Latin American Studies

The Program in Latin American Studies (PLAS) promotes the study of the histories, cultures, societies, and political systems of Latin America and the Caribbean at the Johns Hopkins University. PLAS's curricular offerings and extracurricular activities provide undergraduate and graduate students with opportunities to explore the rich political, aesthetic, intellectual, and scientific traditions of Latin America. The program also regularly sponsors scholarship and teaching related to Latino Studies. Drawing on faculty expertise across the disciplines, PLAS aims to generate new perspectives on Latin America, the Caribbean, and the experience of Latinos in the United States.

PLAS coordinates an undergraduate major and minor in Latin American studies. The major and minor are designed to deepen student interest in, and understanding of, Latin America through course work and extracurricular programs. The program encourages and supports students wishing to undertake summer research in Latin America as well as those who seek to study abroad at Latin American universities.

PLAS contributes to the professional training of graduate students through an array of interdisciplinary seminars, colloquia, and symposia featuring eminent senior scholars. The program also supports an annual conference organized by the graduate student group. PLAS offers pre-dissertation winter and summer research grants as well as a graduate teaching fellowship. It also co-sponsors student-initiated exhibitions, conferences, and special events. Information about PLAS may be found on its website:

http://krieger.jhu.edu/plas/

Major/Minor in Latin American Studies

Also see Requirements for a Bachelor’s Degree (http://e-catalog.jhu.edu/undergrad-students/academic-policies/requirements-for-a-bachelors-degree).

The Program in Latin American Studies (PLAS) coordinates a major and a minor in Latin American studies. It aims to provide undergraduate students with a broad understanding of the complexity and richness of Latin American political, social, and cultural phenomena. As a result of completing the major or the minor, students will have gained a deep understanding of Latin American politics, economy, society, and culture, as well as of the intricate relationship between the region and the United States.

Learning Goals:

Students who graduate with a major or a minor in Latin American studies from Johns Hopkins will be able to:

- Demonstrate command of either Spanish or Portuguese in order to read documents, literature, or view media at an advanced level.
- Write effectively and support their arguments with appropriate evidence.
- Demonstrate an understanding of research methodologies drawn from both the humanities and social sciences appropriate to the field of Latin American studies.
- Critically evaluate the position of Latin America in an increasingly globalized world.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the variety of cultures in Latin America.
- Demonstrate familiarity with the Latin American literary tradition and be able to analyze and interpret literary texts.

Students who decide to major or minor in Latin American studies are required to study Spanish or Portuguese. Language requirements can be waived for those who demonstrate suitable knowledge of either Spanish or Portuguese, or in an Amerindian language such as Quechua or Guarani. The general "Introduction to Latin American Studies" course is required for the major.

Though students may choose to emphasize a particular area of specialization within Latin American studies (e.g., politics, public health, literature), the major and minor programs require a distribution of courses across a variety of areas.

Requirements for the Major

The requirements for a major in Latin American Studies are as follows:

- Four lower-level courses (100- and 200-level courses) dealing with Latin America, one of which must be the general introductory course (AS.361.130 Introduction to Latin American Studies) to Latin America.
- Five upper-level courses (300-level courses and above) focused on Latin America.
- Two electives courses (at any level) relevant or with reference to Latin America.
- Language proficiency (i.e., reading fluidity and basic conversational skills) through the advanced level in either Spanish or Portuguese will be required. Language requirements can be waived for those who demonstrate a suitable proficiency in either Spanish or Portuguese.
- No grade below C- will be accepted for the major requirements and courses may not be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory.

Language proficiency in Spanish or Portuguese through the advanced level:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AS.361.130 Introduction to Latin American Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three 100- or 200-level courses relating to Latin America</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five 300-level or higher courses relating to Latin America</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two elective courses relating to Latin America chosen with advisor’s approval</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Credits</td>
<td>36-58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Language proficiency can be demonstrated by the completion of AS.210.312 Advanced Spanish II or AS.210.392 Advanced Portuguese: Language and Literature II or via placement exam.

Honors in the Major

To be eligible for honors in Latin American Studies, a 3.5 GPA in the major courses as well as the completion of a senior honors thesis in Latin American Studies is required.

Requirements for the Minor

The requirements for a minor in Latin American Studies are as follows:

- Four upper-level courses (300 or above) focused on Latin America. Intersession courses may not be used to fulfill this requirement.
• Two additional courses at any level dealing with Latin America.
  Note: 3-credit intersession or summer session non-language courses offered by JHU may be used to fulfill this requirement.
• Language proficiency through the intermediate level in either Spanish or Portuguese.
• No grade below C- will be accepted for the minor requirement and courses may not be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory.

Language proficiency in Spanish or Portuguese through the intermediate level * 0-16
Two courses at any level relating to Latin America 6
Four courses at the 300-level or higher relating to Latin America 12
Total Credits 18-34

* Language proficiency can be demonstrated by the completion of AS.210.212 Intermediate Spanish II or AS.210.278 Intermed/Adv Portuguese or via placement exam.

For current course information and registration go to https://isis.jhu.edu/classes/

Latin American Studies

AS.361.124. Latin American Film: Mini-Course.
This course provides a brief, four-week, one-credit introduction to the cultural, political and aesthetic domains of Latin American cinema through thematically focused discussions of four feature-length films. Instructor(s): E. Cervone Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

AS.361.130. Introduction to Latin American Studies.
This course provides an introduction to the study of Latin American cultures and societies from the vantage point of city life and urban representation. We will engage literatures from a variety of disciplines to discuss how issues such as modernization and urbanization processes; tradition, identity and ethnicity; class, marginality and urban social movements; gender and the changing status of women; arts and literature are experienced and represented in the Latin American urban environments. Instructor(s): E. Gonzalez; G. Paquette; V. Procupez Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Instructor(s): D. Poole; E. Gonzalez; G. Paquette; S. Castro-Klaren.

AS.361.550. Internship.
Instructor(s): D. Poole; G. Paquette Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Cross-Listed Course Offerings

Anthropology

This course combines anthropological perspectives with the discussion and examination of technology-based interventions in the field of development and aid policies, with particular focus on activities related to water resources, sanitation, and hygiene. Readings and discussions analyze some of the theoretical, historically rooted, and practical issues that challenge those who hope to provide effective aid. A key aim of this course is to provide students with better understanding of cultural, social, environmental and economic issues relevant to technical intervention in developing countries. Instructor(s): E. Cervone; W. Ball Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

German and Romance Languages & Literatures

AS.211.380. Modern Latin American Culture.
Taught in Spanish. This course will explore the fundamental aspects of Latin America culture from the formation of independent states through the present—in light of the social, political, and economic histories of the region. The course will offer a general survey of history of Latin America, and will discuss texts, movies, songs, pictures, and paintings, in relation to their social, political, and cultural contexts. May not be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory. Instructor(s): Staff Area: Humanities.

AS.211.394. Brazilian Culture & Civilization.
This course is intended as an introduction to the culture and civilization of Brazil. It is designed to provide students with basic information about Brazilian history, art, literature, popular culture, theater, cinema, and music. The course will focus on how indigenous Asian, African, and European cultural influences have interacted to create the new and unique civilization that is Brazil today. The course is taught in English, but ONE extra credit will be given to students who wish to do the course work in Portuguese. Those wishing to do the course work in English for 3 credits should register for section 01. Those wishing to earn 4 credits by doing the course work in Portuguese should register for section 02. The sections will be taught simultaneously. Section 01: 3 credits Section 02: 4 credits (instructor’s permission required) Instructor(s): F. De Azeredo Cerqueira Area: Humanities.

Study of the music and literature inspired by three groups of great liminal influence in the cultural and political affairs of their respective nations. Gauchos (Argentina), Afro Hispanics (Cuba, Puerto Rico, Santo Domingo), Gitanos (Spain). Attention given to popular and learned myths and stereotypes and the history of efforts to establish self-identity. Conducted in Spanish. Recommended Course Background: AS.210.326 Instructor(s): E. Gonzalez Area: Humanities.
We will study the visual and textual arts, cinema, political culture, and blogosphere; reaching back to the first phases in the building of the revolutionary state apparatus and its sovereign mandate. Taught in Spanish.
Prerequisites: AS.210.312[C]
Instructor(s): E. Gonzalez
Area: Humanities.

Readings from colonial times to the present from three cultural legacies, Hispanic, English and French. Centered on slavery and its sequels. Instructor(s): E. Gonzalez.

History

AS.100.438. Modern Mexico and the Mexican Revolution.
An examination of the political, social, and economic factors between 1810 and 2010 that produced incessant civil war in Mexico during the 19th century and a revolution in the early 20th century. Cross listed with PLAS
Instructor(s): F. Knight
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

AS.100.439. Cuban Revolution and the Contemporary Caribbean.
A lecture course dealing with the development of the Cuban Revolution and the tortuous history of the Caribbean during the 19th and 20th centuries.
Instructor(s): F. Knight
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

AS.100.440. The Revolutionary Experience in Latin America.
Comparative examinations of revolutionary political changes in Haiti, Mexico, Bolivia, and Cuba. Cross-listed with Latin American Studies
Instructor(s): F. Knight
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

AS.100.441. Society, Politics, and Economics in Latin America.
This course traces the complex relationship between politics, economics, and social changes in Latin America and the Caribbean since World War II.
Instructor(s): F. Knight
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

History of Art

AS.010.105. Art of the Ancient Americas.
Surveys the art of Olmec, West Mexico, Teotihuacan, Maya, and Aztec.
Instructor(s): L. Deleonardis
Area: Humanities.

AS.010.320. Art of Colonial Peru.
The visual arts of viceregal Peru (16th-18th c) are considered in historical context. Religious orders, art schools, artisan guilds and cofradia are examined as are the social and political implications of art patronage.
Instructor(s): L. Deleonardis
Area: Humanities.

AS.010.334. Problems in Ancient American Art.
Selected topics which may include collecting the pre-Columbian past and connoisseurship, the formation of national museums, post-Columbian appropriations. Collections study in museums. May also be used toward credit for the Archaeology major. Cross-listed with PLAS and Program in Museum and Society
Instructor(s): L. Deleonardis
Area: Humanities.

AS.010.365. Art of the Ancient Andes.
The visual arts of Andean South America and their respective cultural contexts form the basis of this seminar. Collections study in museums.
Instructor(s): L. Deleonardis
Area: Humanities.

History of Science

AS.140.390. Science and Technology in Latin America.
The course surveys the development of western science and technology in Hispanic America (1492 to the present). We begin studying the hybridization of scientific practices between European and Native American cultures during the early colonial era and end with the transfer of technologies and industrialization of the 20th century. We emphasize the role on science and technology in state formation, the acculturation of foreign ideas in colonial and postcolonial societies, and the role of intellectual elites in modernization programs.
Instructor(s): M. Portuondo
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Political Science

AS.190.331. Comparative Racial Politics.
Students will learn to utilize qualitative, interpretive methods of comparative politics to examine dynamics of racial and/or ethnic politics in the nation-states of Cuba, Brazil, Britain and France, Germany, and the United States. Readings will emphasize the role of the state, political economy, national culture, racist ideologies and anti-racist politics in the formation, maintenance and transformation of conditions of race-based inequalities. Students will also become familiar with theories and concepts of race and ethnicity, and the histories of social movements in the aforementioned societies founded, in part, on racial and/or ethnic identification as a response to inequality. Formerly titled: Race and Racism in Comparative Perspective.
Instructor(s): M. Hanchard
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences.

AS.190.392. Introduction to Latin American Politics.
Instructor(s): M. Keck
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences.

A research seminar examining the politics of environmental issues in developing countries, with special focus on Latin America.
Instructor(s): M. Keck
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences.
AS.190.419. Identity and Nations in Latin American Politics. This seminar class explores formation and political mobilization of identities - group, ethnic, gendered, national, cosmopolitan - in Latin America. Although some of the reading will be broadly comparative, the spring 2013 version of the class will focus especially on Brazil. Requirements will include short response papers and a term paper. Portuguese or Spanish desirable but not required. Enrolled students must be juniors or seniors and must have taken at least one prior course in comparative politics. Instructor(s): M. Keck Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Sociology

AS.230.343. Political Sociology of Latin America. This course provides an overview of Latin America through its historical, economic, social, and political dimensions. Emphasis will be given to the analysis of social structures: class, race and ethnicity, and the contemporary social movements. The course begins with an overview of the pre-Columbian civilizations and colonial legacies that gave rise to the multiethnic societies and the ethnic conflicts which characterize contemporary Latin America. Cross-listed with Program in Latin American Studies and International Studies (CP) Instructor(s): M. von der Heydt-Coca Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences.

AS.230.346. Economic Sociology of Latin America. This course will offer an overview of Latin America’s economic reality as an intertwined process of economic and political domestic factors within the constraints of the world economy. Latin American development will be analyzed from a historical perspective. The first half of the semester the course will focus on the analysis of the economic developmental patterns starting in the middle of the 19th century to the populist era in the middle of the 20th century. In the second half of the semester, we will analyze in depth the contemporary neoliberal approach to development. Globalization is the force that drives economic, social and political processes in Latin America. The course will include case studies as well the social conflicts generated by the increasing polarization of the society. Students will be exposed to important sociological theories. Instructor(s): M. von der Heydt-Coca Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences.

For current faculty and contact information go to http://anthropology.jhu.edu/plas/people.html

Faculty

Director
Gabriel Paquette Director, Program in Latin American Studies Professor, Department of History

Professors
Sara Castro-Klarén (German and Romance Languages and Literatures): Latin American literature, colonial studies, discourse analysis, contemporary novel.

Lisa DeLeonardis Austen-Stokes Professor (History of Art): Art and archaeology of the ancient Americas.

William Egginton (German and Romance Languages and Literatures): Spanish and Latin American literatures; literary theory; and the relation between literature and philosophy.

Eduardo González Latin American Literature and Cinema. (German and Romance Languages and Literatures): Spain, Latin America and Caribbean literature and cinema.

James D. Goodyear Associate Director of Public Health Studies Program, Professor (History of Science, Medicine and Technology): history of medicine, Latin American history, Brazil.

Michael Hanchard (Political Science): comparative politics, Latin American politics, and comparative racial politics.

Margaret E. Keck (Political Science): comparative politics, Latin American politics, and the environment.

Deborah Poole (Anthropology): visuality and representation in Latin America, Peru, and Mexico; race and ethnicity; violence, liberalism, and the state; law and judicial reform.

Beverly J. Silver (Sociology): historical sociology, labor and social movements, political sociology, international development.

Lea Ybarra (German and Romance Languages and Literatures): Chicano and Latino studies.

Assistant Professors

Nadia Altschul Assistant Professor, Department of German and Romance Languages and Literatures

Clara Han (Anthropology): Medical Anthropology, Health and the Economy, Public Health, Social Studies of Medicine and Technology, Inequality, Latin America, Chile.

Sebastian Mazzuca Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science

Juan Obarrio (Anthropology): Law, temporality and the political, state and economy, memory and subjectivity, magic, value and violence, Southern Africa, Latin America.

Cindy Parker Assistant Professor, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences

Maria Portuondo (History of Science): science and exploration, science and technology in Latin America, early modern Spanish and Latin American Cosmography and geography.

Erin Rowe Assistant Professor, Department of History
Lecturers
Flavia De Azeredo-Cerqueira
Portuguese Language Program Director and Lecturer in Portuguese

Magda von der Heydt-Coca
(Sociology): contemporary sociology, Andean region.

Professors Emeriti
Mary M. Bensabat-Ott
Lecturer, German and Romance Languages and Literatures

Richard Kagan
Professor, History

Franklin Knight
Professor, History Latin American and Carribbean

Lea Ybarra
Interdepartmental, cross-listed with: Romance Languages & Literatures,
Political Science, History, Sociology and Chicano Studies