Latin American Studies Program

Fall 2023
Course Description Booklet
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 sociology, political science, history, theology and religious studies, philosophy, and Spanish, 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.

Dr. Raúl Diego Rivera Hernández
Associate Professor, Director of Latin American Studies Program
St Augustine Ctr Liberal Arts Rm 341
Department of Spanish
800 Lancaster Avenue
Villanova, PA 19085
Email: raul.diegoriverahernandez@villanova.edu
ENG 4651. Lives of the Undocumented

In this course we will examine the lived experiences of being undocumented as represented by those who were, or who remain without legal documentation in the US. Who are the main institutions and what are the policies involved in making and unmaking citizens? Where do we find possibility for change? Through memoir, interdisciplinary critical and theoretical essays, we will attempt to discuss how the perspective from undocumented Americans are crucial to understanding citizenship, identity, and belonging in the U.S.

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

Professor: Tsering Wangmo

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

ENG 4704. Borders in Latinx Literature

How do borders impact our lives, and how might they be imagined differently? This course examines how “the border” shapes Latinx literatures, from the U.S.-Mexico national boundary to alternative sites and conceptions of borders, including water borders in the Caribbean. We will explore how texts by Latinx writers from various national origins in multiple genres, from fiction and poetry to music and performance, represent borders, border politics, and possibilities for belonging in borderlands and beyond.

Attributes: Latin American Studies

Professor: Michael Dowdy

Meeting Time: T/R: 11:30am-12:45pm
SOC 3600-001/002. 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, Core Social Science, Latin American Studies, Peace & Justice, Diversity 1

Professor: Rory Kramer

Meeting time: M/W/F 10:40-11:30am
            M/W/F 11:45am-12:35pm

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 is 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. Latinx Literature & Performance**

What happens when breaking dualities stops being an utterance and becomes an act? In this course, we will explore this question through magazines, installations, texts, and performances. We will study chronicles, diaries, Afro-Latina magazines, autobiographies, and testimonials, as well as the Diaspora experience and the cultural affirmation of identity as portrayed in short stories, drama, poetry, and performance art. The course will expose the student to performance studies and literary criticism. Overall, the seminar offers a historical and critical grounding for Chicano/Latino writing in the US by surveying Latin@ literature from the nineteenth century to the present.

**Attributes:** Latin American Studies, Peace & Justice

**Professor:** Laura Sández

**Meeting time:** T/R: 2:30-3:45pm

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**THL 5003. 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:** Core Theology, Latin American Studies

**Professor:** Ruth Bolarte

**Meeting Time:** M/W 3:20-4:35