LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES (LAST)

LAST 200a / PLSC 382a, Introduction to Latin American Politics  Emily Sellars
Introduction to major theories of political and economic change in Latin America, and
to the political and economic systems of particular countries. Questions include why
the continent has been prone to unstable democratic rule, why countries in the region
have adopted alternatively state-centered and market-centered economic models, and,
with the most recent wave of democratization, what the remaining obstacles might be
to attaining high-quality democracy.  SO  o Course cr

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
 o Course cr

* 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 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.  L5

* LAST 266a / SPAN 266a, Studies in Latin American Literature I  Lisa Voigt
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  Lisa
Voigt
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 318b / ARCH 341b / GLBL 253b / URBN 341b, Globalization Space  
Staff
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.  

* LAST 334a / ER&M 364a / HIST 334Ja, 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.  

* LAST 351a / SPAN 350a, Borges: Literature and Power  
Anibal González-Pérez
An introduction to the work of Jorge Luis Borges, focusing on the relation between literature and power as portrayed in selected stories, essays, and poems. Topics include Borges and postmodernity; writing and ethics; and Borges’s politics. Works include Ficciones, Otras inquisiciones, El aleph, El hacedor, El informe de Brodie, and Obra poética. Open to students who have placed into L5 courses or who have successfully completed an L4 course in Spanish. Counts toward the Spanish major.  

* 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.  

* LAST 360a / FILM 363a / LITR 360a, Radical Cinemas of Latin America  
Moira Fradinger
Introduction to Latin American cinema, with an emphasis on post–World War II films produced in Cuba, Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico. Examination of each film in its historical and aesthetic aspects, and in light of questions concerning national cinema and "third cinema." Examples from both pre-1945 and contemporary films. Conducted in English; knowledge of Spanish and Portuguese helpful but not required.  

* LAST 371b / SPAN 371b, Science and Fiction in Spanish American Narrative  
Anibal 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 Adolph, Jorge Baradit, Hugo Correa, Angélica Gorodischer, Francisco Ortega, Yoss, Yuri Herrera, and Carlos Yushimito. Related themes include: post-humanism, ecofiction, and sociopolitical satire. Course is taught in Spanish. Prerequisite: L4 Spanish or higher. L5, HU

* LAST 372b / ER&M 342b / HIST 372Jb, Revolutionary Change and Cold War in Latin America  Greg Grandin
Analysis of revolutionary movements in Latin America against the backdrop of the Cold War. Critical examination of popular images and orthodox interpretations. An interdisciplinary study of the process of revolutionary change and cold war at the grassroots level. 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. WR, SO

* 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. WR, HU TR

* LAST 491a, 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.