Latin American Studies

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The major in Latin American Studies is designed to further understanding of the societies and cultures of Latin America as viewed from regional and global perspectives. The Latin American Studies major builds on a foundation of language and literature, history, history of art, theater studies, humanities, and the social sciences; its faculty is drawn from many departments and professional schools of the University.

The major in Latin American Studies is interdisciplinary. With two goals in mind – intellectual coherence and individual growth – the student proposes a course of study that must satisfy the requirements listed below. The proposed course of study must be approved by the director of undergraduate studies (DUS). Though all students choose courses in both the humanities and the social sciences, they are expected to concentrate on one or the other.

PREREQUISITES
Prerequisite to the major is knowledge of the two dominant languages of the region, Spanish and Portuguese. Depending on their interests, students select one language for two years of instruction and the other for one. Other languages necessary for research may in appropriate circumstances be substituted for the second language with the consent of the DUS. Students are encouraged to meet the language requirements as early as possible. Courses used to satisfy the language prerequisite may not be counted toward the major.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR
The major itself requires twelve term courses: one introductory course approved by the DUS; eight courses related to Latin America from departmental offerings or from a provided list of electives; two additional electives; and the senior essay, LAST 491. The eight Latin American content courses should include courses from the following categories: two courses in the social sciences (anthropology, economics, or political science); two courses in history; two courses in Spanish American or Brazilian literatures beyond the language requirement; one course in art, architecture, film and media studies, music, or theater studies; and one seminar in any area related to Latin American Studies. Students wishing to count toward the major courses that do not appear in the program’s course offerings should consult with the DUS.

Students must enroll in three seminars or upper-level courses during their junior and senior years. Elective seminars must be approved by the DUS, who can provide a list of appropriate courses.

SENIOR REQUIREMENT
The senior essay is a research paper written usually in one term in LAST 491. Students choose their own topics, which may derive from research done in an earlier course. The essay is planned in advance in consultation with a qualified adviser and a second reader.

In preparing the senior essay, Latin American Studies majors may undertake field research in Latin America. Students are encouraged to apply for summer travel grants through the Council on Latin American and Iberian Studies to conduct field research for their senior thesis. The Albert Bildner Travel Prize is awarded to an outstanding junior who submits an application in Spanish or Portuguese in addition to the English application essay. Information about these and other grants is available on Yale’s Student Grants & Fellowships website.

ADVISING
A list of courses intended as a guide to students in preparing their programs is available at the office of the DUS and on the Council on Latin American and Iberian Studies website. Qualified students may also elect pertinent courses in the Graduate School and in some of the professional schools with permission of the director of graduate studies or professional school registrar and the DUS.

STUDY ABROAD
Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of study abroad opportunities during summers or through the Year or Term Abroad program.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR
Prerequisites 2 years of 1 lang (Spanish or Portuguese), 1 year of the other
Number of courses 12 courses beyond prereqs (incl senior essay)
Distribution of courses 1 intro course approved by DUS; 8 courses related to Latin America in specified fields; 2 electives; 3 sems or upper-level courses in junior and senior years, approved by DUS
Senior requirement Senior essay (LAST 491)

Faculty Associated with the Program of Latin American Studies
Professors Rolena Adorno (Spanish & Portuguese), Ned Blackhawk (History, American Studies), Richard Burger (Anthropology), Hazel Carby (African American Studies, American Studies), Carlos Eire (History, Religious Studies), Eduardo Fernandez-Duque (Anthropology), Paul Freedman (History), Aníbal González (Spanish & Portuguese), Roberto González Echevarría (Spanish & Portuguese), K. David Jackson
Associate Professors Robert Bailis (Forestry & Environmental Studies), Susan Byrne (Spanish & Portuguese), Rodrigo Canales (School of Management), Ana De La O (Political Science), Moira Fradinger (Comparative Literature)

Assistant Professors Vanessa Agard-Jones (Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies), Ryan Bennett (Linguistics), Oswaldo Chinchilla (Anthropology), Marcela Echeverri (History), Anne Eller (History), Leslie Harkema (Spanish & Portuguese), Seth Jacobowitz (East Asian Languages & Literatures), Erica James (History of Art, American Studies), Albert Laguna (American Studies, Ethnicity, Race, & Migration), Dixa Ramirez (American Studies, Ethnicity, Race, & Migration)

Senior Lectors II Margherita Tortora, Sonia Valle

Senior Lectors Sybil Alexandrov, Marta Almeida, María Pilar Asensio-Manrique, Mercedes Carreras, Ame Cividanes, Sebastián Díaz, María de la Paz García, María Jordán, Rosamaría León, Juliana Ramos-Ruano, Lissette Reymundi, Lourdes Sabé-Colom, Bárbara Safille, Terry Seymour

Lector Selma Vital

Electives within the Major

Students wishing to count toward the major courses that do not appear on this list should consult with the director of undergraduate studies.

AFST 332a / HIST 332a, African Encounters with Colonialism Daniel Magaziner
How African societies and peoples encountered, engaged, and endured the colonial and postcolonial world, from the arrival of Kiswahili-speaking traders at the shores of Lake Victoria in the 1840s through the rise and fall of European colonialism and the resulting forms of neocolonialism. Transformations and continuities in African religious life; gendered sociability; popular culture. HU

* AMST 441a / ER&M 370a / HIST 130Ja, Indians and the Spanish Borderlands Ned Blackhawk
The experiences of Native Americans during centuries of relations with North America’s first imperial power, Spain. The history and long-term legacies of Spanish colonialism from Florida to California. WR, HU

ECON 325b / EP&E 321b / GLBL 322b / SAST 281b, Economics of Developing Countries: Focus on South Asia Zachary Barnett-Howell
Analysis of current problems of developing countries. Emphasis on the role of economic theory in informing public policies to achieve improvements in poverty and inequality, and on empirical analysis to understand markets and responses to poverty. Topics include microfinance, education, health, agriculture, intrahousehold allocations, gender, and corruption. Prerequisites: introductory microeconomics and introductory econometrics. SO

ER&M 200a, Introduction to Ethnicity, Race, and Migration Alicia Camacho
Historical roots of contemporary ethnic and racial formations and competing theories of ethnicity, race, and migration. Cultural constructions and social practices of race, ethnicity, and migration in the United States and around the world. HU, SO

* ER&M 300a or b, Comparative Ethnic Studies Staff
Introduction to the methods and practice of comparative ethnic studies. Examination of racial formation in the United States within a transnational framework. Legacies of colonialism, slavery, and racial exclusion; racial formation in schools, prisons, and citizenship law; cultural politics of music and performance; social movements; and postcolonial critique. SO

* EVST 345a / ANTH 382a / ER&M 395a / F&ES 384a, Environmental Anthropology Michael Dove
The history and contemporary study of anthropology and the environment, with special attention to current debates regarding human environmental relations. Topics include: nature-culture dichotomy; ecology and social organization; methodological debates; politics of the environment; and knowing the environment. SO

* F&ES 020a / EVST 020a, Sustainable Development in Haiti Gordon Geballe
The principles and practice of sustainable development explored in the context of Haiti’s rich history and culture, as well as its current environmental and economic impoverishment. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program. WR

* FILM 362a / 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. HU
HIST 325b, Introduction to Latin American History  Anne Eller
Critical themes and events in Latin American history from pre-Columbian times to the present. Major formative epochs such as the pre-
Columbian era, colonization, independence, and contemporary moments; modern political flashpoints, including Haiti, Cuba, Argentina,
and Peru.  HU

HIST 465a / EVST 209a / HSHM 209a, Making Climate Knowledge  Deborah Coen
This is a course about how humans have come to know what we know about our impacts on the earth’s climate and our vulnerability
to climate change. When did humans first know that their actions, in the aggregate, could transform the planet? Did scientists bear
responsibility to warn of these consequences? In what ways has the modern science of climate both appropriated and undermined
traditional and indigenous forms of climate knowledge? Students learn to work with the methods of history of science: we analyze science
as a social and material process bound to the cultural and epistemological particularities of its historical context, and we examine the
political dimensions of historical narratives about the emergence of the theory of global warming. Via hands-on experience with Yale’s
historical collections, students learn to analyze maps, artifacts, and instruments as historical sources. They also gain familiarity with the
methods of environmental history, learning to attend to historical evidence of shifting relationships between humans and non-humans.
Finally, students become more attuned to the evidence of climate change around them and more confident in their ability to make climate
knowledge for themselves.  WR, HU

* HSHM 422a / HIST 467Ja, Cartography, Territory, and Identity  William Rankin
Exploration of how maps shape assumptions about territory, land, sovereignty, and identity. The relationship between scientific
cartography and conquest, the geography of statecraft, religious cartographies, encounters between Western and non-Western cultures,
and reactions to cartographic objectivity. Students make their own maps. No previous experience in cartography or graphic design
required.  WR, HU

LAST 214b / AFAM 186b / PLSC 378b / SOCY 170b, 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.  1.5

* LAST 223a or b / SPAN 223a or b, Spanish in Film: An Introduction to the New Latin American Cinema  Staff
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.  1.5

* LAST 225b / SPAN 225b, Spanish for the Medical Professions  Staff
Topics in health and welfare. Conversation, reading, and writing about medical issues for advanced Spanish-language students, including
those considering careers in medical professions. Enrollment limited to 18.  1.5

* LAST 227a / SPAN 227a, Creative Writing  María Jordán
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.  1.5

* LAST 243a or b / SPAN 243a or b, 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.  1.5

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.  1.5, HU

* LAST 253a / HIST 253Ja, Dissidence and Control in Early Modern Spain and its Empire  María Jordán
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 261a / SPAN 261a, Studies in Spanish Literature I  Jesús 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.  1.5, HU
* LAST 262b / SPAN 262b, Studies in Spanish Literature II  Noël Valis
An introduction to Spanish prose, drama, and lyric poetry from the eighteenth century to the present, centered on the conflict between modernity and tradition and on the quest for national identity. Texts by Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer, Emilia Pardo Bazán, Antonio Machado, Federico García Lorca, Ramón Sender, and Ana María Matute, among others. Open to students who have placed into L5 courses or who have successfully completed an L4 course in Spanish.  L5, HU

* LAST 318b / ARCH 341b / GLBL 353b / URBN 341, 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, agripoline 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 351a / SPAN 350a, Borges: Literature and Power  Aníbal 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 lacedor, 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.  L5, 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 372a / ER&M 342a / HIST 372Ja, Revolutionary Change and Cold War in Latin America  Gilbert Joseph
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 394a / LITR 294a / PORT 394a, World Cities and Narratives  K. 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 Spanish American cities. Conducted in English.  WR, HU TR

LAST 398a / AFAM 180a / LITR 329a / SPAN 398a, Caribbean Baseball: A Cultural History  Roberto González Echevarría
A study of the origins and evolution of baseball in the Caribbean (Cuba, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico) in the context of the region’s political and cultural history and its relationship with the United States. The course begins with a consideration of the nature of games and the development and dissemination of sports by imperial powers since the nineteenth century: soccer, rugby, and tennis by the UK and basketball and baseball by the U.S. Topics to be considered: nationalism, the role of race, popular culture, the development of the media, the rise of stars and famous teams, the importance of the Negro Leagues, access of Caribbean players to the Major Leagues, the situation in the present.  WR, 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

* LITR 360a / FILM 363a, 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.  HU

PLSC 148b / HMRT 100b, Theories, Practices, and Politics of Human Rights  Staff
Introduction to core human-rights issues, ideas, practices, and controversies. The concept of human rights as a philosophical construct, a legal instrument, a political tool, an approach to economic and equity issues, a social agenda, and an international locus of contestation and legitimation. Required for students in the Multidisciplinary Academic Program in Human Rights.  SO

* PLSC 152a / EP&E 245a, Global Firms and National Governments  Joseph LaPalombara
Interactions between large-scale firms that make international investments and policy makers and government officials in the “host” countries. National and subnational officials who work to attract investments (or not) and who set policies regulating global firms and their investments. Focus on less-developed countries. Theories as to why firms “globalize”; case studies of controversies created by overseas corporate investments; the changing economic landscape associated with investments by countries such as China, Brazil, and India.  SO

* PLSC 415b / EP&E 241 / SOCY 172b, Religion and Politics in the World  Katharine Baldwin
A broad overview of the relationship between religion and politics around the world, especially Christianity and Islam. Religions are considered to constitute not just theologies but also sets of institutions, networks, interests, and sub-cultures. The course’s principal aim is to understand how religion affects politics as an empirical matter, rather than to explore moral dimensions of this relationship.  SO
* PLSC 428a / EP&E 240a / GLBL 333a, Comparative Welfare Policy in Developing Countries  Jeremy Seekings
  Examination of public and private welfare systems in the developing world. Analysis of the evolving relationships between kin or community and states and market. Particular attention to the politics of contemporary reforms.  SO

SPAN 246b, Introduction to the Cultures of Spain  Leslie Harkema
Study of various aspects of Spanish culture, including its continuing relation to the societies of Latin America. Examination of Spanish politics, history, religions, art forms, music, and literatures, from ancient times to the present. Primary sources and critical studies are read in the original.  L5, HU

Directed Reading and Senior Essay Courses

* LAST 471a, Directed Reading  Staff
For students who wish to investigate an area of Latin American Studies not covered by regular offerings. The project must terminate with a term paper or its equivalent. No more than one term of credit may be earned. To apply for admission, a student should present a prospectus and a bibliography to the director of undergraduate studies no later than one day before the course selection period concludes. Written approval from the faculty member who will direct the student’s reading and writing must accompany the prospectus.

* 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.