

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

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The Minor in Latin American Studies (18 credits)

This minor will prepare students to engage with the increasingly transnational nature of society. Latin America is a region of key importance in the age of globalization and mass migration. The minor will foster students' understanding of the interactions between Latin America's indigenous and introduced cultures in the past and present. Latin America's relationship to the United States will be critically examined in the minor's curriculum, thus providing students the opportunity to develop perspectives on current economic interdependencies between the U.S. and Latin America and the rapid growth of the Latino population in the U.S. According to the U.S. 2012 Census, there are 53 million Latinos living in the United States. The United States currently has the second-largest native Spanish speaking population, the vast majority of which is of Latin American heritage. The minor not only will prepare students for work with organizations, businesses, and agencies that are internationally and nationally focused; it also will prepare them to work with the growing Latino population in their home communities in Virginia.

Program Objectives:

1. To identify major historical, political, social and cultural Latin American Events.
2. To demonstrate knowledge of key trends of thought in Latin American history, politics, literature and art.
3. To demonstrate an understanding of culture differences and diversity within Latin America.
4. To critically examine the United States-Latin America relationships.
5. To critically analyze primary sources in various media (texts, films, visual arts, etc.) in their historical, political, social and cultural context.

Program Requirements

1. Three credits at the 202 level or higher in SPAN; native speakers of Spanish and students who took four years of Spanish in high school are encouraged to take a 300-level course. Students may substitute three transfer credits at the 202-level or higher in Portuguese with the permission of the director.
2. IDST 267 Introduction to Latin American Studies.
3. Select four courses (12 credits) from the following list of electives representing at least three different disciplines.
4. With the permission of the director, the following courses may also be considered: FNAR 403, SPAN 471, 472, 473. Course substitutions must be completed by the director.

5. Study Abroad in Latin America and transfer credits as approved by the director of the program.

THE CURRICULUM IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

IDST 267. Introduction to Latin American Studies (3-3-0) AIGM

An interdisciplinary introduction to Latin American focusing primarily on 20th and 21st century cultural, social, and political issues. Students will emerge with a broad, multidisciplinary view of the region and will come to understand global issues from a Latin American perspective. Basic questions to be addressed will include: What is Latin America? Who are Latin Americans? Why do we think of Latin America as a cohesive geopolitical and cultural region? Along the way, students will discover Latin American's diversity and rich cultural heritage.

Course descriptions appear in appropriate sections throughout the catalog:

DANC 260	African Dance in the Diaspora
DANC 360	Afro-Caribbean Dance
ENGL 328	Latin American Literature
FNAR 375	Pre-Columbian Art
FNAR 380	Caribbean Art
HIST 335	Caribbean History and Culture
HIST 364	History of Brazil
HIST 462	The Mexican Revolution
POLS 350	Latin American Politics and Societies
SPAN 351	Introduction to Latin American Literature I
SPAN 352	Introduction to Latin American Literature II