LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES (LAST)

LAST 120b / LAST 244b / SPAN 244b, Writing in Spanish  Margherita Tortora
Intensive instruction and practice in writing as a means of developing critical thinking. Recommended for students considering courses in literature. Analysis of fiction and nonfiction forms, techniques, and styles. Classes conducted in a workshop format. Group B courses are open to all students who have placed into L5 courses or who have successfully completed an L4 course in Spanish. Unless otherwise noted, all courses in group B are conducted in Spanish.  L5

LAST 214a / AFAM 186a / PLSC 378a / SOCY 170a, Contesting Injustice  Elisabeth Wood
Exploration of why, when, and how people organize collectively to challenge political, social, and economic injustice. Cross-national comparison of the extent, causes, and consequences of inequality. Analysis of mobilizations for social justice in both U.S. and international settings. Intended primarily for freshmen and sophomores.  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 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 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 244b / LAST 120b / SPAN 244b, Writing in Spanish  Margherita Tortora
Intensive instruction and practice in writing as a means of developing critical thinking. Recommended for students considering courses in literature. Analysis of fiction and nonfiction forms, techniques, and styles. Classes conducted in a workshop format.  L5

LAST 247a / SPAN 247a, Introduction to the Cultures of Latin America  Rolena Adorno
A chronological study of Latin American cultures through their expressions in literature and the arts, beginning in the pre-Columbian period and focusing on the period from the nineteenth century to the present. Emphasis on crucial historical moments and on distinctive rituals such as fiestas. Open to students who have placed into L5 courses or who have successfully completed an L4 course in Spanish. Counts toward the major in Spanish.  L5, HU

* LAST 255b / ANTH 255b / ARCG 255b, Inca Culture and Society  Richard Burger
The history and organization of the Inca empire and its impact on the nations and cultures it conquered. The role of archaeology in understanding the transformation of Andean lifeways; the interplay between ethnohistoric and archaeological approaches to the subject.  SO

LAST 261b / SPAN 261b, Studies in Spanish Literature I  Jesus Velasco
An introduction to Spanish prose, drama, and lyric poetry from their medieval multicultural origins through the Golden Age in the seventeenth century. Readings include El Cid, La Celestina, Conde Lucanor, and works by Miguel de Cervantes and Calderón de la Barca. Open to students who have placed into L5 courses or who have successfully completed an L4 course in Spanish. Counts toward the major in Spanish.  L5, HU

* LAST 293b / ER&M 293b, 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 355a / HIST 355a, Colonial Latin America  Stuart Schwartz
A survey of the conquest and colonization of Latin America from pre-Columbian civilizations through the movements for independence. Emphasis on social and economic themes and the formation of identities in the context of multiracial societies.  HU

* LAST 358a / SPAN 358a, Contemporary Spanish Caribbean Literature  Aníbal González-Pérez
Introduction to contemporary literature from Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico, through prose and poetry works by representative authors: Nicolás Guillén, Alejo Carpentier, José Lezama Lima, Antonio José Ponte, Ena Lucía Portela, Juan Bosch, José Alcántara Almánzar, Rita Indiana, Luis Palés Matos, Luis Rafael Sánchez, Mayra Santos-Febres, Luis Negrón. Topics include colonialism and postcolonialism; race, gender, and nation; Cubá’s Special Period; and the Puerto Rican debt crisis. Prerequisites: SPAN 140, 142, 145, or equivalent.  L5, HU
* LAST 369b / FILM 349b / HMRT 369 / LITR 369b, Gender Politics in Latin American Cinema  Moira Fradinger
Introduction to the contemporary politics of gender in Latin American cinema, with review of films from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Peru, Paraguay, Guatemala, Cuba, Venezuela and Mexico, and emphasis on how gender has been represented in a region with massive gender debates developing from the 1980s onwards. Topics include: discourses of human rights; representations of gay, transgender and intersex questions; social and economic status of women and feminized bodies; migration and indigenous peoples. Seminar is conducted in Spanish. Prerequisite: Level of L4. 1.5, HU

* LAST 371a / SPAN 371a, Science and Fiction in Spanish American Narrative  Aníbal González-Pérez
A study of the speculative incorporation of scientific ideas and themes in contemporary Spanish American fiction from Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Peru. Readings and discussions of early and mid-20th-century precursors, such as Jorge Luis Borges, Adolfo Bioy Casares, Leopoldo Lugones, Pablo Palacio, and Clemente Palma; of late-20th to early 21st-century examples of “technowriting” in Samantha Schweblin, Jorge Volpi, and Alejandro Zambra; and of utopias, dystopias and possible futures in Jorge Adolphe, Jorge Baradit, Hugo Correa, Angélica Gorodischer, Francisco Ortega, Yoss, Yuri Herrera, and Carlos Yushimoto. Related themes include: post-humanism, ecofiction, and sociopolitical satire. Course is taught in Spanish. Prerequisite: L4 Spanish or higher. 1.5, 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. 1.5, HU

* 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. Designed for students who enjoy reading fiction, this course consists of paired readings of Edgar Allen Poe and Julio Cortázar; Ambrose Bierce and Carlos Fuentes; Stephen Crane and Jorge Luis Borges. The course capstone is the pairing of William Faulkner’s ¡Absalón, Absalón! and Gabriel García Márquez’s One Hundred Years of Solitude. Conducted in Spanish. All course readings in the original Spanish (Cortázar, Fuentes, García Márquez) or in their Spanish translations (Poe, Bierce, Crane, and Faulkner). Prerequisite: SPAN 140, 142, 145, or equivalent. 1.5, HU

* LAST 392b / LITR 296b / PORT 392b, Brazil’s Cannibal Modernism: From Modern Art Week to Antropofagia  Kenneth David Jackson
A study of Brazilian modernism in literature and the arts, centered on São Paulo’s "Modern Art Week" of 1922 and the "Cannibal Manifesto" from the perspective of major figures and works, and transatlantic exchanges with figures from the European avant-gardes. Includes analysis of antropofagia as a post-colonial strategy. Reading knowledge of French and Portuguese helpful but not required. 1.5, HU, TR

* LAST 394a / LITR 294a / PORT 394a, World Cities and Narratives  Kenneth David Jackson
Study of world cities and selected narratives that describe, belong to, or represent them. Topics range from the rise of the urban novel in European capitals to the postcolonial fictional worlds of major Portuguese, Brazilian, and Lusophone cities. Conducted in English. 1.5, HU, TR

* LAST 491a or b, The Senior Essay  Staff
Preparation of a research paper about forty pages long under the direction of a faculty adviser, in either the fall or the spring term. Students write on subjects of their own choice. During the term before the essay is written, students plan the project in consultation with a qualified adviser or the director of undergraduate studies. The student must submit a suitable project outline and bibliography to the adviser and the director of undergraduate studies by the third week of the term. The outline should indicate the focus and scope of the essay topic, as well as the proposed research methodology. Permission may be given to write a two-term essay after consultation with an adviser and the director of undergraduate studies and after submission of a project statement. Only those who have begun to do advanced work in a given area are eligible. The requirements for the one-term senior essay apply to the two-term essay, except that the two-term essay should be substantially longer.