

Latin American Studies Program

Spring 2024
Course Description Booklet



VILLANOVA
UNIVERSITY

Academic Programs

The main goal of the Latin American Studies program is to provide Villanova students with an innovative interdisciplinary curriculum that will allow them to explore and study Latin American in depth. Offering a balanced and creative combination of language courses, comparative global courses, experiential learning, methodological and writing courses, and a great variety of electives offered through the departments of Art History, English, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, Spanish, and Theology and Religious studies, the major and minor in Latin American Studies are designed to teach students complementary disciplinary approaches to understand the diversity, uniqueness, and complexity of Latin America.

The Latin American Studies program have been conceptualized to respond to national and international demands for global citizens who are aware of cultural differences, know how to respond to the challenges of more diverse populations, and who value, respect, and learn from diverse cultures, show competency in different languages and demonstrate openness, inclusiveness, cultural competence, and ability to interact with different groups of people. In this way, the Program is consistent with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' mission. This program provides students with a unique and academically high-quality opportunity to develop and enhance critical-thinking skills and cultural competencies, preparing them for a successful transition into the workplace.

Latin American Studies Minor Requirements

Six courses for a minimum of 18 credits.

a. Four elective courses with the LAS attribute (12 credits).

Note: The Latin American Studies program allows up to two courses, or six credits, to be counted in both the LAS minor and the Spanish major or minor. Overall, no more than two courses, or six credits, from the Department of Spanish may count as electives for the LAS minor.

b. Two Spanish courses at the intermediate level (1121 and 1122) or above (6 credits).

Latin American Studies Major Requirements

Twelve courses for a minimum of 34 credits

- GIS 2000: Introduction to Global Interdisciplinary Studies
- Two GIS 5011 team-taught 3-credit courses
- GIS 5000: Special Topics (1-credit)
- GIS 6500: Senior Capstone 1: Research
- GIS 6600: Senior Capstone 2: Thesis

Six courses for a minimum of 18 credits, of which the following must be included:

- four courses with the LAS attribute (12 credits).
- two Spanish courses above 1122 (6 credits)

Note: courses taken as part of a study abroad program may be counted. One internship course may be counted.

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Latin American Studies Course Descriptions Spring 2024

AAH 3009-003. Art in Latin America 1400-1800

This course investigates the visual arts produced in Mexico during the late pre-Columbian and Colonial/Viceregal periods, beginning with the Mexica (Aztec) Empire and continuing through Mexican Independence. The confrontation between various rich cultures, including other Indigenous societies, resulted in the development of a uniquely Mexican identity. We explore Mexica art and culture at the time of the Spanish Conquest; Europeans art used as a form of evangelization; hybridity, or the blending of Mexica and European artistic styles; and European perceptions of New World peoples and cultures. Other themes that extend throughout the course include competition for power (Indigenous vs. Spanish; mestiza vs. Indigenous vs. Spanish; infighting among the Spaniards) and its reflection within the visual arts; marginalization and exclusion of conquered peoples who were seen as lesser than their European counterparts and, simultaneously, as exotic and an “Other” to be exploited artistically; critical analysis of the ways cultures define and express themselves and others; cultural and religious appropriation; and the political role of art.

Attributes: Latin American Studies, Diversity Requirement 3, Core Fine Arts Requirement, Gender and Women's Studies

Professor: Aliza M. Benjamin

Meeting time: M/W/F: 10:40-11:30 am

PHI 2490-001. Latin American & African American Philosophy

This course explores the rich traditions of African-American and Latin American philosophy in order to expose students to diverse perspectives that are often marginalized or excluded from the standard histories of Western philosophy. It concentrates more specifically on the important resources developed in these traditions for rethinking race, gender and class relations, thereby offering students tools for analyzing intersecting systems of power, privilege and oppression. The class also delves into important issues in current events, thereby fostering an environment of trans-cultural learning in which in-class discussions are related to real world events. Throughout the course, students will be exposed to the ways in which the United States has often been an important site of interaction and cross-pollination between African and Latin American thought. This will cultivate a comparative, global perspective on these traditions, while also highlighting their significance to our immediate national context.

Attributes: Latin American Studies, Africana Studies, Diversity Requirement 1, Diversity Requirement 3, Peace & Justice

Professor: Gabriel Rockhill

Meeting time: M/W: 1:55-3:10 pm

PHI 5000-001. Philosophies of the Global South: Race, Gender & Sustainability

This course examines the deep and rich traditions of philosophy in the Global South with a particular focus on anti-racism, as well as the struggle for women's liberation and environmental sustainability. The primary objective is to expose students to diverse perspectives that are often marginalized or excluded from the standard histories of philosophy in the West, which tend to be dominated by white, male European thinkers.

Since the Global South has been disproportionately affected by climate change, whose negative consequences have particularly impacted racialized groups and women, a resolutely international perspective is necessary to adequately address issues like racism, gender oppression and environmental degradation. A large portion of the course will therefore uplift the voices of intellectuals from the Global South working on anti-racism, including various forms of solidarity and allyship to combat racism. This will require, moreover, that we work across multiple different disciplines, exploring in particular the connections between philosophy, the humanities and the social sciences.

Attributes: Latin American Studies, A&S Research Requirement, Writing Intensive Requirement

Professor: Gabriel Rockhill

Meeting times: M/W: 3:20-4:35 pm.

PSC 2360. Latin American Politics

Topics in this course will include political legacies of pre-Columbian and colonial periods, political and social revolutions of the national period, political economies of nationalism and liberalism, authoritarian rule; democratic transition and consolidation, the Pink Tide and resurgence of the political right; identity politics (race/ethnicity, inclusion and exclusion), Latin America and international relations: immigration, trade, energy, and security policies.

Attributes: Latin American Studies, Core Social Science, Diversity Requirement 3

Professor: Lowell Gustafson

Meeting time: T/R: 8:30-9:45 am

SOC 3600. Sociology of Race and Racism

This course introduces the sociological study of racism, race, and ethnicity. The class examines the different experiences and outcomes of individuals of different racial and ethnic backgrounds, the historical processes, and the growth of new racial formations, group divisions, and outlooks for the future, and centers the arguments of sociologists of color. The course will discuss the empirical realities of racial inequality, reasons for both optimism and pessimism, and theoretical understandings of the origins of such inequality (focused, as US history of racial inequality has been, primarily but not exclusively on Black and White experiences).

Attributes: Africana Studies, Criminology, Core Social Science, Diversity Requirement 1, Latin American Studies, Peace & Justice. Five seats reserved for Department of Sociology and Criminology students.

Professor: Rory Kramer

Meeting time: T/R: 11:30 am-12:45 pm

SOC 4000-001/002. Sociology of Immigration

This course will provide students with an overview of the major concepts and perspectives that mark the study of international migration within sociology and other social sciences, ranging from theories of immigrant incorporation to ongoing debates about citizenship. To do so, we will explore systems of inequality in the United States through the lens of international migration. This course will examine the ways in which race/ethnicity, class, gender, age, and citizenship status shape the experience of migrants and non-migrants in the process of dislocation and resettlement. Students will learn how having a “sociological imagination” helps us to understand links between material inequality, cultural representations, and human agency. Most of the readings in this course address migration and immigration to and from the US, but we will also address other regions of the globe as we learn about transnational migration and ties.

Attributes: Latin American Studies, Asian Studies, Core Social Science, Cultural Studies, Diversity Requirement 1, Gender and Women's Studies, Peace & Justice, Political Science. **Five seats reserved for Department of Sociology and Criminology students.**

Professor: Chih-Yan Sun

Meeting Times: 4000-001 M/W: 1:55-3:10 pm
4000-002 M/W: 3:20-4:35 pm

SPA 2221-001/002. Literature and Culture of Latin America

This course introduces students to intellectual and socio-cultural issues traversing fields such as religion, science, politics, race, gender, and popular cultures that are paramount to understanding Latin America. Students will discuss how writers, artists and intellectuals have imagined relations to the past and present of Latin America beginning with foundational texts in the colonial period and moving through the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The topics covered in the syllabus will function as platforms from which to pose questions, develop research interests, and ultimately to understand Latin America cultural production as a paradigmatic site that affords specific modes of engagement with the contemporary world.

Attributes: Latin American Studies, Diversity Requirement 3

Professor: Jill González

Meeting times: 2221-001 M/W: 1:55-3:10 pm
2221-002 M/W: 3:20-4:35 pm

Prerequisites: SPA 1132

SPA 2993. Community Interpreter Internship

The course prepares students to be verbal interpreters and translators, from English to Spanish or vice versa, by introducing them to the basic strategies for written translation and oral interpretation. This community-based learning course allows the student intern to use his/her Spanish abilities while helping Villanova law students represent clients. To satisfy the internship requirement, students need to complete 120 hours of service at the Law School Clinic and the 2993 course requirements. This a letter graded internship-course.

Attributes: Latin American Studies, Peace & Justice, Diversity 1

Professor: Raúl Diego Rivera Hernández

Meeting time: Wednesday 5:20-7:20pm

SPA 3412 – 002. Latin American Science Fiction

Science fiction literature and cinema in Latin America have their own characteristics through which it is possible to determine social, political and economic dynamics that have marked the history of its countries. This course proposes a review of the genre in Latin America to develop a way to understand how a concept of the future has been built on the continent, how our relationship with technology is produced and how science fiction has been adapted and transformed in Latin American cultural history. The readings and films will be organized around three historical moments. The first covers the technological and national imagination of the first half of the 20th century. The second axis will cover narratives of dystopia and crime fiction at the beginning of the 21st century. Finally, the third axis focuses on climate catastrophe and post-apocalyptic fiction.

Attributes: Latin American Studies

Professor: Agnese Codebò

Meeting times: T/R: 2:30-3:45 pm

SPA 3412 – 003. Latine USA Hoy

In this course, we will delve into the realities and conflicts Latinx communities have faced recently, and continue to face.

Attributes: Latin American Studies

Professor: Laura V. Sánchez

Meeting times: T/R: 1:00-2:15 pm

THL 3740. Liberation Theology

This course will introduce students to Latin American Liberation Theology, one of the most profound contemporary theological movements in the Church. Liberation Theology emerged out of the concrete struggle in Peru to overcome poverty, oppression and repression. We will examine the biblical and ecclesial roots of liberation theology, its “unconventional” theological methodology, the powerful insights of Gustavo Gutierrez and some other of its theologians and religious leaders, its impact, the price paid for prophetic witness, the controversy that surrounds it, and its ongoing challenge to theology today, to the Church and its institutions, and to a global society plagued by growing inequality.

Attributes: Latin American Studies,

Professor: Arthur Purcaro

Meeting time: M/W: 8:00-9:15 am.

Prerequisites: THL 1050 or THL 1000 or HON 1825 or HON 1003 or HON 1053 or THL 1051 or HON 1827 or HON 1850

THL 5003-003. THM Hispanics in the US Catholic Church

The U.S. Catholicism continues to be transformed from a community of predominantly European ancestry to one of Latin American origin. The course offers an overview of the Hispanic people from the times of Pre-Columbian America to the present time in the United States. Through the use of text analysis, case studies, and class discussions this course explores the history of Hispanic/Latino ministry in the Catholic Church and the pastoral issues to consider in all efforts of evangelization. Theological reflection enables students to explore the integration of culture and faith within the Hispanic culture and spirituality.

Attributes: Latin American Studies, Core Theology.

Professor: Ruth Bolarte

Meeting time: M/W: 3:20-4:35 pm.

Prerequisites: THL 1050 or THL 1000 or HON 1825 or HON 1003 or HON 1053 or THL 1051 or HON 1827 or HON 1850

THL 5005-003. THM: Latinx Theology

'Latinx' and 'Theology' individually and together have complex conceptual and material entanglements that at the same time reveal and obscure their meanings and uses for intended audiences and beyond. In this no-prior-knowledge-needed in-person course, we will read, discuss, and write about Latinx Theology, its relevant terms and methods, and its challenges to (and from) Latinx life in the United States and to humanity in general. Along the way, we will gain skills in reading, speaking, and writing as scholars ever-in-training.

Attributes: Latin American Studies, Core Theology, Diversity Requirement 3

Professor: Héctor M. Varela Rios

Meeting time: M/W: 3:20-4:35 pm

Prerequisites: THL 1050 or THL 1000 or HON 1825 or HON 1003 or HON 1053 or THL 1051 or HON 1827 or HON 1850