The Latin American Studies Program engages a thriving community of scholars, students, alumni, and local residents who work together to foster understanding and recognition of a complex set of cultures from Mesoamerica, the Caribbean, and South America. Given the historically strong connections between these regions and the United States, studying the former offers significant insights into understanding the latter. The number of students majoring in Latin American Studies has been growing steadily every year.

The Latin American studies curriculum integrates the perspectives of several academic departments at the College to promote an interdisciplinary exploration of the region’s scholarship. Students typically begin with courses offered in anthropology, history, music, Romance languages, or sociology. In addition, majors fulfill a four-course concentration in a specific discipline, theme, or area, often including an independent study project. Competence in Spanish (or another appropriate language spoken in these countries, such as French or Portuguese) is required.

Most majors participate in a study-away program in Latin America, and funds for additional on-site research are available on a competitive basis. Familiarity with the region is also enhanced through frequent concerts, theme dinners, film screenings, symposia, service-learning projects, debates, and teach-ins organized by various student organizations, faculty, and community associations.

The Major
The major consists of nine courses, including the following: the introductory Latin American Cultures; a 200-level course in the social sciences (i.e., anthropology or sociology) focused on Latin America; a 200-level course in colonial or modern Latin American history; four additional courses centered on a particular geographic region (the Caribbean, Andean region, Mesoamerica, Southern Cone, etc.) or theme (colonization, indigenous cultures, globalization, gender relations, the arts, etc.); a Latin American studies course outside the student’s area of concentration; and an independent study, honors project, or a 300-level seminar approved for Latin American studies credit. The four-course concentration will be selected by each student in consultation with the Latin American studies faculty. The courses for the concentration should be primarily at the 200- or 300-level and may include some of the required courses listed above. The one- or two-semester independent study project, honors thesis, or 300-level seminar is completed during the senior year. A maximum of three courses from off-campus study programs may count toward the major with the approval of the administering committee.

The Minor
The minor consists of five courses, including Modern Latin American History; at least one course beyond Bowdoin’s intermediate level in Spanish; and three additional courses focused on Latin America, two of which must be outside the student’s major department.

Independent Study and Honors
Advanced students are encouraged to pursue an independent study project, which is done in close consultation with a member of the faculty.

Students contemplating honors candidacy should possess a record of distinction in their courses, a well-focused research proposal, and a high measure of motivation and scholarly maturity. The faculty recommends that such students complete two semesters of independent study in preparing papers for honors consideration.

Research Grants
Latin American Studies research grants are intended to increase understanding and awareness of the region among sophomores and juni-
Latin American Studies

Honors Projects
Recent honors projects completed in the Latin American Studies Program include:

- "De Coreano a Coreguayo": The Korean-Paraguayan Community, 1964-2005
- A Long Road to Democracy: How Middle Class Politicization and Political Reform Transformed Mexico’s One Party State
- Imaginar el Campo: Visiones Sobre el Paisaje Latinoamericano en Sarmiento y Carpenter
- The Paradox of Pinochet’s Rule: Patriarchal Ideology and Women in the Work Force
- Fusionando dos Mundos: El Diálogo con la Oralidad en Dos Novelas de Toni Morrison y Gabriel García Márquez

Campus Events
The program sponsors events each year to bring leaders in Latin American studies and culture to Bowdoin. Recent events have included: the annual meeting of the New England Council of Latin American Studies, which brought more than 170 scholars and students to campus; a teach-in focused on Che Guevara’s life and myth-making process, as well as on new forms of resistance in Latin America; a presentation by award-winning filmmaker Greg Berger of excerpts from his films on grassroots struggles for democracy, autonomy, and social justice in contemporary Mexico and Bolivia; a discussion by Christopher Boyer of the environmental impact of heavy industry in the Mexican woodlands; and participation by students in the Latin American Studies seminar Caribbean with distinguished academics in a symposium titled, "Insularity and Integration: Recent Trends in Caribbean Scholarship."

Faculty
The Latin American Studies Program is administered by the Latin American Studies Committee. The program faculty is drawn from many departments at Bowdoin, and includes the following:

- Joe Bandy, associate professor of sociology, B.A. (Rhodes), M.A., Ph.D. (California–Santa Barbara), specializes in globalization and social change, social identity, social movements, environmental sociology, and Mexico.
- Elena M. Cueto-Asín, associate professor of Romance languages, B.A. (Universidad Complutense, Madrid), M.A., Ph.D. (Purdue), specializes in 19th- and 20th-century Spanish literature and culture, with emphasis on theater and film.
- Krista E. Van Vleit, associate professor of anthropology, B.S. (Beloit), M.A., Ph.D. (Michigan), specializes in language, culture, sexuality, and gender in Latin America, particularly the Andes.
- Susan E. Wegner, associate professor of art history, A.B. (Wisconsin–Madison), A.M., Ph.D. (Bryn Mawr), specializes in Italian Renaissance and Baroque art and Pre-Columbian art.
- Allen Wells, Roger Howell, Jr., Professor of History, A.B. (SUNY–Binghamton), A.M., Ph.D. (SUNY–Stony Brook), focuses on modern Mexican history, especially the Yucatán, and teaches a range of courses in colonial and modern Latin American history.
- Eugenia Wheelwright, visiting lecturer in Romance languages, B.A. (Yale), M.A. (Washington), teaches Spanish language.
- Nathaniel T. Wheelwright, professor of biology, B.S. (Yale), Ph.D. (Washington), teaches about environment and society in Latin America.
- Enrique Yepes, associate professor of Romance languages, B.A. (Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana), Ph.D. (Rutgers), specializes in contemporary poetry, short story, and cultural studies in Latin America. He is director of the Latin American Studies Program.

After Bowdoin
Students of Latin American Studies choose many different career paths. Recent graduates can be found working throughout the United States and Latin America in education and various areas of public policy and service. Many go on to pursue advanced degrees and are now working in law, business, health care, and Latin American scholarship.

For more information, visit:
http://academic.bowdoin.edu/latinamerica/

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Bowdoin

For more information about Bowdoin, please write or call:
Dean of Admissions
Bowdoin College
5000 College Station
Brunswick, Maine 04011-8441
207-725-3100
http:www.bowdoin.edu
e-mail: admissions@bowdoin.edu

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