Latin American Studies

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

INTRODUCTION

Latin America is our closest neighbor and a developing region with vast potential. Countries range in size from the Dominican Republic to resource-rich Brazil, which is larger than the continental United States.

By pursuing a broad, yet in-depth course of study, Latin American Studies students are well equipped to enter many fields and occupations as teachers in the United States or Latin America, as business people sensitive to Latin American history and culture, or as journalists, lawyers and doctors where contact with Latin America or Latin Americans in the United States is important.

The Latin American Studies major is designed to provide an in-depth, interdisciplinary understanding of Latin America. Majors develop language proficiency in Spanish and Portuguese, and have a broad range of courses from which to choose in anthropology, art, Chicana/o studies, economics, history, geography, political science, and modern languages and literatures. The major is well-suited for: (1) students who wish to pursue careers that require residence in or knowledge of Latin America (e.g., business, journalism, government); (2) those who plan to teach Spanish and/or social sciences in the secondary schools; and (3) students who wish to pursue graduate work in Latin American studies or other disciplines where a Latin American specialization would be helpful (e.g., political science, economics, history).

LEARNING GOALS AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The following goals and learning outcomes apply to students pursuing a degree in Latin American Studies:

Write effectively
- Write about Latin America's geography, peoples, history, cultures, economies, societies, art history and institutions from an interdisciplinary perspective
- Demonstrate appropriate use of sentence structure, content, organization, and purpose as is particularly relevant to argumentative writing in English, Spanish and Portuguese

Research
- Demonstrate the ability to access written and electronic information about Latin America in different disciplines and follow appropriate formats in documenting resources
- Gain the skills necessary to formulate arguments and demonstrate their validity through research-based essay papers and oral presentations following methodologies in the humanities and social sciences
- Acquire and demonstrate foundational knowledge in anthropology, art history, Chicana/o studies, economics, geography, history, political science, Portuguese, or Spanish, as it pertains to Latin America and in accordance with the academic path followed in obtaining the bachelor of arts degree
Identify ideologies presented in various texts
- Read resources from different historical moments, languages, and power structures in order to demonstrate an understanding of biases inherent in a text's contents and how those ideologies have influenced Latin America's economic and political dependence as well as its social institutions and cultural accomplishments

Language Proficiency
- Develop and demonstrate in a variety of situations, and for diverse audiences, oral and written communication skills in English and Spanish or Portuguese
- Demonstrate through writing assignments an understanding of the varying structures of English, Spanish and Portuguese in order to maximize understanding of authentic texts and access a multilingual and multicultural understanding appropriate to the interdisciplinary nature of the major

Latin America in a Global Context
- Identify regional trends in Latin America which have marked its colonial past, economic dependency, political corruption, and social inequality in order to understand its modern needs
- Understand and interpret Latin America's cultural contributions as a diverse, multilingual, ethnically diverse world region with significant influences from Amerindian, European, African and Asian peoples

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
(120 UNITS)

The Bachelor of Arts in Latin American Studies includes courses for the major, General Education, all-university requirements and free electives.

Foundation Courses
All majors should develop a language proficiency level equivalent to SPAN 204 and PORT 102. Students with no language background should take:

- SPAN 101 Fundamental Spanish - A (5)
- SPAN 102 Fundamental Spanish - B (5)
- SPAN 203 Intermediate Spanish - A (3)
- SPAN 204 Intermediate Spanish - B (3)
- PORT 101 Fundamental Portuguese - A (4)
  (usually offered in the Fall)
- PORT 102 Fundamental Portuguese - B (4)
  (usually offered in the Spring)

A student with knowledge of Spanish and/or Portuguese may be able to meet part or all of the foundation course requirements after evaluation by the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.

Required Fields of Study

Upper-Division Writing Requirement (3 units)
ENGL 301 Advanced Composition (3)

Language (3 units)
SPAN 301 Advanced Grammar and Composition (3)
  OR PORT 317 Advanced Conversation and Composition (3)

History and Culture (9 units)
SPAN 316 Introduction to Spanish American Civilization (3)
  OR PORT 325 Contemporary Brazilian Civilization (3)
LTAM 300 Topics in Latin America (3)
Three units in upper-division Latin American History (3)

Social Science (6 units)
ANTH 325, 329, 370*, 380, 381
ECON 333, 334
GEOG 333
POSC 437

Electives (12 units)
Select one area of study in consultation with the program coordinator:

Culture
ANTH 325, 329, 370*, 380, 381
CHIC 302, 303, 353
CPRL/CHIC 367
LTAM/CHIC 350 (offered only as part of CSUF La Paz program.)
PORT 317 OR SPAN 301
PORT 320
PORT 325 OR SPAN 316
SPAN 416

Visual Arts, Literature and Linguistics
ART 460, 462, 480T*
CHIC 304, 330, 333, 336
SPAN 440, 441, 466, 467, 468, 485T

History and Politics
POSC 437

Geography and Economics
ECON 333, 334
GEOG 333, 355*, 452*

LTAM 399 may be added as an option to any of the above areas of study according to course content.

* Accepted when focused on Latin America
MINOR IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

The minor in Latin American studies is designed to complement other majors for which a focus on Latin America can be beneficial (e.g., history, international business, communications, Spanish, economics and political science). Prospective secondary teachers may find this minor particularly attractive. The minor requires proficiency in either Spanish or Portuguese, as defined above for the major; three units of cultural history (LTAM 300, HIST 350 or SPAN 316 or PORT 325); and nine units of approved electives from at least two departments listed below; or from the Latin American Studies “Elective Fields of Study” list.

ANTH 325, 329, 370*, 380, 381
ART 460, 462, 480T*
CHIC 302, 303, 304, 330, 333, 336, 340, 353
ECON 333, 334
GEOG 333, 355*, 452*
LTAM 399
POSC 437
PORT 310, 317, 320, 325
SPAN 301, 310, 316, 416, 440, 441, 466, 467, 468, 485T

*Latin American focus only.

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES COURSES

Course are designated as LTAM in the class schedule.

300 Topics in Latin America (3)
Prerequisite: completion of General Education (G.E.) Category D.1. Interdisciplinary examination and discussion of the history, geography, peoples, and major issues of Latin America from pre-Colonial times to the present.

350 Mexican Life and Culture (3)
Prerequisite: completion of G.E. Category D.1. Introduction to Mexican culture and civilization. Contemporary Mexican society with focus on social, political, environmental, cultural and historical issues. Requires travel to La Paz, Baja California, Mexico and will only be offered in summer or intersession. Letter grade or Credit/No Credit. (Same as CHIC 350)

399 Directed Study (1-3)
Prerequisite: approval of program coordinator. Supervised individual or small group study as an elective. May be repeated for credit with different content.