LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Overview and Contact Information

The Department of Spanish, Latina/o, and Latin American Studies engages in the multidisciplinary study of the past, current state, and emerging realities of societies and cultures of Latin America, Spain, the Caribbean, and the Latino/a heritage populations within the United States and their relations with each other and with the wider world. To that end, our courses adopt a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches, including literary studies, film and media studies, social history, and politics.

The Department of Spanish, Latina/o, and Latin American Studies also collaborates closely with a number of other departments and programs on campus, frequently cross-listing courses with film studies, gender studies, history, and Romance languages and cultures. Regular co-curricular activities organized by the department (film series, lectures, etc.) also engage the larger college community in the interests of our students and faculty. In addition to providing opportunities for learning on campus, the department also strongly recommends that students study off campus in a Spanish-speaking context in order to enhance their language skills and to forge their own connections to place through language.

The Latin American Studies major is available only to students who entered the College before fall 2022. Students entering fall 2022 or later should consider a minor in Latin American Studies (p. 2); the Five College Certificate in Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/latin-american-caribbean-latino-studies/); or proposing a special major (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/bachelor-arts-degree-requirements/#themajortext) with this focus.

The interdisciplinary minor in Latin American studies emphasizes critical approaches to the culture, history, society, and political economy of the region. As societies long defined by and in opposition to external powers, Latin America and the Caribbean have in modern times developed distinctive national and cultural identities celebrated on a world stage in art, music, and literature. The minor studies the region in its enormous geographic diversity—from plantation to highland Americas, from Mexico to Argentina; and linguistic variety—four European, several Creole, and numerous indigenous languages. Students pursue course work in several thematic and geographic areas.

See Also
- Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/latin-american-caribbean-latino-studies/)

Contact Information
Nieves Romero-Díaz, Chair
Cara Lapenas, Academic Department Coordinator

105 Ciruti Language Center
413-538-2347
https://www.mtholyoke.edu/academics/find-your-program/latin-american-studies (https://www.mtholyoke.edu/academics/find-your-program/latin-american-studies/)

Learning Goals

The three areas of the Spanish, Latina/o/x and Latin American Studies department share the following common learning goals:

- Recognize, examine, and interrogate the past, current state, and emerging realities and histories of the societies and cultures of Latin America, Spain, the Caribbean, and the US Latina/o/x population.
- Describe and interpret the character of their relations with each other and with the wider world.
- Distinguish among and employ multi/interdisciplinary, transnational, and cross-border perspectives.
- Analyze critically and articulate with logical arguments the diverse configurations and varying experiences of (classic, post, and neo) colonialism and diaspora in and among the regions, nations, and populations of our concern.
- Develop the ability to write, read, speak, and conduct research in the primary languages of our area(s) of coverage, particularly English and Spanish.
- Creatively contribute to the advancement and dissemination of knowledge through different modalities individually and collectively.
- Engage with and maintain a sustained contact with the local Latina/o/x communities.

Faculty

This area of study is administered by the Department of Spanish, Latina/o, and Latin American Studies:

Dorothy Mosby, Mary E. Woolley Professor of Spanish, On Leave 2022-2023
Nieves Romero-Díaz, Professor of Spanish on the Alumnae Foundation
Justin Crumbaugh, Associate Professor of Spanish, Latina/o and Latin American Studies, On Leave 2022-2023
David Hernández, Faculty Director of Community Engagement; Associate Professor of Latina/o Studies
Adriana Pitetta, Assistant Professor of Spanish
Vanessa Rosa, Class of 1929 Dr. Virginia Apgar Assistant Professor of Latina/o Studies
Esther Castro, Senior Lecturer in Spanish; Spanish Language Program Director
Megan Saltzman, Senior Lecturer in Spanish
Dimaris Barrios-Beltrán, Visiting Language Instructor in Spanish
Flávia Cunha, Language Instructor in Spanish
Elena García Frazier, Language Instructor in Spanish
Antonio Illescas, Language Instructor in Spanish
Maria Díaz, Mount Holyoke Fellow and Visiting Lecturer in Spanish, Latina/o, and Latin American Studies

Requirements for the Major

A minimum of 40 credits:
A command of Spanish or Portuguese

A minimum of 20 credits in Latin American Studies including:

LATAM-180 Introduction to Latin American Cultures 4
Two elective courses, at any level, in Latin American studies 8
At least one course, at any level, dealing with subjects outside traditional Latin America—that is, the non-Hispanic areas of the Caribbean or South America; indigenous peoples of the region; the migration of Hispanic or Caribbean communities abroad 4
At least two courses, at any level, outside the student’s primary area of interest 8
At least one advanced (300-level) course on Spanish American or Brazilian literature taught in the language 4
At least three additional 300-level courses in Latin American studies 12

Total Credits 40

Other Requirements

- Students pick an area of interest within Latin American studies and plan their coursework in close consultation with their major advisor.

Additional Specifications

- The Latin American Studies major is available only to students who entered the College before fall 2022. Students entering fall 2022 or later should consider a minor in Latin American Studies (p. 2); the Five College Certificate in Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/latin-american-caribbean-latino-studies/); or proposing a special major (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/bachelor-arts-degree-requirements/#themajortext) with this focus.
- An elementary knowledge of the other language (Spanish or Portuguese) and study abroad are strongly recommended for all majors.
- It is also strongly recommended that majors complete an appropriate course in American, African American, or Latin American studies that assesses the role of the United States in Latin America, studies United States Latino communities, or compares related experiences across United States/Latin American boundaries.
- Programs for study abroad can be arranged throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Students who declare a Latin American studies major automatically fulfill the College’s "outside the major" requirement.

Requirements for the Minor

A minimum of 20 credits:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LATAM-180</td>
<td>Introduction to Latin American Cultures</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One 200-level or 300-level Latin American studies course</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At least one course at the 300 level</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 additional approved courses</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Credits</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Specifications

- Courses in the student’s major field may not be used to fulfill the requirements of the minor minor. For example, a student majoring in Spanish may not use any Spanish course to count towards the both the Spanish major and the Latin American Studies minor.

Course Offerings

LATAM-180 Introduction to Latin American Cultures
Spring. Credits: 4
Examines the confrontation, assimilation, and transformation of Amerindian, African, and European cultures in Latin America from the sixteenth century to the present. Focuses on the processes in which distinctive self-images emerged in the region and how these images have been challenged and changed over time. Uses films, literature, and folk traditions to complement scholarly analysis of the emergence of a New World mentality.
Crosslisted as: HIST-180
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
A. Pitetta

LATAM-287 Topics in Latin American Studies
This course studies significant problems relating to Latin America in greater depth from the perspectives of appropriate disciplines. Some topics may be cross-listed with other departments.

LATAM-287FM Topics in Latin American Studies: "Frames of Mind: Tracking Power/Knowledge"
Spring. Credits: 4
A frame of mind typically refers to a mood or perspective. However, such dispositions also reflect a certain regulation of thought and thus behavior. In other words, something "frames" our minds in the first place. This course explores these ideas by interrogating the history of commonplace assumptions regarding issues such as freedom, race, prison, sexuality, government, and insanity. Authors include Giorgio Agamben, Wendy Brown, Michel Foucault, Friedrich Nietzsche, Edward Said, Ann Laura Stoler, and others.
Crosslisted as: CST-249FM
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
J. Crumbaugh
Advisory: The course is geared toward both first-year students with minimal experience with philosophy and other students who have an interest in critical theory.

LATAM-295 Independent Study
Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 4
The department
Instructor permission required.

LATAM-386 Central America: Reform, Reaction, Revolution
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This seminar explores the diverse experiences of Central American nations in the twentieth century. From a common basis in an export-oriented agriculture, social and political alternatives ranging from social democracy to recurrent military rule, neofascist regimes, and revolutionary socialism have emerged in the isthmus. The course uses materials ranging from autobiography and literature to historical and anthropological studies to understand how this came to be. In addition to national cases, we consider the unique experiences of the area’s indigenous and Atlantic-coast peoples within and outside the nation-state framework.
Crosslisted as: HIST-386
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
L. Gudmundson
Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors
Prereq: 8 credits in Latin American Studies or related field.
LATAM-387 Special Topics in Latin American Studies
This course studies significant problems relating to Latin America in greater depth from the perspectives of appropriate disciplines. Some topics may be cross-listed with other departments.

LATAM-395 Independent Study
Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 8
The department
Instructor permission required.

Courses in Other Departments Counting toward the Minor in Latin American Studies

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFCNA-181</td>
<td>Introduction to African Diaspora Religions</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTHR-216LA</td>
<td>Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Anthropology of Latin America'</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTHR-216LT</td>
<td>Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Race and Religion in Latin America'</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTHR-316LA</td>
<td>Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Race and Religion in Latin America'</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CST-249FM</td>
<td>Special Topics in Critical Social Thought: 'Frames of Mind: Tracking Power/Knowledge'</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>CST-249NY</td>
<td>Topics in Critical Social Thought: 'Nueva York'</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>CST-349AC</td>
<td>Advanced Topics: 'Latina/o/x Studies in Action'</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>CST-349HD</td>
<td>Advanced Topics: 'Disposable People: A History of Deportation'</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>CST-349MC</td>
<td>Advanced Topics: 'Latinas/os/x and Housing: Mi Casa Is Not Su Casa'</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>CST-349UU</td>
<td>Advanced Topics: 'Latina/o Immigration'</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>FMT-230CN</td>
<td>Intermediate Courses in History and Theory: 'Latin American Cinema'</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>FMT-230LA</td>
<td>Intermediate Courses in History and Theory: 'Latin American Film History'</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>FMT-230LX</td>
<td>Intermediate Courses in History and Theory: 'Latinx Media'</td>
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<tr>
<td>GNDST-204RP</td>
<td>Women and Gender in the Study of Culture: 'Race, Racism, and Power'</td>
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<tr>
<td>GNDST-333FM</td>
<td>Advanced Seminar: 'Latina Feminism(s)'</td>
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<tr>
<td>GNDST-333MC</td>
<td>Advanced Seminar: 'Latinas/os/x and Housing: Mi Casa Is Not Su Casa'</td>
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<tr>
<td>GNDST-333QQH</td>
<td>Advanced Seminar: 'Queering the Horror: Collective Memory, Political Violence, and Dissident Sexualities in Latin American Narratives'</td>
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<tr>
<td>GNDST-333UU</td>
<td>Advanced Seminar: 'Latina/o Immigration'</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>GNDST-333WE</td>
<td>Advanced Seminar: 'Weird Feelings: Unsettling Latin American Short Fiction'</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST-180</td>
<td>Introduction to Latin American Cultures</td>
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ITAL-361AV Seminar in Romance Languages and Cultures: 'About Vanguards and Revolutionary Ideas' 4

Latin American Studies
LATAM-180 Introduction to Latin American Cultures 4
LATAM-287FM Topics in Latin American Studies: 'Frames of Mind: Tracking Power/Knowledge' 4
LATAM-386 Central America: Reform, Reaction, Revolution 4

Latina/o Studies
LATST-250BR Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'Borderlands Literature and Film' 4
LATST-250LR Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'Latina/o/x Urbanism' 4
LATST-250MT Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'Multicultural Theater and Latina/o Experience' 4
LATST-250NY Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'Nueva York' 4
LATST-250PB Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'The Politics of Borders' 4
LATST-250RP Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'Race, Racism, and Power' 4
LATST-350AC Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'Latina/o/x Studies in Action' 4
LATST-350FM Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'Latina Feminism(s)' 4
LATST-350MC Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'Latinas/os/x and Housing: Mi Casa Is Not Su Casa' 4
LATST-350RF Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'Critical Refugee Studies' 4
LATST-360 Latina/o Immigration 4
LATST-365 Disposable People: A History of Deportation 4

Politics
POLIT-243 Introduction to Latin American Politics 4
POLIT-255PA Gender and Power in Global Contexts: 'The Politics of Abortion in the Americas' 4
POLIT-267 The Politics of Finance and Financial Crises 4
POLIT-269 Social Movements: Theory and Praxis 4

Religion
RELIG-331LA Advanced Topics in Religion: 'Race and Religion in Latin America' 4

Romance Lang. & Literature
ROMLG-375AV Seminar in Romance Languages and Cultures: 'About Vanguards and Revolutionary Ideas' 4

Spanish
SPAN-240CN Visual Cultures, An Introduction: 'Latin American Cinema' 4
SPAN-250CC Concepts and Practices of Power: 'Contemporary Latin American Cultures' 4
SPAN-260BL Studies in Language and Society: An Introduction: 'Being Bilingual' 4
SPAN-260CN Studies in Language and Society: An Introduction: 'Spanish Across the Continents' 4

Italian
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<tr>
<td>SPAN-330FA</td>
<td>Advanced Studies in Identities and Intersections: 'Writing Myself: First Person Genres and Biopolitics in Latin America'</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN-330WE</td>
<td>Advanced Studies in Identities and Intersections: 'Weird Feelings: Unsettling Latin American Short Fiction'</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN-340AR</td>
<td>Advanced Studies in Visual Cultures: 'Occupying the Arts: Activism, Crisis and Arts in Latin America'</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN-340TW</td>
<td>Advanced Studies in Visual Cultures: 'Translating Words into Images: The Interaction of Film and Literary Texts Contemporary Latin America'</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN-360AV</td>
<td>Advanced Studies in Language and Society: 'About Vanguards and Revolutionary Ideas'</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN-360LG</td>
<td>Advanced Studies in Language and Society: 'The Politics of Language'</td>
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