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 is
  limited to first-year students.  so

LAST 214a / AFAM 186a / PLSC 378a / SOCY 170a, Contesting Injustice  Staff
  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 first years and sophomores.  so
  o Course cr

* 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  Mayte López
  An introduction to the writing of fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction, with a focus
  on developing techniques and abilities that are essential for crafting imaginative
  texts and honing self-expression. Through in-class tasks, substantive discussions on
  composition and craft, and analyses of contemporary Latinx, Latin American, and
  Spanish works, students enhance their writing skills and nurture their unique voices
  as writers. This course takes on the format of a workshop, with students receiving
  constructive feedback from both the instructor and their fellow writers. Conducted in
  Spanish. Enrollment limited to 15. A maximum of one course in the 200-230 range may
  count as an elective toward the Spanish major.  l5

LAST 228a / ER&M 278a / SPAN 228a, Borders & Globalization in Hispanophone
  Cultures  Luna Najera
  The borders that constitute the geographical divisions of the world are contingent,
  but they can have enormous ordering power in the lives of people and other beings.
  Human-made borders can both allow and disallow the flow of people and resources
  (including goods, knowledge, information, technologies, etc.). Like geographical
  borders, social borders such as race, caste, class, and gender can form and perpetuate
privileged categories of humans that constrain the access of excluded persons to resources, education, security, and social mobility. Thus, bordering can differentially value human lives. Working with the premise that borders are sites of power, in this course we study bordering and debordering practices in the Hispanic cultures of Iberia, Latin America, and North America, from the 1490s to the present. Through analyses of a wide range of texts that may include treatises, maps, travel literature, visual culture, material culture (e.g., currency), law, music, and performance art, students investigate the multiple ways in which social, cultural, and spatial borders are initiated, expressed, materialized, and contested. More broadly, we explore, describe, and trace the entanglements of bordering, globalizations, and knowledge production in Hispanophone cultures. Some of the questions that will guide our conversations are: What are (social) borders and what are the processes through which they persist? How do the effects of practices that transcend borders (e.g., environmental pollution, deforestation) change our understanding of borders? What can we learn from indigenous peoples’ responses to bordering process and globalization? Prerequisite: SPAN 140 or 145, or in accordance with placement results. The course is conducted entirely in Spanish. Readings are available electronically through Canvas and the University Library. To be conducted in Spanish. 15, HU

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. 50

* LAST 243a / SPAN 243a, Advanced Spanish Grammar Lissette Reymundi
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. 15

* LAST 261a / SPAN 261a, Critical Contexts in Medieval and Early Modern Iberia Jesus Velasco
This course offers a panoramic introduction to Iberian written cultures from the medieval to early modern period (ca. 800-1700). Organized chronologically and guided by the methodology of close reading, we will analyze a wide range of concepts and topics relevant for understanding the multilingual, multireligious contexts in which literary and non-literary works were produced, including knowledge and hospitality; borders and negotiation; authority and power; autobiography and eyewitness narrative accounts; courtly love and love sickness; makeup and cosmetic theory; prostitution and public health; gender dissidence and transgressive bodies; masculinities and misogyny; economic crisis and decline; black Africans and the African diaspora; the Inquisition and religious orthodoxy. 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. 5, HU

* LAST 266a / SPAN 266a, Critical Contexts in Colonial Latin America Staff
This course offers a panoramic introduction to the written and visual cultural production of colonial Latin America (ca. 1492-1800). Organized chronologically and guided by the methodology of close reading, we analyze works of various genres and formats whose creators were of Indigenous, African, Spanish, and mestizo descent. We investigate how these texts reveal, critique, reimagine, or participate in the power relations of multiethnic societies founded on conquest, colonization, and slavery.
Among our objectives is the development of the skills of critical analysis of texts written in Spanish, which we pursue through class discussion, oral presentations, and written and creative projects. L5, HU

* LAST 305a / ER&M 285a / SOCY 305a, Latin American Immigration to the United States: Past, Present, and Future  Angel Escamilla Garcia

Immigration from Latin America is one of the most important and controversial issues in the United States today. The family separation crisis, the infamous border wall, and the Dream Act dominate political debate. Latinos—numbering more than 60 million in the U.S.—are a large, heterogeneous, and growing group with a unique social, political, and cultural history. This course explores key current issues in immigration, as well as the history of Latin American migration to the U.S., with the aim of providing students the tools necessary to thoughtfully participate in current debates. SO

LAST 325b / ER&M 345b / 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

* LAST 344a / SPAN 344a, Narrative and Music in Hispanic Caribbean Culture  Anibal González-Pérez

The development of the narrative genre in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico from its origins in the nineteenth century to the present. Focus on how music is represented and incorporated into the discourse of Hispanic Caribbean novels and stories. Authors include Villaverde, Carpentier, Cabrera Infante, Nicolás Guillén, Ana Lydia Vega, and Luis Palés Matos. 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 350a / EVST 266a / HUMS 452a / SPAN 365a, Ecologies of Culture: Latin American Environmental Aesthetics  Santiago Acosta

In the age of rising sea levels, mass extinction, and carbon-driven climate change, can culture and the arts remain unchanged? This course focuses on the intersections between aesthetics and ecological practices in the context of the Anthropocene, a proposed geological epoch wherein humans have become a major geological force shaping the planet. It challenges traditional approaches by examining how culture and the arts can help to understand and respond to environmental crises. Discussions and readings emphasize the role of culture and aesthetics as agents and producers of environmental knowledge, highlighting their potential to challenge socio-ecological relations. Throughout the semester, students explore various themes, including colonialism, anthropocentrism, human-animal relations, fossil capitalism, indigenous ontologies, and the impact of extractive industries on territories and bodies in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Latinx world. Students engage with works by established and emerging artists, aiming to produce ecocritical knowledge about the current climate and environmental crisis. The course also offers a panoramic view of Latin American culture by examining some key historical events and authors whose works can shed light on cultural and ideological processes at the root of climate change. By the end of the semester, students can formulate research questions that are critical to
the field of Latin American environmental humanities, as well as produce papers that are relevant to a broader debate about culture and ecology. Lastly, the course hopes to motivate students—beyond the classroom—to examine their place in an increasingly warming world. Taught in Spanish. L5, HU

* LAST 360a / FILM 363a / LITR 360a, Radical Cinemas of Latin America  
  Staff
Introduction to the radical New Latin American Cinema movement that started in the sixties, with an emphasis on manifestos that conceived the relation between art and politics for social change and with a corpus of films produced in Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Argentina, Bolivia, Venezuela, Haiti and Mexico. Examination of films in their historical and aesthetic aspects, and in light of questions concerning national cinema, "militant cinema," "political cinema" and "third cinema." Discussions about the global sixties at large, and about some Latin American texts that were read globally. Conducted in English; knowledge of Spanish and Portuguese helpful but not required. HU o Course cr

LAST 361a / HIST 361a, History of Brazil  
  Staff
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 o Course cr

LAST 368a / ER&M 368a / HIST 368a, Political Violence, Citizenship, and Democracy in Latin America  
  Staff
Exploration of how and when definitions of citizenship and democracy have been shaped by violent conflicts; how local and global contexts have influenced individual and collective political action; and the transformation of leadership, ideologies, and utopias in different Latin American contexts. WR, HU o Course cr

* 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 420a / HSAR 420a, Techniques of the Body in Latin American Art  
  Catalina Ospina
In a 1934 article titled “Techniques of the Body,” anthropologist Marcel Mauss argued that culture defines the ways bodies are used and trained. Mauss’s insight has sprung a series of studies on embodiment that examine how bodies are culturally construed. Engaging literature on embodiment from diverse disciplines—including philosophy, anthropology, and cognitive science—this course investigates how cultural understandings of the body inform the meaning of artmaking and art-experiencing practices. Discussions center on artworks from Latin America from the Pre-Hispanic to the Contemporary period—including Nazca lines, Maya ceramics, colonial-era mopa mopa, the early 20th-century Anthropophagy movement in Brazil, Hélio Oiticica’s and Lygia Clark’s works from the 1950s and 1970s, and the works of Beatriz Gonzales and Doris Salcedo from the 1980s and 1990s. Discussing these works, students address questions ranging from super-human scale to the diverse strategies artworks use to invoke bodies metonymically. Comparative artworks from other cultures and periods
show the applicability of this methodology beyond Latin American art. The course incorporates hands-on components and employs artifacts from Yale’s museums. HU