

# LATIN AMERICAN, CARIBBEAN, AND IBERIAN STUDIES (LACIS)

## LACIS/HISTORY/INTL ST 242 – MODERN LATIN AMERICA

3-4 credits.

A broad overview of Latin American history in the modern period, since independence but with a primary focus on the twentieth century. Particular emphasis will be placed on the socioeconomic, cultural, and political structures and processes that shaped and continue to influence life in Latin America. Key issues such as colonialism, nationalism, democracy, and revolution will be examined critically in light of broad comparative themes in Latin American and world history. Among the topics to be explored in detail will be the Mexican and Cuban revolutions, populism and dictatorship, socialism and neoliberalism, and drugs and migration.

**Requisites:** None

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2021

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Describe the contours of Latin American history in the period since independence  
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Apply and use key concepts relevant to Latin American history, such as imperialism, inequality, populism, socialism, neoliberalism  
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Read for a dedicated purpose across different genres and forms of writing  
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Apply historical reasoning to understand the origins of present-day issues  
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Communicate effectively through presentations, discussion, and written work  
Audience: Undergraduate

## LACIS/HISTORY 243 – COLONIAL LATIN AMERICA: INVASION TO INDEPENDENCE

3-4 credits.

An introductory survey of colonial Latin American history, from the late fifteenth to the early nineteenth century. Examines developments in Spanish and Portuguese America by reading both secondary and primary sources. Beginning with fifteenth-century Europe, the Americas and West Africa, discusses European expansion and invasion, first contacts between the so-called Old and the so-called New Worlds, as well as the role of religion, sexuality, gender, labor and production, trade and exchange, and politics. Each week, a central question will address the topic for that week. Become familiar with and contextualize key processes and events in colonial Latin American history and learn about the nature of colonization. Identify and evaluate historical arguments. Practice interpreting primary sources and building historical arguments about them.

**Requisites:** None

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Fall 2024

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Describe the contours of Latin American history in the period between invasion and independence  
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Apply and use key concepts relevant to colonial Latin American history, such as colonialism, genocide, corporate society, transatlantic slave trade, independence movements  
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Read for a dedicated purpose across different genres and forms of writing  
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Apply historical reasoning to understand both the epistemology of early modern people and the origins of present-day issues  
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Communicate effectively through presentations, discussion, and written work  
Audience: Undergraduate

**LACIS/AFROAMER/ANTHRO/C&E SOC/GEOG/HISTORY/  
POLI SCI/SOC/SPANISH 260 – LATIN AMERICA: AN  
INTRODUCTION**

3-4 credits.

Latin American culture and society from an interdisciplinary perspective; historical developments from pre-Columbian times to the present; political movements; economic problems; social change; ecology in tropical Latin America; legal systems; literature and the arts; cultural contrasts involving the US and Latin America; land reform; labor movements; capitalism, socialism, imperialism; mass media.

**Requisites:** None**Course Designation:** Breadth - Social Science

Level - Elementary

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Spring 2025**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Analyze Latin American culture and society from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Examine historical developments from pre-Columbian times to the present.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Identify political movements, economic problems, social change, and ecology in Latin America.

Audience: Undergraduate

**LACIS/CHICLA/HISTORY/POLI SCI 268 – THE U.S. & LATIN  
AMERICA FROM THE COLONIAL ERA TO THE PRESENT: A  
CRITICAL SURVEY**

3 credits.

A critical examination of US-Latin American relations from the colonial era to the present, tracing the emergence and evolution of the United States as a hemispheric and global power and its political and economic impact on Latin America. Primary attention will be focused on US relations with Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, but other Latin American countries will figure prominently during certain episodes.

**Requisites:** Sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science

Level - Elementary

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Fall 2020**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Critically examine US-Latin American relations from the colonial era to the present.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Examine tracing the evolution of the United States as a hemispheric and global power and its political and economic impact on Latin America.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Discuss US relations with Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.

Audience: Undergraduate

**LACIS/SPANISH 285 – RACE AND CULTURE IN THE AMERICAS**

3 credits.

Examine how the experiences of marginalized groups in the U.S. are profoundly intertwined with hemispheric historical processes. Review the categories that emerged to conceptualize human difference as European colonizers dispossessed indigenous peoples of their lands and inaugurated the forced migration and enslavement of peoples from Africa. Focus on how race was transformed after the revolutions of independence, exploring key concepts such as the one drop rule, mestizaje, racial democracy, and color-blindness. Explore how race intersects with gender, class, and migration, as well as with slavery, anti-colonial struggles, and US expansionism. Examine common assumptions in comparisons of race relations -e.g., the idea of a more "fluid" understanding of race in Latin American countries, versus the binary models of the U.S.

**Requisites:** None**Course Designation:** Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement

Breadth - Humanities

Level - Elementary

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Identify different forms in which race and ethnicity have been constructed across the Americas, the ways in which the histories of certain groups have been devalued or overlooked, and the implications for our present.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Identify different understandings of race and ethnicity -for example, the tension between cultural difference and structural domination- and question assumptions commonly held in political discourse, media, arts, and literature.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Discuss with one another how race and ethnicity condition experiences of social mobility, justice, and a sense of community, reflecting an increasingly multicultural global environment.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Recognize social inequalities and intervene in contemporary discussions on racism through an appropriate use of evidence, critical tools, and analysis.

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Identify how different disciplinary frameworks (ethnic studies, Latinx Studies, and critical race theory, etc.) can be used to understand the racialized nature of the major questions of the present, including climate change, public health, surveillance, violence, and mass incarceration.

Audience: Undergraduate

6. Present research in a clear, concise, and engaging manner.

Audience: Undergraduate

7. Produce evidence-based, original arguments through both written and oral assignments.

Audience: Undergraduate

**LACIS/CHICLA/ED POL 342 – EDUCATION ACROSS THE AMERICAS: EMPIRE, CAPITALISM, AND RESISTANCE**

3 credits.

Examines educational inequality across the Americas through the lens of imperialism, different forms of colonialism, and capitalism. By exploring the logics and actions of different education stakeholders, critically examine how educational policy across the hemisphere has a shared history of oppression and contestation.

**Requisites:** ED POL 300**Course Designation:** Gen Ed - Communication Part B  
Level - Intermediate

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Spring 2025**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Draw from different sources to evaluate the transnational contexts of education policy and pose relevant questions about hemispheric educational issues

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Use clear understandings of terms such as imperialism, colonialism, capitalism, racism, and transnationalism to explain unequal educational processes

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Formulate and communicate research-based arguments on topics in education policy using academic literature, including primary and secondary sources

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Produce expository and argumentative texts and draw from this work to produce a podcast

Audience: Undergraduate

**LACIS/CHICLA/HISTORY/POLI SCI 355 – LABOR IN THE AMERICAS: US & MEXICO IN COMPARATIVE & HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE**

3 credits.

Provides a critical examination of the history of labor and working people in the Americas, from the colonial era to the present. It focuses on the experience of the United States and Mexico, offering a comparative perspective on their distinct but also shared (and increasingly linked) histories. The seminar proceeds chronologically, highlighting major episodes in the evolution of labor systems in the two countries, beginning with the colonial labor systems implemented by the Spanish and British empires following the European conquest of the Western Hemisphere. Among other topics, we will examine the pivotal role of slavery and other forms of forced labor, the impact of the industrial revolution, the emergence and expansion of corporate capitalism and the labor unrest it provoked in the post-civil war U.S., the role of labor in the Mexican Revolution and its aftermath, the impact of the Great Depression and labor incorporation on the post-WWII social and political order of both countries, the breakdown of that order and the move to neo-liberalism in the 1970s and 1980s, and the emergence of an increasingly integrated North American production system and its consequences for labor and working people on both sides of the US-Mexico border.

**Requisites:** Sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement

Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science

Level - Intermediate

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Spring 2021**LACIS/ANTHRO 361 – ELEMENTARY QUECHUA**

4 credits.

Phonology and morphology; concentration on the acquisition of conversational skills; reading of texts of graded difficulty.

**Requisites:** None**Course Designation:** Frgn Lang - 1st semester language course  
Level - Elementary

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Fall 2024**LACIS/ANTHRO 362 – ELEMENTARY QUECHUA**

4 credits.

Continued introduction to phonology and morphology; concentration on the acquisition of conversational skills; reading of texts of graded difficulty.

**Requisites:** LACIS/ANTHRO 361**Course Designation:** Frgn Lang - 2nd semester language course  
Level - Elementary

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Spring 2025

**LACIS/ANTHRO 363 – INTERMEDIATE QUECHUA**

4 credits.

Advanced morphology and syntax; advanced conversation and composition; cultural background of Quechua speaking peoples through reading of myths, legends and folktales.

**Requisites:** LACIS/ANTHRO 362

**Course Designation:** Frgn Lang - 3rd semester language course  
Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Fall 2023

**LACIS/ANTHRO 364 – ADVANCED QUECHUA**

4 credits.

Continuation of advanced conversation and composition; cultural background of Quechua-speaking peoples through reading of myths, legends, folktales; problems in dialectology.

**Requisites:** LACIS/ANTHRO 363

**Course Designation:** Frgn Lang - 4th semester language course  
Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2024

**LACIS/ILS 367 – THE LITERATURE OF MIGRATION AND THE MIGRANT EXPERIENCE IN THE AMERICAS**

3 credits.

Explores literature to understand representations and experiences of migration within the United States, and in the Americas more broadly, over time and across cultures. Focusing on literature and employing historical and psychoanalytic interpretive approaches, critically analyze artistic and literary representations of the migrant experience. Topics include: the relationships between literature, art, and migration; the role of migrants in constructing the United States; the role of art and literature in the empowerment of marginalized groups. Analyze literary texts in their contexts using tools of literary analysis and express ideas about literary texts and art from a critical perspective.

**Requisites:** Sophomore standing

**Course Designation:** Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement

Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2025

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Evaluate literature in its relationship to migration by means of various communicative, deliberative, and persuasive argumentation.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Identify in literature historical patterns of migration within the US and the Americas and their importance to understand current national culture and tensions.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Understand through literature concepts and theories and apply them to the interpretation of literature across cultures.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Recognize, analyze, and evaluate in literature the intersections between culture and other socially meaningful categories, such as race, class, gender, identity, ethnicity, disability, and sexuality as they are represented within literature .

Audience: Undergraduate

**LACIS/ANTHRO 376 – FIRST SEMESTER YUCATEC MAYA**

4 credits.

Introduction to Yucatec Maya language. Focus on acquiring vocabulary and grammar for basic conversational proficiency. Taught through in-class oral and aural exercises, language tapes, and primary texts. Learn about Maya culture, history, folklore, and language politics.

**Requisites:** None

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities

Frgn Lang - 1st semester language course

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Fall 2024

**LACIS/ANTHRO 377 – SECOND SEMESTER YUCATEC MAYA**

4 credits.

Continued introduction to Yucatec Maya language. Focus on acquiring vocabulary and grammar for basic conversational proficiency. Taught through in-class oral and aural exercises, language tapes, and primary texts. Learn about Maya culture, history, folklore, and language politics.

**Requisites:** LACIS/ANTHRO 376**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities

Frgn Lang - 2nd semester language course

Level - Intermediate

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Spring 2025**LACIS 440 – TOPICS IN LATIN AMERICAN, CARIBBEAN, AND IBERIAN STUDIES**

1-4 credits.

An examination of specific topics related to the Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian region. Topics vary each semester, but may include specific themes in history, literature, media, political science, sociology, culture, politics, social work, and agriculture.

**Requisites:** Sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Level - Intermediate

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

**Repeatable for Credit:** Yes, unlimited number of completions**Last Taught:** Spring 2025**LACIS 681 – SENIOR HONORS THESIS**

3 credits.

Mentored individual research and study for students completing a thesis in an Honors program.

**Requisites:** Consent of instructor**Course Designation:** Level - Advanced

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

Honors - Honors Only Courses (H)

**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Fall 2016**LACIS 682 – SENIOR HONORS THESIS**

3 credits.

Mentored individual research and study for students completing a thesis in an Honors program.

**Requisites:** Consent of instructor**Course Designation:** Level - Advanced

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

Honors - Honors Only Courses (H)

**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Spring 2011**LACIS 698 – DIRECTED STUDY**

1-6 credits.

Advanced directed study projects as arranged with a faculty member.

**Requisites:** Consent of instructor**Course Designation:** Level - Advanced

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

**Repeatable for Credit:** Yes, unlimited number of completions**Last Taught:** Spring 2019**LACIS 699 – DIRECTED STUDY**

1-6 credits.

Advanced directed study projects as arranged with a faculty member.

**Requisites:** Consent of instructor**Course Designation:** Level - Advanced

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** Yes, unlimited number of completions**Last Taught:** Spring 2025**LACIS/A A E/ANTHRO/C&E SOC/GEOG/HISTORY/POLI SCI/PORTUG/SOC/SPANISH 982 – INTERDEPARTMENTAL SEMINAR IN THE LATIN-AMERICAN AREA**

1-3 credits.

Interdisciplinary inquiry in Latin American society and culture.

**Requisites:** Graduate/professional standing**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement**Repeatable for Credit:** Yes, unlimited number of completions**Last Taught:** Fall 2024