LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES (LAST)

* LAST 030b / ANTH 030b / ARCG 030b, Inca Culture and Society  Richard Burger
History of the Inca empire of the Central Andes, including the empire’s impact on the nations and cultures it conquered. Overview of Inca religion, economy, political organization, technology, and society. Ways in which different schools of research have approached and interpreted the Incas over the last century, including the influence of nationalism and other sources of bias on contemporary scholarship. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  SO

* LAST 222a / SPAN 222a, Legal Spanish  Mercedes Carreras
An introduction to Spanish and Latin American legal culture with a focus on the specific traits of legal language and on the development of advanced language competence. Issues such as human rights, the death penalty, the jury, contracts, statutory instruments, and rulings by the constitutional courts are explored through law journal articles, newspapers, the media, and mock trials. Enrollment limited to 18. A maximum of one course in the 200–230 range may count as an elective toward the Spanish major.  L5

* LAST 223a / SPAN 223a, Spanish in Film: An Introduction to the New Latin American Cinema  Margherita Tortora
Development of proficiency in Spanish through analysis of critically acclaimed Latin American films. Includes basic vocabulary of film criticism in Spanish as well as discussion and language exercises. Enrollment limited to 18.  L5

* LAST 227a / SPAN 227a, Creative Writing  Maria Jordan
An introduction to the craft and practice of creative writing (fiction, poetry, and essays). Focus on the development of writing skills and awareness of a variety of genres and techniques through reading of exemplary works and critical assessment of student work. Emphasis on the ability to write about abstract ideas, sentiments, dreams, and the imaginary world. Enrollment limited to 18. A maximum of one course in the 200–230 range may count as an elective toward the Spanish major.  L5

LAST 232a / ANTH 232a / ARCG 232a, Ancient Civilizations of the Andes  Richard Burger
Survey of the archaeological cultures of Peru and Bolivia from the earliest settlement through the late Inca state.  SO

* LAST 243a / SPAN 243a, Advanced Spanish Grammar  Staff
A comprehensive, in-depth study of grammar intended to improve students' spoken and written command of Spanish. Linguistic analysis of literary selections; some English-to-Spanish translation. Enrollment limited to 18.  L5

* LAST 251b / EP&E 257b / PLSC 399b, Political Power and Inequality in Latin America  Ana De La O
Overview and analysis of politics in Latin America. The emergence of democracy and the forces that led to the unprecedented increase in inequality in the twentieth century. Topics include institutional design, historical legacies, corruption, clientelism, and violence.  SO

* LAST 253b / HIST 253Jb, Dissidence and Control in Early Modern Spain and its Empire  Maria Jordan
Aspects of Spanish culture and society in the Golden Age (c. 1550–1650) that demonstrate discontent, dissidence, and suggestions for reform. Emphasis on the intersection of historical and literary sources and the dynamic between popular and elite cultures.  WR, HU

* LAST 260a / SPAN 260a, Studies in Latin American Literature I  Rolena Adorno
Cultural encounters in the New World as interpreted by authors of native American (Aztec and Inca) cultural traditions, the Spanish conquistadors and friars who encountered them and their heirs, and the Mexican creole nun (the now-world-famous Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz) who gave voice to some of their traditions as she created a space for her own writing in the literary world. Their resonance and legacy today.  L5, HU

LAST 267b / LITR 258b / SPAN 267b, Studies in Latin American Literature II  Roberto Gonzalez Echevarria
An introduction to Latin American literature from the nineteenth century to the present. Works by Borges, García Márquez, Paz, Neruda, Cortázar, and others.  L5, HU

* LAST 293b / ER&M 293b / HIST 393Jb, History and Culture of Cuba  Albert Laguna
Investigation of the history and culture of Cuba from the colonial period to the present. Cultural production in the form of film, literature, and music discussed in relation to aesthetics and historical context. The course also engages with the history and culture of Cuban communities in the United States.  HU

* LAST 318b / ARCH 341b / GLBL 253b / URBN 341b, Globalization Space  Keller Easterling
Infrastructure space as a primary medium of change in global polity. Networks of trade, energy, communication, transportation, spatial products, finance, management, and labor, as well as new strains of political opportunity that reside within their spatial disposition. Case studies include free zones and automated ports around the world, satellite urbanism in South Asia, high-speed rail in Japan and the Middle East, agripoles in southern Spain, fiber optic submarine cable in East Africa, spatial products of tourism in North Korea, and management platforms of the International Organization for Standardization.  HU

* LAST 334b / ER&M 364b / HIST 334Jb, Ethnicity, Nationalism, and the Politics of Knowledge in Latin America  Marcela Echeverri Munoz
Examination of ethnicity and nationalism in Latin America through the political lens of social knowledge. Comparative analysis of the evolution of symbolic, economic, and political perspectives on indigenous peoples, peasants, and people of African descent from the nineteenth century to the present. Consideration of the links between making ethnic categories in the social sciences and in literature and
the rise of political mechanisms of participation and representation that have characterized the emergence of cultural politics.  WR, HU RP

* LAST 343a / SPAN 343a, Humor in Contemporary Spanish American Narrative  Aníbal González-Pérez
With the use of theoretical and philosophical discussions of humor, examination of how contemporary Spanish American narrative deploys humor for a variety of purposes: from social satire and critical reflection to the promotion of harmony among individuals and social groups. Authors include Bryce Echenique, Luis Rafael Sánchez, Cabrera Infante, and Augusto Monterroso. Conducted in Spanish.  L5, HU

LAST 361a / HIST 361a, History of Brazil  Stuart Schwartz
Brazilian history from European contact to the reestablishment of civilian government in the 1990s. Focus on the multiethnic nature of Brazilian society, the formation of social and political patterns, and the relationship of people to the environment.  HU

* LAST 385a / LITR 260a / PORT 385a, Brazilian Novel of the 21st Century  Kenneth David Jackson
Changing narratives, themes, styles, and aesthetic ideals in current Brazilian prose and poetry. The writers’ attempts to express or define a personal, national, and global consciousness influenced by the return of political democracy to Brazil. Focus on readings published within the last five years. Readings and discussion in English; texts available in Portuguese.  WR, HU

* LAST 386a / GLBL 215a / MGRK 237a / PLSC 375a / SOCY 389a, Populism  Paris Aslanidis
Investigation of the populist phenomenon in party systems and the social movement arena. Conceptual, historical, and methodological analyses are supported by comparative assessments of various empirical instances in the US and around the world, from populist politicians such as Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders, to populist social movements such as the Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street.  SO

* LAST 391b / LITR 289b / SPAN 392b, Literature of the Americas, North and South  Rolena Adorno
Readings of U.S. and Latin American short stories and novels to explore related themes and narrative structures. Topics include the literary dialogue between Anglo and Latin American writers and their comparative treatments of history, myth, memory, and war. Paired readings of Poe and Cortázar; Bierce and Fuentes; Crane and Borges; and Faulkner’s Absalom, Absalom! and García Márquez’s One Hundred Years of Solitude. Conducted in English; a section in Spanish available depending on demand. Readings of Latin American texts in Spanish for Spanish and Literature majors. Prerequisite: SPAN 140, 142, 145, or equivalent.  HU

* LAST 423a / EP&E 243a / GLBL 336a / PLSC 423a, Political Economy of Poverty Alleviation  Ana De La O
Overview of classic and contemporary approaches to the question of why some countries have done better than others at reducing poverty. Emphasis on the role of politics.  SO