

# Latin American Studies

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**FALL 2021**



## 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 America 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 programs of sociology, political sciences, history, geography, religion, philosophy, and literatures and cultures, 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 courses with the LAS attribute (12 credits minimum)
- 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
- 2 GIS team-taught 3-credit courses from GIS 4000 through GIS 6499 one of which counts as the Junior Research Seminar for the major
  - 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:

- a. four courses with the LAS attribute (12 credits minimum)
- b. two Spanish courses above 1122 (6 credits)
- c. courses taken as part of a study abroad program may be counted
- d. one internship course may be counted.

**Director:** Dr. Raúl Diego Rivera Hernández

## **Latin American Studies**

### **Fall 2021 Course Descriptions**

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#### **PSC 2360-001: Latin American Politics**

**TR from 10:00am to 11:15am**

**Dr. Lowell Gustafson**

**CRN: 22729**

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.

**Prerequisites:**

PSC 1300

**Attributes:**

Core Social Science, Diversity Requirement 3, Latin American Studies

#### **SPA 2993-100: Community Interpretation Internship**

**T from 5:20pm to 7:20pm**

**Dr. Tomás Hidalgo Nava**

**CRN: 22934**

This internship is designed for undergraduate students with advanced proficiency in Spanish who seek to apply their linguistic and cultural competencies in a real-world setting. Students attend a seminar course while working as interpreters in the Law School Clinic, which serves low-income clients throughout Pennsylvania. 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 includes an introduction to consecutive interpretation, general and legal translation, and specific linguistic areas relevant to the needs of the Law School Clinic clients. To satisfy the

internship requirement, students need to complete 130 hours of service at the Law School Clinic and the 2993 course requirements. Internships are graded S/U.

**Prerequisites:**

SPA 1132

**Attributes:**

Latin American Studies, Peace & Justice

**SPA 3074-001: Hispanic Cinema**

**TR from 4:00pm to 5:15pm**

**Dr. Agnese Códobo**

**CRN: 22936**

The course examines the representation of urban, natural, and social landscapes in contemporary Latin American cinema. By looking at both commercial and independent features, along with video art and an array of essays on Latin American film, this class offers students an introduction to cinema in the region. Specifically, we will focus on the ways in which visual art shapes our understanding of cities, nature, and diverse human bodies. Among these we will look at different landscapes, such as the rainforest, the Andes, Patagonia, gold mines, the Atacama Desert, megalopolis, new post-industrial landscapes, urban slums, and ex-Amazonian wastelands.

**Attributes:**

Diversity Requirement 3, Latin American Studies, Peace & Justice

**SPA 3412-001 TOP: Artivism in the Americas**

**MW from 1:30pm to 2:45pm**

**Dr. Raúl Diego Rivera Hernández**

**CRN: 22938**

The course will explore the work of performers, community artists, guerrilla artists, musicians, social movements, and cultural agents through the lens of the intersection between arts and activism (artivism) in the Americas. The course is built around a selection of iconic case studies addressing social justice issues creatively and artistically, such as human rights, immigration, feminicides, and the

struggle for indigenous autonomy. Students will have the opportunity to do research about activism practices that resonate with their interests and personal experiences, and will actively participate in a two-day workshop created by Las Artistas, a group of female immigrant artists living in Norristown, PA.

**Attributes:**

Latin American Studies, Peace & Justice

## **SPA 3412-002 TOP: Latinx Lit & Performance Art**

**TR from 2:30pm to 3:45pm**

**Dr. Laura Sáñez**

**CRN: 22939**

What happens when breaking dualities stops being an utterance and becomes an act? In this course we will explore answers to this question exploring 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:**

Gender and Women's Studies, Latin American Studies, Peace & Justice

## **SOC 3600-001: Sociology of Race & Racism**

**TR from 10:00am to 11:15am**

**Prof. Rory Kramer**

**CRN: 22861**

Racism has been a key component of American society, and as such, a main focus of sociological work since its inception. 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

**THL 4490-002: Stewardship of Creation: Sustainability  
and Environmental Justice**

**TR from 8:30am to 9:45am**

**Reverend Arthur Purcaro**

**CRN: 23062**

This course presents Catholic Social Teaching on the environment, centering on Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si*, "On Care for our Common Home". We will treat the Sustainable Development Goals identified by the community of nations and how achieving them depends highly on an ethos of sustainable living. We will consider the particularly Augustinian contribution to this topic. The course follows the methodology employed in the Encyclical: See-Judge-Act; and encourages involvement in sustainability activity by students.

**Prerequisites:**

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

**Attributes:**

Latin American Studies, Core Theology, Peace & Justice.

**ENG 4651-001: Lives of the Undocumented**

**MW from 4:30pm to 5:45pm**

**Prof. Tsering Wangmo**

**CRN: 21879**

What can we learn about citizenship and belonging from the perspectives of undocumented immigrants? Through the genres of memoir, poetry, and critical essays, we will pay attention to the diversity of experiences as represented by those who were, or who remain without legal documentation. Some of the questions we will discuss include: Who is permitted to enter the United States and who is forced to leave? How did immigrants become “illegal”?

**Attributes:**

Cultural Studies, Diversity Requirement 1, Latin American Studies, Peace & Justice, Writing Enriched Requirement

**GIS 5011-001: Perspectives on Migration**

**(Team-taught course)**

**MW from 3:00pm to 4:15pm**

**Profs. Raúl Diego Rivera Hernández and Karyn Hollis**

**CRN: 22064**

The aim of this course is to explore migration from three different perspectives: (i) causes of migration (push and pull factors), (ii) the risks and vulnerabilities of migrants in transit before reaching their final destination, and (iii) the processes of integration of migrants in their host countries. Focusing on these three perspectives, we will discuss three main questions: How is migration connected to demographic and economic issues, sociopolitical factors, and more recently to environmental processes? What is the human rights situation of those traveling under irregular migratory conditions? What are the difficulties and challenges faced by migrants during their settlement experiences? This course provides the theoretical instruments and empirical grounding to understand contemporary international migration in the Americas, Europe, and Asia.

**Attributes:**

Latin American Studies, Cultural Studies, Peace & Justice