema