Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Department Website: http://clas.uchicago.edu

Major Program in Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) is an interdisciplinary program for students who want to engage critical issues in the social sciences and humanities through deep immersion in the histories, cultures, economies, politics, and natural environments of Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition to gaining deep knowledge of a region closely tied to Chicago and the United States, LACS students will develop strong linguistic, research, and analytical skills; most also spend significant time studying or conducting fieldwork in a Latin American country.

The major requirements include: coursework; language proficiency in Spanish or Portuguese; experiential learning that aims to broaden students’ appreciation of Latin American and Caribbean perspectives and deepen their cultural fluency; and a fourth-year BA colloquium and capstone project that allow students to develop their capacity for independent, creative, rigorous inquiry. Students can choose every year from dozens of course listings across the disciplines and can expect individualized mentorship and advising from our dedicated faculty and staff.

The Center for Latin American Studies supplements the program’s academic offerings with dozens of public events each year, which help to build a strong Latin American Studies community. We also aim to expose students to Chicago’s role as a significantly Latin American city and to prepare them for careers in government, journalism, law, business, teaching, the nonprofit sector, or academia.

Program Requirements

Students in the Class of 2022 and beyond will follow the requirements for the Latin American and Caribbean Studies major described below. Students in the Class of 2021 will continue under the previous requirements, which may be found on the Center for Latin American Studies website (http://clas.uchicago.edu/).

LACS majors are required to take 11 courses in addition to the Latin American Civilization prerequisite, distributed as follows:

**Prerequisite: Introduction to Latin American Civilization**

LACS majors should all complete the Introduction to Latin American Civilization sequence as a prerequisite to the major, either on campus (LACS 16100-16200-16300 Introduction to Latin American Civilization I-II-III) or in Oaxaca, México (SOSC 19019-19020-19021 Latin American Civilization in Oaxaca I-II-III). This sequence can be taken in order to fulfill the general education requirement in civilization studies, in which case none of the three courses will count toward the LACS major. Students who take Latin American Civilization separately from the general education requirement can count one of the three courses in the sequence as a content course toward the LACS major.

**LACS Courses**

Five courses in at least two divisions (e.g., Social Sciences, Humanities, Biological Sciences) that focus on Latin America and/or the Caribbean. This means that at least one course must be taken outside of the primary division of study.

**Electives**

Two elective courses that integrate research methodology and/or experiential learning, chosen in consultation with the program adviser. These courses are not required to focus on Latin America and the Caribbean, but should provide students with new ways of learning and thinking that could be applied to their study of the region. Language acquisition courses in a second regional language (beyond the one language a student chooses to fulfill the language requirement) may be counted toward this category.

**Language**

The LACS language requirement can be completed in one of two ways:

- Completion of three courses at the second-year level or above in one of the two major regional languages (Spanish or Portuguese). Students with strong language preparation may petition out of one of these courses, substituting it with a content course or a course in a second Latin American or Caribbean language.

OR
• Earning the Practical Language Proficiency Certification (https://languageassessment.uchicago.edu/practical-language-proficiency-assessment/), which assesses listening, reading, speaking, and writing abilities. This certification documents students’ ability to functionally use a foreign language in personal, academic, and professional settings. Students who fulfill the language requirement through the proficiency certification must substitute with three LACS courses or three courses in a second regional language. Students who complete the language requirement by enrolling in coursework may also register to take the Practical Language Proficiency Assessment in order to document their language abilities.

Students who complete the Practical Language Proficiency Certification without enrolling in language courses at the University (e.g., native speakers, students who participated in language immersion programs, etc.) are strongly encouraged to study a second regional language, such as Portuguese, Haitian Kreyol, or an indigenous language that relates to their area of interest.

BA Capstone Project and BA Colloquium

All students who are majoring in Latin American and Caribbean Studies are required to complete a capstone project under the supervision of a faculty member. The capstone project may take the form of a BA thesis, an online exhibition, a documentary film, a podcast, or another intellectual or artistic endeavor; non-traditional projects must be accompanied by a critical piece of writing explaining the student’s intellectual or artistic rationale and the process that led to the student’s creation. The project is due Friday of fourth week of the Spring Quarter.

During the Winter and Spring Quarters of their third year, all LACS majors (double majors included) are required to participate in a workshop series (three to four sessions) focused on preparation for the capstone project. Students will be provided with information on the workshop series early in the Winter Quarter of their third year. The program adviser will work individually with students who are studying abroad during either or both quarters.

Fourth-year students are required to enroll in LACS 29801 BA Colloquium. Although students register for LACS 29801 only once, in Autumn Quarter, they participate for all three quarters and grades are issued at the end of the year. The colloquium assists students in formulating approaches to the BA capstone project and developing their research, communication, and project management skills, while providing a forum for group discussion and critiques.

Students have the option of taking LACS 29900 Preparation of the BA Essay in Winter or Spring Quarter to afford additional time for research or writing; this course is taught by arrangement between a student and the student’s project adviser. Students who register for LACS 29900 may count it toward their five LACS content courses. The grade a student receives for this course depends on the successful completion of the BA capstone project.

This program may accept a BA project used to satisfy the same requirement in another major if certain conditions are met and with the consent of both program chairs/directors. Students should consult with the program chairs/directors by the earliest BA proposal deadline (or by the end of their third year, if neither program publishes a deadline). A consent form, to be signed by both chairs/directors, is available from the College adviser. It must be completed and returned to the College adviser by the end of Autumn Quarter of the student’s year of graduation.

Experiential Learning

As part of or in addition to their coursework, students are required to participate in an approved study abroad program, internship, or other experiential learning project with significant links to their program of study. The LACS program adviser and Center for Latin American Studies staff will work individually with each major to ensure that the student has access to opportunities that are appropriate to the student’s background, skills, and plan of study.

Options for meeting the requirement include, but are not limited to:

• Taking Latin American Civilization in Oaxaca, enrolling in the Catholic University of Chile Exchange Program, or utilizing a Third Year International Travel Grant or Foreign Language Acquisition Grant (FLAG) in the region
• Completing a summer or academic year internship with an appropriate organization in Chicago, elsewhere in the United States, or in Latin America
• Participating in a research assistantship with a University of Chicago faculty member
• Completing an experiential learning project as part of an LACS course
• Developing an experience or project that has been approved by the LACS program adviser

Students must complete this requirement by the Spring Quarter of the year they plan to graduate.
ADVISING

Students who plan to declare a major in Latin American and Caribbean Studies should be in contact with the program adviser as early as possible to discuss their interest in the program and how to meet program requirements. Students should select their courses for the LACS major in close consultation with the program adviser. The Center for Latin American Studies publishes an online list of LACS courses (https://clas.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/courses/) every quarter.

Students should meet with the program adviser no later than the Winter Quarter of their third year to discuss their major progress and to discuss the BA Colloquium and the BA capstone project. Students who plan to study abroad during the Winter and/or Spring Quarter of their third year should meet with the program adviser before leaving campus.

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS: LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES MAJOR (11 COURSES)

PREREQUISITES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One of the following:</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tr>
<td>LACS 16100-16200-16300</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOSC 19019-19020-19021</td>
<td>300</td>
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Total Units: 600

MAJOR

LACS Courses: Five courses, in at least two divisions (e.g., Social Sciences, Humanities, Biological Sciences), that focus on Latin America and/or the Caribbean: 500

Electives: Two elective courses that integrate research methodology and/or experiential learning: 200

Language: Three courses in 20000-level or higher Spanish or Portuguese: 300

LACS 29801 BA Colloquium: 100

Total Units: 1100

* This sequence can be taken in order to fulfill the general education requirement in civilization studies, in which case none of the three courses will count toward the LACS major. Students who take Latin American Civilization separately from the general education requirement can count one of the three courses in the sequence as a content course toward the LACS major.

** These courses are not required to focus on Latin America and the Caribbean, but should provide students with new ways of learning and thinking that could be applied to their study of the region.

*** Students with strong language preparation may petition out of one of these courses, substituting it with a content course or a course in a second Latin American or Caribbean language. Students may also fulfill the language requirement through the proficiency certification must substitute with three LACS courses or three courses in a second regional language.

GRADING

Each of the required courses for the LACS major must be taken for a quality grade.

HONORS

Students who have done exceptionally well in their coursework and on their BA capstone project are considered for honors. Candidates must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher overall and 3.25 or higher in the major.

MINOR PROGRAM IN LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES

Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) is an interdisciplinary program for students who want to engage critical issues in the social sciences and humanities through study of the histories, cultures, economies, politics, and natural environments of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The minor requirements include coursework, language proficiency in Spanish or Portuguese, and the submission of a research paper from a LACS course. Students can choose every year from dozens of course listings across the disciplines.

The Center for Latin American Studies supplements the program’s academic offerings with dozens of public events each year, which help to build a strong Latin American Studies community. We also aim to expose
students to Chicago’s role as a significantly Latin American city and to prepare them for careers in government, journalism, law, business, teaching, the nonprofit sector, or academia.

No courses in the minor can be double counted with the student's major(s) or with other minors, nor can they be counted toward general education requirements. They must be taken for quality grades and more than half of the requirements for the minor must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

Program Requirements

LACS minors are required to take five courses in addition to the Latin American Civilization prerequisite, distributed as follows:

Prerequisite: Introduction to Latin American Civilization

LACS minors should all complete the Introduction to Latin American Civilization sequence as a prerequisite to the major, either on campus (LACS 16100-16200-16300 Introduction to Latin American Civilization I-II-III) or in Oaxaca, México (SOSC 19019-19020-19021 Latin American Civilization in Oaxaca I-II-III). This sequence can be taken in order to fulfill the general education requirement in civilization studies, in which case none of the three courses will count toward the LACS minor. Students who take Latin American Civilization separately from the general education requirement can count one of the three courses in the sequence as a content course toward the LACS minor.

LACS Courses

Three courses that focus on Latin America and/or the Caribbean. Students may find listings of quarterly approved courses on the Center for Latin American Studies website (https://clas.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/courses/).

Language

The LACS language requirement can be completed in one of two ways:

- Completion of two courses at the second-year level or above in one of the two major regional languages (Spanish or Portuguese). Students with strong language preparation may petition out of one of these courses, substituting it with a content course or a course in a second Latin American or Caribbean language.
  OR

- Earning the Practical Language Proficiency Certification (https://languageassessment.uchicago.edu/practical-language-proficiency-assessment/), which assesses listening, reading, speaking, and writing abilities. This certification documents students’ ability to functionally use a foreign language in personal, academic, and professional settings. Students who fulfill the language requirement through the proficiency certification must substitute with two LACS courses or two courses in a second regional language. Students who complete the language requirement by enrolling in coursework may also register to take the Practical Language Proficiency Assessment in order to document their language abilities.

Research Paper

Students must submit a research paper treating a Latin American and/or Caribbean topic written for one of their LACS content courses. The research paper should be of intermediate length (10–15 pages). The student is responsible for making appropriate arrangements with the course instructor. Completion of the research paper must be demonstrated to the LACS program adviser.

ADVISING

Students who elect the minor program should meet with the LACS program adviser before the end of Spring Quarter of their third year to declare their intention to complete the program. The student must submit the LACS program adviser’s approval for the minor to their College adviser, on a form obtained from the College, no later than the end of the third year.

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS: LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES MINOR (5 COURSES)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PREREQUISITES</th>
<th>300</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LACS 16100-16200-16300</td>
<td>Introduction to Latin American Civilization I-II-III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOSC 19019-19020-19021</td>
<td>Latin American Civilization in Oaxaca I-II-III</td>
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Total Units 300
MINOR

LACS Courses: Three courses that focus on Latin America and/or the Caribbean 300
Language: Two courses in 20000-level or higher Spanish or Portuguese ** 200
Additional Requirement: Submission of a research paper treating a Latin American and/or Caribbean topic for one of the LACS content courses
Total Units 500

* The Introduction to Latin American Civilization sequence can be taken in order to fulfill the general education requirement in civilization studies, in which case none of the three courses will count toward the LACS minor. Students who take Latin American Civilization separately from the general education requirement can count one of the three courses in the sequence as a content course toward the LACS minor.

** Students with strong language preparation may petition out of one of these courses, substituting it with a content course or a course in a second Latin American or Caribbean language. Students may also fulfill the language requirement by earning the Practical Language Proficiency Certification (https://languageassessment.uchicago.edu/practical-language-proficiency-assessment/). Students who fulfill the language requirement through the proficiency certification must substitute with two LACS courses or two courses in a second regional language.

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES COURSES

The following courses are for reference only. See Class Search at registrar.uchicago.edu/classes (http://registrar.uchicago.edu/classes/) for specific offerings. See the Center for Latin American Studies Courses webpage at clas.uchicago.edu (https://clas.uchicago.edu/) for further information on quarterly offerings.

LACS 11008. Introduction to Latinx Literature. 100 Units.
From the activist literature of the Chicano Civil Rights Movement to contemporary fiction and poetry, this course explores the forms, aesthetics, and political engagements of U.S. Latinx literature in the 20th and 21st centuries. Theoretical readings are drawn from Chicano Studies, Latinx Studies, American Studies, Latin American Studies, Hemispheric Studies, Indigenous Studies, and Postcolonial Studies, as we explore Latinx literature in the context of current debates about globalization, neoliberalism, and U.S. foreign policy; Latinx literature’s response to technological and socio-political changes and its engagement with race, gender, sexuality, class, and labor; and its dialogues with indigenous, Latin American, North American, and European literatures. (Poetry, 1830-1940, Theory)
Instructor(s): Rachel Galvin Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 11008, ENGL 11008

LACS 12200. Portuguese For Spanish Speakers. 100 Units.
This course is intended for speakers of Spanish to develop competence quickly in spoken and written Portuguese. In this intermediate-level course, students learn ways to apply their Spanish language skills to mastering Portuguese by concentrating on the similarities and differences between the two languages.
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring
Prerequisite(s): SPAN 10300 or consent of instructor
Equivalent Course(s): PORT 12200

LACS 16100-16200-16300. Introduction to Latin American Civilization I-II-III.
Taking these courses in sequence is not required. This sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies. This sequence is offered every year. This course introduces the history and cultures of Latin America (e.g., Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean Islands).

LACS 16100. Introduction to Latin American Civilization I. 100 Units.
Autumn Quarter examines the origins of civilizations in Latin America with a focus on the political, social, and cultural features of the major pre-Columbian civilizations of the Maya, Inca, and Aztec. The quarter concludes with an analysis of the Spanish and Portuguese conquest, and the construction of colonial societies in Latin America. The courses in this sequence may be taken in any order.
Instructor(s): Emilio Kouri Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): SOSC 26100, LACS 34600, HIST 16101, CRES 16101, ANTH 23101, HIST 36101

LACS 16200. Introduction to Latin American Civilization II. 100 Units.
Winter Quarter addresses the evolution of colonial societies, the wars of independence, and the emergence of Latin American nation-states in the changing international context of the nineteenth century.
Instructor(s): D. Borges Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 16102, HIST 36102, ANTH 23102, PPHA 39770, CRES 16102, LACS 34700, SOSC 26200
LACS 16300. Introduction to Latin American Civilization III. 100 Units.
Spring Quarter focuses on the twentieth century, with special emphasis on the challenges of economic, political, and social development in the region.
Instructor(s): B. Fischer Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 16103, SOSC 26300, PPHA 39780, LACS 34800, CRES 16103, HIST 36103, ANTH 23103

LACS 16200. Introduction to Latin American Civilization II. 100 Units.
Winter Quarter addresses the evolution of colonial societies, the wars of independence, and the emergence of Latin American nation-states in the changing international context of the nineteenth century.
Instructor(s): D. Borges Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 16102, HIST 36102, ANTH 23102, PPHA 39770, CRES 16102, LACS 34700, SOSC 26200

LACS 16300. Introduction to Latin American Civilization III. 100 Units.
Spring Quarter focuses on the twentieth century, with special emphasis on the challenges of economic, political, and social development in the region.
Instructor(s): B. Fischer Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 16103, SOSC 26300, PPHA 39780, LACS 34800, CRES 16103, HIST 36103, ANTH 23103

LACS 19880. Inhabiting the Borderlands: Latinx Embodiment in Literature, Art, and Popular Culture. 100 Units.
How does a Latinx cultural identity become legible? What are the conditions of its recognition? What kinds of embodied practices and performances serve to point to the particular intersections of race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, and gender that can be termed 'Latinx'? To approach these questions, this course will explore critical texts by Diana Taylor, Gloria Anzaldúa, Julia Alvarez, Coco Fusco, José Esteban Muñoz, and Tomás Ybarra-Frausto, among others, as well as performances, artwork, and literature by La Lupe, Walter Mercado, Yalitza Aparicio, Cherríe Moraga, Judith Baca, Carmen Maria Machado, and more. (Theory)
Instructor(s): Carmen Merport Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 19880, GNSE 19880, CRES 19880

LACS 20046. Introduction to Caribbean Studies. 100 Units.
Why have critics, writers, and artists described the Caribbean as 'ground zero' of Western modernity? Beginning with the period before European settlement, we will study slavery and emancipation, Asian indentureship, labor and social movements, decolonization, debt and tourism, and today's digital Caribbean. We will survey literary and visual cultures, primary source documents, and thought across the English, French, Spanish, and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. All readings will be available in translation. (Fiction, Theory)
Instructor(s): Kaneesha Parsard Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 20046, GNSE 22046, CRES 20046

LACS 21100. Las regiones del español. 100 Units.
This sociolinguistic course expands understanding of the historical development of Spanish and awareness of the great sociocultural diversity within the Spanish-speaking world and its impact on the Spanish language. We emphasize the interrelationship between language and culture as well as ethno-historical transformations within the different regions of the Hispanic world. Special consideration is given to identifying lexical variations and regional expressions exemplifying diverse sociocultural aspects of the Spanish language, and to recognizing phonological differences between dialects. We also examine the impact of indigenous cultures on dialectical aspects. The course includes literary and nonliterary texts, audio-visual materials, and visits by native speakers of a variety of Spanish-speaking regions.
Terms Offered: Spring Winter
Prerequisite(s): SPAN 20300 or placement
Equivalent Course(s): SPAN 21100
LACS 21619. From Lorca to Lin-Manuel Miranda: Staging Latinidad. 100 Units.

In this course, we will delve into ten significant theater plays written in the last century by Spanish, Latin American and Latinx playwrights. We will examine how Latinidad, with its multiple definitions and contradictions, emerges in these plays; and also, which questions these works pose regarding the different historic and cultural contexts in which they were written. As a discipline that aims to explore and embody social practices and identities, theater has become a place where these questions articulate themselves in a critical manner. A physical space where bodies and languages explore, sometimes through its mere unfolding on the page and the stage, unforeseen limits of class, identity, and ethnicity. Each week, we will discuss one play and one or two significant critical essays, and the discussion will be conducted through a set of questions and crossed references. To which extent does the domestic exploration and the all-women cast of Lorca’s ‘La casa de Bernarda Alba’ resonate in Fornés ‘Tefu And Her Friends’? How does the experience of immigration affect the characters of Marqués’ ‘La carreta,’ and how do Chiara Alegria Hudes and Lin-Manuel Miranda echo this foundational fiction in In The Heights? How was the success of plays such as Valdez’s ‘Zoot Suit’ or Cruz’s ‘Anna in The Tropics’ received within the Latino community, and how did it affect the general reception of Latino plays?

Instructor(s): I. Fanlo Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): Taught in English. Readings available in both English and Spanish. Spanish majors & minors must do the readings and/or writings in Spanish.
Equivalent Course(s): SPAN 23410, SPAN 24110, SPAN 34110, PORT 24110

LACS 21719. Histoire, Superstitions et Croyances dans le roman francophone des XXe et XXIe siècles. 100 Units.


Instructor(s): M. Kenfack Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): FREN 20500 or 20503.
Note(s): This is an introductory-level course. Taught in French.
Equivalent Course(s): FREN 21719

LACS 22024. Literatura y cartografía: Visiones del Caribe en el Siglo de Oro español. 100 Units.

Durante el siglo XVI aparecen las primeras representaciones cartográficas y literarias del Caribe. Estas articulan el deseo de las grandes potencias europeas por codificar territorialmente esta región del mundo para conocerla y en última instancia dominarla. Así, la cuenca caribeña emerge como escenario de tensiones políticas y económicas, que se extienden hasta el día de hoy. Este curso tiene como objetivo explorar la relación de las representaciones del Caribe en la literatura y cartografía producida durante los siglos XVI y XVII con los discursos de poder asociados a los procesos de conquista y colonización implementados por el Imperio Español. El curso está dividido en cuatro unidades. Primero, examinaremos las representaciones cartográficas del Caribe producidas entre los siglos XVI y XVII. Segundo, abordaremos la descripción y delimitación del Caribe y sus habitantes en las crónicas de conquista producidas por Colón, de las Casas y Pané. Tercero, discutiremos los poemas ‘Discurso del capitán Francisco Draque’ y ‘La Dragontea’ para explorar el rol de la piratería en la articulación del espacio caribeño como escenario de contiendas políticas y económicas. Finalmente, nos acercaremos a otros ejemplos representativos de la literatura aurisecular que de manera indirecta aluden al Caribe como sustrato literario. Se explorarán también la cultura material de la producción cartográfica y literaria de la época, y la relación que existe entre texto e imagen.

Instructor(s): M. Rosario Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): Taught in Spanish.
Equivalent Course(s): SPAN 22020

LACS 24110. Ecocritical Perspectives in Latin American Literature and Film. 100 Units.

This course provides a survey of of ecocritical studies in Latin America. Through novels, poems, and films, we will examine a range of trends and problems posed by Latin American artists concerning environmental issues, from mid-nineteenth century to contemporary literature and film. Readings also include works of ecocritical criticism and theory that have been shaping the field in the past decades.

Instructor(s): V. Saramago Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): PORT 34110, SPAN 24110, SPAN 34110, PORT 24110, LACS 34110
Africa and Afro-Caribbean people's oral tradition can be traced back to slavery, when Black slaves turned to storytelling as a means of expression and resistance. With the advent of writing, storytelling flourished, and became associated with entertainment, cultural preservation, and education as well as identity and moral values. Through storytelling, history was conveyed, questions were answered, and lifelong lessons were taught and learned. In this seminar we will explore written storytelling traditions from Africa and Caribbean French-speaking countries through the lens of history, with a focus on contemporary writers. How have writers adapted oral stories to new historical contexts? What are the implications of these adaptations? How has storytelling been streamlined to deal with new challenges, especially political and social status quo? How does storytelling contribute to empowerment and agency? Students will engage in close readings and collaborative discussions to analyze and interpret folktales from Ivory Coast, Haiti, French Guiana, among others.
Instructor(s): M. Kenfack Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): FREN 20500 or 20503.
Note(s): Class discussions and readings in French and English.
Equivalent Course(s): FREN 24821

LACS 25805. Popol Vuh, Epic of the Americas. 100 Units.
One of the oldest and grandest stories of world creation in the native Americas, the Mayan Popol Vuh has been called 'the Bible of America.' It tells a story of cosmological origins and continued historical change, spanning mythic, classic, colonial, and contemporary times. In this class, we'll read this full work closely (in multiple translations, while engaging its original K'iche' Mayan language), attending to the important way in which its structure relates myth and history, or foundations and change. In this light, we'll examine its mirroring in Genesis, Odyssey, Beowulf, Ovid's Metamorphoses, and Díñe Bahane' to consider how epics struggle with a simultaneity of origins and historiography. In highlighting this tension between cosmos and politics, we'll examine contemporary adaptations of the Popol Vuh by Miguel Angel Asturias, Ernesto Cardenal, Diego Rivera, Dennis Tedlock, Humberto Aka'bal, Xpetra Fernández, Patricia Amlin, Gregory Nava, and Werner Herzog. As we cast the Guatemalan Popol Vuh as a contemporary work of hemispheric American literature (with North American, Latin American, Latinx, and Indigenous literary engagement), we will take into account the intellectual contribution of Central America and the diaspora of Central Americans in the U.S. today. As a capstone, we will visit the original manuscript of the Popol Vuh held at the Newberry Library in Chicago, thinking about how this story of world creation implicates us to this day. (Poetry, Fiction)
Instructor(s): Edgar Garcia Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Note: students who cross-list from RLL will read Spanish-language texts in their original Spanish
Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 25805, FNDL 25805

LACS 26322. Latin American Historiography, 19th-21st Century. 100 Units.
Review of recent trends in the history of the regions. Weekly reviews.
Instructor(s): M. Tenorio Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 26320, HIST 36320, LACS 36322

LACS 26380. Indigenous Politics in Latin America. 100 Units.
This course examines the history of Indigenous policies and politics in Latin America from the first encounters with European empires through the 21st Century. Course readings and discussions will consider several key historical moments across the region: European encounters/colonization; the rise of liberalization and capitalist expansion in the 19th century; 20th-century integration policies; and pan-Indigenous and transnational social movements in recent decades. Students will engage with primary and secondary texts that offer interpretations and perspectives both within and across imperial and national boundaries.
Instructor(s): Diana Schwartz Francisco Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 26318

LACS 26382. Development and Environment in Latin America. 100 Units.
This course will consider the relationship between development and the environment in Latin America and the Caribbean. We will consider the social, political, and economic effects of natural resource extraction, the quest to improve places and peoples, and attendant ecological transformations, from the onset of European colonialism in the fifteenth century, to state- and private-led improvement policies in the twentieth. Some questions we will consider are: How have policies affected the sustainability of land use in the last five centuries? In what ways has the modern impetus for development, beginning in the nineteenth century and reaching its current intensity in the mid-twentieth, shifted ideas and practices of sustainability in both environmental and social terms? And, more broadly, to what extent does the notion of development help us explain the historical relationship between humans and the environment?
Instructor(s): Diana Schwartz Francisco Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 26317, LACS 36382, HIPS 26382, GEOG 26382, ENST 26382, HIST 36317
LACS 26384. Art and the Archive in Greater Latin America. 100 Units.
How and why do artists engage records of the past in their work? What are the politics of both creating archives and culling from them to visually render or represent the past? Focusing on artists, art-making, and archives in Greater Latin America (including the United States), this course will consider the process of collecting and creating in artistic production from the perspectives of both theory and practice. Students in the course will work directly with archival materials in Chicago and collaborate on contemporary artistic projects that consider issues of relevance to people and places of the Western Hemisphere.
Instructor(s): Diana Schwartz-Francisco Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 20017, ARTH 26384, HIST 26319

LACS 26386. Greater Latin America. 100 Units.
What is ‘Latin America,’ who are ‘Latin Americans’ and what is the relationship among and between places and people of the region we call Latin America, on the one hand, and the greater Latinx diaspora in the US on the other? This course explores the history of Latin America as an idea, and the cultural, social, political and economic connections among peoples on both sides of the southern and eastern borders of the United States. Students will engage multiple disciplinary perspectives in course readings and assignments and will explore Chicago as a crucial node in the geography of Greater Latin America. Some topics we will consider are: the origin of the concept of ‘Latin’ America, Inter-Americanism and Pan-Americanism, transnational social movements and intellectual exchanges, migration, and racial and ethnic politics.
Instructor(s): Diana Schwartz Francisco Terms Offered: Autumn

LACS 26388. Food Justice and Biodiversity in Latin America. 100 Units.
This course asks how the relationships between food production and consumption, economic justice, and biodiversity have changed over the last century in Latin America. As a region known both for its ecological diversity and as a producer of tropical foods regularly consumed in the United States, Latin America is also a site in which plantation style agriculture has often undermined such celebrated biodiversity. In centering the role of workers and consumers, it considers the layered relationships- ecological, social, political, economic and cultural-between the production and consumption of food from Latin America.
Instructor(s): Diana Schwartz Francisco Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Preferred: some background in Latin American history, geography and/or contemporary issues

LACS 26510. Cities from Scratch: The History of Urban Latin America. 100 Units.
Latin America is one of the world’s most urbanized regions, and its urban heritage long predate[s] European conquest. And yet the region’s cities are most often understood through the lens of North Atlantic visions of urbanity, many of which fit poorly with Latin America’s historical trajectory, and most of which have significantly distorted both Latin American urbanism and our understandings of it. This course takes this paradox as the starting point for an interdisciplinary exploration of the history of Latin American cities in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, focusing especially on issues of social inequality, informality, urban governance, race, violence, rights to the city, and urban cultural expression. Readings will be interdisciplinary, including anthropology, sociology, history, fiction, film, photography, and primary historical texts.
Instructor(s): B. Fischer Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Some knowledge of Latin America or urban studies helpful.
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 26511, ARCH 26511, ENST 26511, HIST 36511, LACS 36510

LACS 26623. Anti-Corruption Politics in Latin America. 100 Units.
Calls for corporate accountability from civil society and widespread public anxieties concerning large scale corporate corruption scandals have become salient modes of articulating questions of power in contemporary Latin America & the Caribbean. This trend, while not homogeneous or new, denounces the relation between two modes of power -- state and corporate -- considered to be at the heart of the region’s democracies. What is the relation between today’s war against corruption and ongoing transformations of corporate and financial power? What has been the effect of anti-corruption discourse over horizons for emancipatory politics - such as Human Rights praxis? This course critically examines anti-corruption politics as constituting one of the region’s most salient frameworks of accountability in the present. Crucially, we will situate it in relation to Latin America’s robust trajectory of critiquing power through the analysis of corporate power as well as the mobilization of Human Rights discourse.
Instructor(s): Azuero Quijano, Alejandra
Equivalent Course(s): GLST 26623, ANTH 23071, HMRT 26623

LACS 26624. Extractivism in Latin America. 100 Units.
From the elusive search for El Dorado to the growing transition to renewable energy, extractivism has defined and continues to produce effects on the everyday lives, economic possibilities, and political horizons of Latin Americans in different historic and geographic settings. This course critically explores the social and material worlds built around resource extraction in Latin America. By focusing on key episodes of 20th and 21st century energy development, the course will examine how extractivism has enabled and foreclosed certain configurations of political power, especially in relation to the state, (anti-)imperialism, the left, and indigenous social movements. We will also explore the rise of anti-extractivist struggles and critiques, with a particular emphasis on indigenous peoples’ mobilization of human rights discourse. Course readings will be interdisciplinary (from anthropology and economics to history and film), drawing on cases from Venezuela, Paraguay, Brazil, Mexico, and Bolivia.
LACS 27526. Race and Gender in the Making of the Modern Atlantic World(s), c. 1700-1990s. 100 Units.
This colloquium-style course proposes that the development of race, racial ideologies, and gender in the Atlantic is central to understanding the formation of the modern world. The course mobilizes race and gender as analytic categories that shaped encounters with and relations between colonized and colonizer. By adopting this approach, we will use the lens of race and gender to explore how they shaped various historical experiences: such the circulation of peoples and goods in transatlantic contexts; the formation and establishment of slavery, the slave trade, and the plantation complex; antislavery, abolitionism, and emancipation; immigration and post-slavery labor; citizenship and nationhood; reproduction; post-colonial LGBTQ rights, and twentieth-century racial politics. We will also problematize race and gender as flexible categories that historical actors formulated and implemented to establish, maintain, and contest hierarchies of political, economic, and social power. We will use a combination of primary texts, novels, and secondary sources to explore the comparative and intersecting historical experiences of African, Amerindian, Chinese, Creole, European, and Indian experiences in the Atlantic world from early encounters and exploration to twentieth-century decolonization and postcolonialism—thereby challenging traditional racial binaries that have previously informed our understanding of transatlantic empires.
Instructor(s): Lyons, Deirdre Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 29104, GNSE 27526, CRES 27526

LACS 27720. Races, Castes, and Their Relationships in Latin American Colonial Music. 100 Units.
The course will undertake a critical survey of repertoires, institutions, and social practices related to musical practices in Spain and Portugal’s American territories between 1558 and ca. 1800. The missions of the Jesuits and other orders, the constitution of the musical chapels of the cathedrals, the ‘villancico de negros,’ and the emergence of local popular music will be some of the topics examined, with a critical assessment of recent views of the role of Colonial music in current musical life.
Instructor(s): Leonardo Waisman Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): PORT 27720, SPAN 27720

LACS 27724. Material Constructions of State and Nation: Latin America, 1800-1850. 100 Units.
Covering the wars of Independence and the transition to Republican statehood, this course will address the continuities and ruptures affecting the visual traditions and material cultures of the Colonial period in this crucial period in Latin American history. Intended as a broad survey of the region, the course attempts to think through a political history of objects and images as a way to understand the process of nation-state formation.
Terms Offered: Spring

LACS 27726. Body Modifications, Sociocultural Meanings, and Beauty in Ancient Mesoamerica. 100 Units.
The course will introduce past and current anthropological discussions of embodiment and beauty and then explore culturally born body concepts from the perspective of native Mesoamerican thought and ritual practice. A methodological unit will embrace reconstructions of ancient body modifications at the intersection between (bio)archaeology, ethnohistory, semiotics, and imagery. We will also review and discuss basic visual, behavioral, and social aspects of native Mesoamerican body works, focusing on head shaping, dental modification, and skin ornaments. A number of case studies target such forms of physical embodiment among the Olmecs, Maya, and the Aztecs. Finally, we will cover the evolving roles of body modifications past the European contact in Mexico, providing food-for-thought in discussing Novohispanic domination strategies, native resilience, and transformation.
Instructor(s): Vera Tiesler Terms Offered: Spring

LACS 28000. United States Latinos: Origins and Histories. 100 Units.
An examination of the diverse social, economic, political, and cultural histories of those who are now commonly identified as Latinos in the United States. Particular emphasis will be placed on the formative historical experiences of Mexican Americans and mainland Puerto Ricans, although some consideration will also be given to the histories of other Latino groups, i.e., Cubans, Central Americans, and Dominicans. Topics include cultural and geographic origins and ties; imperialism and colonization; the economics of migration and employment; legal status; work, women, and the family; racism and other forms of discrimination; the politics of national identity; language and popular culture; and the place of Latinos in US society.
Equivalent Course(s): AMER 28001, CRES 28000, GNSE 28202, HIST 38000, LACS 28000, LACS 38000, CRE 38000, GNSE 38202, AMER 38001
Instructor(s): R. Gutiérrez Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 38000, LACS 38000, AMER 28001, AMER 38001, GNSE 38202, GNSE 28202, CRES 38000, HIST 28000, CRES 28000
LACS 29101. Archive [Yellow] Fever. 100 Units.
Archive [Yellow] Fever reads Black Feminist approaches to the archive of slavery in the Caribbean in order to ask questions about the scholar’s embodied relationship in the present to historical documents and artifacts produced in the context of Atlantic world slave societies. How is a scholar affected by and implicated in the production such an archive? This class explores this and other questions produced by this scholarship, with a particular focus on historical and contemporary concerns about what enslavement does to the physical body and the affective impacts of institutionalized bondage. The course also provides an introduction in methods of working in historical and contemporary archives. We will explore themes of contagion, sex, birth, and death by reading fictional, archival, methodological and theoretical texts, including the work of, Saidiya Hartman, Marisa Fuentes, Jacques Derrida, Carolyn Steedman, Jennifer L. Morgan, Jenny Sharpe, Robin Coste Lewis, Alexia Pauline Gumbs, Mary Prince, Mary Seacole, Bryan Edwards, James Grainger. The class will make two trips to special collections, one to view archival texts from the period and another to find an archival object of the student’s choosing (relevant to their own research interests) that will provide the topic of their final paper. This course is offered as part of the Migrations Research Sequence. (1650-1830, 1830-1940) This is a research and criticism seminar intended for third- and fourth-year English majors.
Instructor(s): Sarah Johnson Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): This course is limited to 15 third- and fourth-year students who have already fulfilled the Department’s Genre Fundamentals (formerly Gateway) requirement and taken at least two further English courses.
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 29101, ENGL 29101, GNSE 29103

LACS 29700. Reading and Research in Latin American Studies. 100 Units.
Students and instructors can arrange a Reading and Research course in Latin American Studies when the material being studied goes beyond the scope of a particular course, when students are working on material not covered in an existing course or when students would like to receive academic credit for independent research.
Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Autumn,Spring,Summer,Winter
Prerequisite(s): Consent of undergraduate thesis/project adviser required
Note(s): College students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Must be taken for a quality grade.

LACS 29801. BA Colloquium. 100 Units.
This colloquium, which is led by the LACS BA Program Adviser, assists students in formulating approaches to the BA essay and developing their research and writing skills, while providing a forum for group discussion and critiques. Graduating students present their BA essays in a public session of the colloquium during the spring quarter.
Instructor(s): Diana Schwartz Francisco Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): For fourth year (graduating) students majoring in Latin American and Caribbean Studies.
Note(s): Required of students who are majoring in Latin American Studies. Students must participate in all three quarters but register only in autumn quarter.

LACS 29900. Preparation of the BA Essay. 100 Units.
Independent study course intended to be used by 4th year BA students who are writing the BA thesis.
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Summer Winter
Prerequisite(s): Consent of undergraduate thesis/project adviser required
Note(s): Typically taken for a quality grade.