

Latin American Studies Program

Spring 2022
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 sociology, political science, history, theology and religious studies, philosophy, and Spanish language and literatures, 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).
- b. two Spanish courses above 1122 (6 credits).

Latin American Studies Minor Requirements for incoming freshmen

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 Romance Languages and Literatures (RLL) 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
- 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:

- 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

Spring 2022 Course Descriptions

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

001: TR from 01:00 pm to 02:15 pm Location: TBA

002: TR from 02:30 pm to 03:45 pm Location: TBA

Dr. Tomás Hidalgo Nava

This survey course provides students with the historical and cultural background necessary for the study of Latin American cultures in the context of modernity. We will examine materials from the temporal arch that comprises the periods between the 15th and 20th century in Latin America. Due to the scope of the course, both chronological and historical, the selection of sources revolves around moments in which specific modernization projects were disputed culturally and politically. Materials include short stories, poems, novels, films, essays, music, paintings as well as other forms of cultural production. All primary materials, class discussion, and assignments are in Spanish.

Prerequisites: SPA 1132

Attributes: Diversity Requirement 3, Latin American Studies

SPA 2993 – 100 Community Interpretation Internship

W from 5:20pm – 7:20pm Location: TBA

Dr. Raúl Diego Rivera Hernández

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 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 130 hours of service at the Law School Clinic and the 2993 course requirements. Internships are graded S/U.

Attributes: Latin American Studies, Peace and Justice

SPA 3412 - 002 TOP: Sustainability in Contemporary Latin America

TR from 01:00 pm to 02:15 pm Location: TBA

Dr. Agnese Codebò

The purpose of this undergraduate course is to analyze a diverse array of visual and literary sources that explore issues related to sustainability in contemporary Latin America. By looking at a wide variety of visual and literary sources including novels, essays, short stories, videos, documentaries, and art projects this class offers students an introduction to contemporary ecocritical debates and cultural trends in the region.

Attributes: Latin American Studies

SPA 3412 – 003 TOP: Environmental Lit in Colonial Latin America

TR from 01:00 pm to 02:15 pm Location: TBA

Dr. Miguel Ibáñez Aristondo

This course introduces students to socio-cultural issues regarding environmental literature in colonial Latin America. In dialogue with the world-ecology conversation, students will discuss human relations of power, production, and environment-making in the web of life. The course provides students with theoretical and historical depth to address some of the most pressing questions of our time: How do colonization, globalization, and capitalism affect the relationship between nature and society? To what extent today's environmental threats lead us to rethink not only our relationship with nature, but with culture, history, and civilization?

Attributes: Latin American Studies

SPA 3412 – 004 TOP: Chronicles of Resistance

MW from 03:00 pm to 04:15 pm Location: TBA

Dr. Raúl Diego Rivera Hernández

The Latin American chronicle is a hybrid genre that had remained marginalized from literary studies until the last twenty-five years because it was not clearly defined as a strictly literary or journalistic product, but rather, as a fusion of both. Contrary to this marginalization of the chronicle, the course seeks to recognize the increasingly politicized role that heightened the genre's affinities to testimonial narratives since the early 1970s. The course proposes a reading of the chronicle as a "counter-memory" to the official histories of governments and mainstream media that silenced various social groups: displaced communities, LGBTQ people, indigenous populations, victims of human rights abuses, and undocumented migrants.

Attributes: Latin American Studies, Peace and Justice

SPA 3412 – 005 TOP: Ficciones Políticas en La Habana

TR from 04:00 pm to 05:15 pm Location: TBA

Dr. Laura V. Sáñez

This seminar explores issues pertaining to artistic and intellectual freedom exploring the difference between “la política” and “lo político”. We will focus on essays, rap, graffiti, film, manifestos and narrative texts from writers, politicians, musicians and more. The course begins exploring Paul Preciado’s notion of subjectivities and continues towards a more encompassing notion of “lo político”. How the notion varies over time and place? What are the functions and tools artistic and intellectual freedom has?

Attributes: Latin American Studies

PHI 5000 - 001 SEM: LatinAm& AfricanAm Phil

MW from 03:00 pm to 04:15 pm Location: TBA

Dr. Gabriel Rockhill

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, Peace & Justice, A&S Research Requirement, Writing Intensive Requirement.

HIS 1150 – 003 TOP: Renaissance Atlantic
MWF from 11:30 am to 12:20 pm Location: TBA

Dr. Cristina Soriano

By looking at Africa, the Americas and Europe as equal partners in the emergence of the Renaissance, this course seeks to understand the forging of the Renaissance societies, Early Modern European Empires and the way they rethought and reshaped early traditions. The course will explore how the European experiences with Africa and the Americas influenced central themes such as nature of power and authority, good and evil, ethical philosophy, ethnography and the representations of the “others,” race and slavery, as well as views on women, men, and their roles in society. Using primary sources such as travel accounts and chronicles, and political texts, the course aims to explore cultural encounters, impositions and struggle among Europeans, Africans and Natives Americans in the construction of the Atlantic World.

Attributes: Core History, Latin American Studies

PSC 2360 – 001 Latin American Politics
TR from 10:00 am to 11:15 am Location: TBA

Dr. Lowell Gustafson

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: Core Social Science, Diversity Requirement 3, Gender and Women's Studies, Latin American Studies

SOC 3600 – 001/002 Sociology of Race & Racism

001: MW from 01:30 pm to 02:45 pm Location: TBA

002: MW from 03:00 pm to 04:15 pm Location: TBA

Dr. Rory Kramer

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, Diversity Requirement 1, Latin American Studies, Peace & Justice

THL 3740 - 001 THM: Liberation Theology

TR from 08:30 am to 09:45 am Location: TBA

Fr. Arthur Purcaro

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 Gutiérrez 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: Core Theology, Diversity Requirement 1, Latin American Studies, Peace & Justice

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

THL 5004 - 002 THM: Latinx Theology
MW from 01:30 pm to 02:45 pm Location: TBA

Dr. Héctor M. Varela Ríos

'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: Core Theology, Latin American Studies

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

AAH 3009 TOP: Arts of the New World: Mexica through Independence
MW from 3:00pm to 04:15 pm Location TBA

Dr. Aliza Benjamin

This course will investigate the visual arts produced in Mexico during the late pre-Columbian and Colonial/Viceregal periods, beginning with the Mexica (Aztec) Empire and continuing through 1810, when Mexico gained independence. The confrontation between these two rich cultures – as well as many other Indigenous societies – resulted in the development of an independent identity that was strictly Mexican. Topics to be explored include but are not limited to: Mexica art and culture at the time of the Spanish Conquest; how Europeans used art as a form of evangelization; hybridity, or the blending of Mexica and European artistic styles; and European perceptions and interpretations of New World peoples and culture. A number of themes will extend throughout the course, among them: Issues of competition for power (Indigenous vs. Spanish; mestiza vs. Indigenous vs. Spanish; infighting among the Spaniards; etc.) and its reflection within the visual arts; marginalization and exclusion of conquered peoples who were seen as lesser than their European counterparts and, simultaneously, exotic and an “Other” to be exploited artistically; an exploration (and critical analysis of) how cultures define and express themselves and one another; cultural and religious appropriation and the political role art can and does play.

Attributes: Latin American Studies, Fine Arts Requirement