LATIN AMERICAN, CARIBBEAN AND LATINX STUDIES

Overview & Learning Goals

Overview
The Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies (LACLaS) Program explores the history, aesthetic production, and contemporary relationships of the diverse cultural groups of Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America, and Latinx population in the United States. Its multidisciplinary approach is designed to integrate the scholarly methods and perspectives of several disciplines in order to foster increased understanding of Latin America’s social differences and economic realities, cultural diversity, transnational connections, historical trajectories, and range of popular culture and artistic and literary expression. Competence in a language spoken in the region other than English (such as Spanish, French, or Portuguese) is required, and it is strongly recommended that students participate in an off-campus study program in Latin America.

Learning Goals

Both majors and non-majors will be able to:

• Identify some of the main topics of discussion that have taken or are taking place in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Latin American and Caribbean communities in the United States from a multidisciplinary perspective.
• Demonstrate knowledge of the commonalities and the specificities of the societies, cultures, and the intellectual history of different communities and sub-regions within Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Latin American and Caribbean communities in the United States.
• Display an understanding of the history of Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Latin American and Caribbean communities in the United States.
• Compare and contrast different methodologies, theories, and frameworks applied by different disciplines to the study of Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Latin American and Caribbean communities in the United States.
• Apply some of these methodologies and multidisciplinary frameworks to understanding social, political, and cultural processes in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Latin American and Caribbean communities in the United States.
• Engage critically with diverse methodologies, theories, and frameworks in order to expand their goals and scopes.
• Criticize and defend their own points of view and those of others with well-rounded arguments, presentations, and essays.
• Develop communication skills in Spanish, French, and/or other language spoken in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Latin American and Caribbean communities in the United States.
• Conduct research in Spanish, French, and/or other language spoken in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Latin American and Caribbean communities in the United States.

In addition, majors will be able to:

• Undertake independent research, particularly on the topics pertinent to their academic and personal interests, and demonstrate capacity to formulate interpretations based on their research.
• Pursue community engagement and service opportunities that foster their own knowledge—and that of Bowdoin’s larger community—of Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Latin American and Caribbean communities in the United States (i.e., talks, symposiums, Alternative Spring Break trips, Latin American Student Organization activities).
• Pursue either graduate study in Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx studies or in one of the disciplines represented in the program.
• Pursue professional training in fields in which knowledge of Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Latin American and Caribbean communities in the United States is relevant.

Requirements

Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx (LACLaS) Studies Major

Language Proficiency
Prospective majors should demonstrate competency in a language spoken in Latin America, equivalent to Intermediate Advanced Spanish, French or Portuguese. This requirement may be satisfied through the completion of HISP 2204 or FRS 2204 at Bowdoin, placement beyond these courses, or through an oral interview and the submission of a writing sample to the program’s Director. The language requirement must be completed by the end of the junior year.

The Major consists of 9 courses:

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<th>Code</th>
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<td>Required Courses</td>
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<td>Select one course in History covering several countries and/or periods in Latin America, the Caribbean, and/or Latinx communities in the U.S., such as:</td>
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<td>HIST 2401</td>
<td>Colonial Latin America</td>
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<td>HIST 2402</td>
<td>Modern Latin America: From Subjects to Citizens</td>
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<td>HIST 2403</td>
<td>Revolutions in Latin America: The People Take the Stage</td>
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<td>HIST 2430</td>
<td>Gendering Latin American History</td>
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<td>Select one course in the Humanities (other than History) that focuses on cultural production (such as literature, arts, music, dance, art history and/or media) and covers two or more countries and/or periods in Latin America, the Hispanic or Francophone Caribbean, and/or Latinx communities in the U.S. such as:</td>
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<td>ARTH 1300</td>
<td>Introduction to the Arts of Ancient Mexico and Peru</td>
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HISP 2409  Introduction to Hispanic Studies: Poetry and Theater  
HISP 2410  Introduction to Hispanic Studies: Essay and Narrative  
HISP 3228  Beyond the Postcard: Thinking and Writing the Caribbean  
LAS 1045  Social Justice Warriors of the Americas  
MUS 1271  Experiencing Latin American Music  
Select one intermediate course (2500–2799) in the social sciences (anthropology, economics, government, psychology, or sociology) that focuses on Latin America or Latinx in the U.S. such as:  
- ANTH 2737  Family, Gender, and Sexuality in Latin America  
- ANTH 2830  Descendants of the Sun: The Inca and their Ancestors  
- GSWS 2345  Race, Gender, and Intimacy in Brazil  
- GOV 2482  Food, Environment, and Development  
- SOC 2320  Latinx in the United States  
Select one advanced seminar in Latin American Studies such as:  
- ANTH 3320  Youth and Agency in Insecure Times  
- HISP 2505  The Making of a Race: Latinx Fictions  
- HISP 3117  Hispanic Cities in Cinema: Utopia, Distopia, and Transnationality  
- HISP 3252  The Battle of Chile: From Allende to Pinochet  
- HISP 3220  Health and Healing in Early Modern Spain and Spanish America  
- HISP 3235  Mexican Fictions: Voices from the Border  
- HISP 3249  The Southern Cone Revisited: Contemporary Challenges  
- HIST 2862  The Haitian Revolution  
- HIST 3404  Crime and Punishment in Latin America  
- LAS 2720  Between the Alamo and the Wall: Latinx Activism in the United States, Latinx in the United States  
- SOC 3410  Migrant Imaginaries (Select five elective courses in Latin American, Caribbean and Latinx Studies, four of which should be taken at the 2000, 3000 or 4000-level)  
Select five elective courses in Latin American, Caribbean and Latinx Studies, four of which should be taken at the 2000, 3000 or 4000-level  

**Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies Minor**

The minor consists of five courses.

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<td>Required Courses</td>
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<td>Select one course in Latin America history covering several countries and periods in the region such as LAS 2401, LAS 2402, LAS 2403, or LAS 2430</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select one course in the Humanities or the Social Sciences covering several countries and periods in Latin America, the Hispanic or Francophone Caribbean, or Latinx communities in the U.S.</td>
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<td>Select three elective courses in Latin American, Caribbean and Latinx Studies, two of which should be taken at the 2000, 3000 or 4000-level.</td>
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**Additional Information and Program Policies**

- Majors and minors in LAClAS are expected to take courses on different periods of the history of Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Latin American and Caribbean communities in the United States.

- Majors and minors in LAClAS are highly encouraged to pursue immersion in Latin America or the Caribbean, as well as research opportunities in the region. Students should consult with their advisors and the office of Off-Campus Study for information about available programs and research travel grants.

- Up to three credits from off-campus study (excluding first- and second-year language courses) may count toward the major. Up to two credits from off-campus study (excluding language courses) may count toward the minor. Approval of the director of Latin American Studies for those courses is required. Please inquire in advance of enrollment in a program.

- Up to 2 Independent Studies (4000-level courses) in Latin American Studies may count towards the major.

- Up to 3 courses outside the Program may count towards the major, and two may count to the minor.

- Up to one of the courses outside the Program may be a non cross-listed course at Bowdoin, with approval of the Director.