

The background of the entire page is a photograph of the Argentine flag flying from a wooden pole on a rocky, snow-dusted mountain peak. The flag is the central focus, with its three horizontal stripes of light blue, white, and light blue, and the Sun of May emblem on the white stripe. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The foreground shows dark, jagged rocks with patches of snow.

University of Miami

Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Spring 2017 Course Booklet

Latin American Studies Program Requirements

Latin American Studies offers an interdisciplinary approach to learning about the cultures and societies of Latin America and the Caribbean. Undergraduate courses are offered in departments as diverse as Anthropology, Architecture, Economics, International Studies, Marketing, Musicology, and Religious Studies. The major in Latin American Studies is designed for the student who wants to acquire background knowledge about the area or who is interested in some aspect of Latin American and Caribbean affairs, such as government, business, journalism, or education. We strongly encourage students to spend at least one semester abroad on a program with a Latin American and Caribbean Studies component.

Latin American Studies Major

36 credits

LAS 101	Introduction to Latin American and Caribbean Studies	3
LAS 200	Introduction to Latina/o Studies	3
LAS 301	Interdisciplinary Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Studies	3
LAS 320	Special Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Environment	3
LAS 330	Special Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Religions	3
LAS 340	Special Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Economics	3
LAS 350	Special Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Art and Culture	3
LAS 360	Speical Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Politics	3
LAS 370	Special Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Media and Communications	3
LAS 494	Independent Study in Latin American and Caribbean Studies	1-3
LAS 495	Senior Honor Thesis I	3
LAS 496	Senior Honors Thesis II	3

Students must maintain a C- or higher in major courses with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher.

Minor in Latin American Studies

15 credits

The minor in Latin American Studies requires LAS 101 or LAS 290 and 12 more credit hours in approved LAS courses. At least three of these courses need to be taken at the 300 level or above.

Fellows in Latin American Studies (FILAS) Dual Degree

The FILAS program is an accelerated honors program in which students complete a dual degree (B.A./M.A.) in Latin American and Caribbean Studies in five years. Working with UM faculty in various academic disciplines, FILAS participants design individualized curricula. In addition to the regular general education course requirements of the College of Arts and Sciences, FILAS students choose one focus track for their most advanced courses: Social Sciences, Literature & Culture, Communication, Environmental Studies, Public Health, or History. For multidisciplinary preparation, students choose courses that focus on Latin America and the Caribbean from the following categories (at least ten of these courses must be taken at the Master's level):

CAS GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS		
English Composition ¹		6
ENG 105	English Composition I	
ENG 106	English Composition II	
Mathematics, Computing & Statistics ²		3
Second Language ³		
Writing Across the Curriculum ⁴		
Cognates ⁵		9
Advanced Language Proficiency in Spanish, French, Portuguese, or Haitian Creole		3
Select one of the following:		
FRE 203	Advanced French	
HAI 201	Intermediate Haitian Creole I	
POR 202	Intermediate Portuguese II	
SPA 203	Advanced Spanish	
Secondary Language Competence in another Latin American or Caribbean Language		3
Select one of the following:		
FRE 105	Accelerated Elementary French	
HAI 102	Elementary Haitian Creole II ((or equivalent))	
POR 105	Beginning Portuguese for Spanish Speakers	
SPA 105	Accelerated Elementary Spanish	
FILAS Specific Requirements		
Select one gateway seminar in Latin American Studies		3
Select two History courses		6
Select two International Studies courses		6
Select two Economics courses		6
Select two advanced Languages and Literatures courses (SPA, POR, FRE, or HAI)		6
Select seven courses in Study Abroad		21

Select one course as Internship in Latin America		3
Select five courses above the 300-level (third-year) in a range of disciplines		15
Select ten courses in one focus track		30
MA Phase Requirements		
GRE Exam in Semester 7 or 8		
LAS 601	Interdisciplinary In Latin American And Caribbean	3
LAS 602	Research Design in Latin American Studies	3
Select two Regional Fundamentals courses		6
Select four electives from approved LAS or combined courses		12
LAS 810	Pre-candidacy thesis credits (students must enroll in two semesters of this 3-credit course to fulfill this requirement.)	6
Total Credit Hours		150
1	Certain AP/IB scores may be used to fulfill the Composition requirement as credit. If Transfer students transfer one of the two above, but not both, they may take ENG 208 to complete the requirement. ENG 105 must be taken unless exempted by SAT/V or ACT/V scores (does not include credits).	
2	MTH 108 or higher. Unless exempted by AP/IB, or UM placement test. UM placement test does not include credits. Prerequisites must be met before enrolling in MTH courses.	
3	Students must take at least three credits in a language other than English at the 200-level or higher. Prerequisites may be required. Courses taken in order to meet this requirement, including necessary prerequisite courses to the 200 level courses, cannot be used in cognates seen below. FILAS students already fulfill this requirement when completing the language requirements cited below.	
4	Degree candidates must complete at least four writing courses, and at least one such course must be in the student's major discipline.	
5	Typically, students must complete a minimum of three cognates, one from each of the three areas of the University curriculum: Arts & Humanities; People & Society; and Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics. A cognate is a minimum of 9 credit hours, however it can be more. Each major/minor fulfills the cognate requirement in one Area of Knowledge. However, FILAS students must complete only the STEM Cognate as the FILAS program fulfills the Arts & Humanities and People & Society cognates. To avoid additional course credits, please select a STEM Cognate that includes a Natural Science course to concurrently fulfill this CAS general education requirement. According to the College of Arts & Sciences, "three credits must be earned from one of the following departments: Biology, Chemistry, Ecosystem Science & Policy (only ECS 111, 112, or 202), Geological Sciences, Marine Science (except MSC 313 and 314), Physical Science, or Physics. APY 203 and GEG 120 may also count. These credits may double count with any other requirement, e.g., courses in the STEM cognate."	

Master of Arts in Latin American Studies

The Master of Arts in Latin American Studies is a 30 credit hour interdisciplinary degree characterized by a high degree of flexibility in allowing students to create a course of study focused on Latin American and the Caribbean that serves the interests of the student. Combining core courses offered by the program with a large variety of courses combined with departments, programs, and units throughout the University of Miami, the program offers tremendous diversity in courses available for credit hour towards this degree. This encourages students to combine course offerings from around the university into a cohesive course of study that enables specialization in an area, topic, country, theme, or issue of their choosing and thus to tap into the many resources available at the University of Miami for students with a passion for Latin America and the Caribbean.

LAS 601	Interdisciplinary In Latin American And Caribbean	3
LAS 602	Research Design in Latin American Studies	3
Two Regional Fundamentals courses		6
Three electives from the list of LAS designated or combined courses (600-level or above)		9
One research methods course in the discipline of the student's specialization		3
LAS 810	Pre-candidacy thesis credits ((students must enroll in two semesters of this 3-credit course))	6
Total Credit Hours		30

The MA in LAS also offers the following Dual Degree Programs:

- MA Dual Degree in Latin American Studies and Journalism
- MA Dual Degree in Latin American Studies and Public Health
- MA in Latin American Studies with GIS Certificate

Spring Semester Courses

Undergraduate Courses

LAS 101: Introduction to Latin American Studies

TuTh 9:30-10:45 Instructor: Boswell

This course will focus inter-disciplinarily on the culture, history, politics, economy, geography, and societies of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as on the ways in which scholars have studied the region. The course objectives are to provide a contextual and theoretical understanding of the region's issues and peoples so that you can build a program of future study, critically assess information that you receive from mass media and elsewhere, dismantle common stereotypes and generalizations, and engage in self-directed inquiry about the region. The course format is a discussion-based seminar, so attendance and preparation in advance of class are essential. Grades are structured to encourage and reflect the participatory nature of your learning experience. LAS101 replaces LAS201.

LAS 301: Queering the American Dream: LGBT Latin America in South Florida

MW 6:25-7:40 Instructor: Buttermann

This course will be conducted in English but is also open to Portuguese and Spanish speakers who choose to complete writing and reading assignments in these respective languages. In this writing-intensive course, we will explore how sexuality and gender identity "travel" when transiting and "transitioning" across geographic, cultural and linguistic boundaries. With attention to intersectionality between race, gender, and socioeconomic class distinctions, we will examine how queer identities are reimaged, deconstructed, and/or reconfigured when LGBT-identified individuals and communities from Latin America arrive and adapt to life in South Florida. Incorporating literary analysis, ethnographic research, and theories of diaspora, migration, and transnationalism, the course will also consider how transnational marriage equality reflects or rejects homophobic and transphobic practices throughout the Americas. To that end, we will carefully analyze recent cases of petitions for asylum to the US and Canada made from within Latin America and the Caribbean, prompted by and in response to homo/transphobic practices in home countries as diverse as Brazil, Colombia, Honduras, Jamaica and Venezuela.

*Combined with WGS 350, POR 322/691

LAS 340: Latin American Political Economy

TuTh 2-3:15 Instructor: Yaffe

This course will examine Latin America's economic development, analyzing different developmental strategies, resource endowment, institutional framework and other related

variables. In order to make an assessment of the economic policies implemented in Latin American, it is necessary to learn about the historical, economic, social and national diversity that lies within the region. We initially examine the record of Latin American countries on various measures, including volatile growth and inflationary rates, high income and wealth inequality, and high crime rates. We then turn to an analysis of the colonial and post-Independence period to examine the roots of the weak institutional development that could explain a low growth trajectory. Next, we analyze the post WWII period (Bretton Woods), exploring the import substitution of 1970s, the debt crises of the 1980s, and the structural adjustment of the 1990s (Washington consensus). Finally, we will look at events in the past decade, comparing and contrasting the experience of different countries with respect to growth, poverty and inequality.

LAS 350: Caribbean History Through Documents, Object, and Art

TuTh 11-12:15 Instructor: Ramsey

This seminar explores the history of the Caribbean through archival documents, rare books, objects, photographs, musical performances, and works of art drawn from UM, digital, and other collections. In particular, the course will spotlight the rich resources of the Cuban Heritage Collection and Special Collections to study key processes and flashpoints in Caribbean history. Our discussions will center on histories of colonialism, enslavement, revolution, abolitionism, indentured labor, nationalism and independence, occupation, popular culture, artistic production, and tourism, among other subjects. An especially important question will be how to research the experiences and perspectives of those whose voices have been silenced or distorted in official records. Over the course of the semester, students will have the opportunity to conduct original research on primary sources of their own choosing.

*Combined with HIS 267

LAS 350: Mapping Miami: Local Communities and Urban Development

Tu 5-7:30pm Instructor: Yudice

This course has two parts. The first will familiarize students with the history of Greater Miami: its urban development and governance, its economic base, migrations and its diverse populations, and its relations with Latin America and the Caribbean. The second part will focus on the role of culture in development of the city from above and below – from formal institutions like museums, television and music industries, etc. to more informal venues and activities. Particular emphasis will be given to the various cultural communities throughout Miami: Little Haiti, Overtown, Little Havana, and the various Brazilian, Central American, Cuban, Peruvian, Venezuelan, etc. This will entail an ethnographic component, as students will be involved in getting to know representatives of these communities, their history and cultural life.

This course is also a writing course; hence it has a short weekly essay, a midterm exam and final 10 page exam essay (20 page final paper for graduate students).

LAS 360: American Foreign Policy

TuTh 8am-9:15 Instructor: Bagley

This course will examine the leading conceptual approaches to the analysis of American foreign policy and some of the key foreign policy issues that confront the United States at the outset of the Barack Obama. The relationship between International Relations Theory and the study of foreign policy will be a central concern of the class. A brief review of the principal approaches to the study of foreign policy and a brief historical overview of U.S. foreign policy during the 19th and early 20th centuries will be presented in the first five weeks of the course. During the rest of the semester major emphasis will be placed on the evolution of U.S. foreign policy during the Cold War (1945-1991), on the post-Cold War period (1991-2001), on the post-September 11, 2001, period of the George W. Bush presidency, and on the foreign policy implications of the transition from Bush to Obama (2009) and the Obama administration's foreign policy initiatives - 2009-16).

*Combined with INS 543

LAS 370: Latin@s and the Media

We 5-7:40pm Instructor: Hughes

This course examines the politics, production and consumption of Latino-oriented media. We consider Latino media productions and industries, Latinos in mainstream US media, and Latino/a audiences' media preferences. The course takes advantage of Miami as a booming Latino/a media production site through field trips and guests.

LAS 494: Independent Study in LAS

Instructor: Fuller

Independent study leading to a thesis, original piece of research, or creative project on a Latin American or Caribbean subject.

LAS 495: Senior Honors Thesis I

Instructor: Fuller

This course pairs students with a faculty mentor to set and guide a research agenda in preparation for writing the senior honors thesis. Students will study advanced topics in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, according to faculty interests. Students need permission of Academic Director to enroll in this course.

LAS 496: Senior Honors Thesis II

Instructor: Fuller

This course pairs students with a faculty mentor to guide the writing process and completion of the senior honors thesis. Students will study advanced topics in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, according to faculty interests. Students need permission of Academic Director to enroll in this course.

LAS 503: Energy Conversion

MoWe 5-6:15 Instructor: De Paula

This course is designed to teach students the principles and applications of energy conversion and utilization, including energy sources, energy consumption, fossil fuels for thermal power generation, thermo-nuclear power, solar energy, hydropower, wind energy, geothermal power, hydrogen energy, and the related climate change, environmental and economic matters.

LAS 503/603: History of Latin American Thought and Ideologies

TuTh 12:30-1:45 Instructor: Roy

The evolution of Latin American thought and ideologies can be traced back the phase of obtaining political sovereignty and the search for national identity. Once this double goal was tentatively identified and put in place, justice and human rights became an urgent agenda. Lately, the original seeking for national identity has been combined with the need of a wider regional integration sentiment and schemes to compete in the complex global economy and novel political offers of the world.

This course/seminar explores the evolution of Latin American thought and ideologies in three levels: (1) a review of Latin American political and intellectual history; (2) an in-depth reading of the classical writings of the main "pensadores," the Latin American political, social and economic thinkers, and the main protagonists of the sociological and political essay, whose main interest was and is the inquest of the national identity, social and economic development, and (3) a comparative consideration of the main ideological trends of the past and the present and their future prospects for the reshaping of Latin America, nationally and regionally.

LAS 520/620: Colonialism, Post-Colonialism, and Decolonization in the Portuguese-speaking World

TuTh 12:30-1:45 Instructor: Guzman

This seminar examines the intellectual, religious, and military workings of Portuguese colonialism and the cultural and political inheritances of the Portuguese Empire in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Working with primary texts, historiography, and a range of cultural products

(fiction, film, music, and photography), students will consider key similarities and differences among colonial encounters and their legacies over nearly six centuries, beginning with the Portuguese arrival to the Malabar Coast in the late 1400s and ending in 1999 with the transference of the sovereignty of Macau to the People's Republic of China. Along the way, we will examine historical and present Portuguese influences in Angola, Brazil, East Timor, India, and Mozambique. The final segment of the seminar highlights twentieth century "post-colonial" debates and present-day "decolonial" movements among the indigenous peoples of these countries.

This course is open to advanced undergraduate and graduate students with the ability to read and understand Portuguese. Students wishing to complete the course for the Portuguese minor or to fulfill a language requirement should register for the POR sections and will complete their assignments in Portuguese. Others are welcomed to register for the LAS sections and to complete their work in English.

*Combined with POR 322/691

LAS 520/620: Energy and Sustainable Growth in Latin America and the Caribbean

MoWe 3:35-4:50pm Instructor: De Paula

This course aims to address the main challenges of the energy sector in Latin America, including: Regional cooperation and sharing of energy among neighboring countries and globally at competitive rates; the need to improve infrastructure and investments in the region; the varying levels of stability within the governments and how to align the governments, the implementation of projects, and the needs of the local communities; regulatory and planning aspects; the importance of having a diversified and clean energy portfolio and its impacts on the environmental, social and economic development of the region. Technologies, regulations, institutions as well as the industry structure will be discussed.

Graduate Courses

*LAS 603 and 620's are combined with undergraduate courses. See above for course descriptions.

LAS 602: Research Design in Latin American Studies

Mo 3:30-6:15 Instructor Rodriguez

This hands-on course on research designs and methods establishes or further advances the students' proficiency on these matters. It covers a variety of specific methods and their links to other aspects of research, Students from different disciplines can benefit both for their current

research projects or future professional endeavors as the methods discussed are systematically used in academic research, policymaking, social activism, and the business sector.

LAS 605: Internship in Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Instructor: Fuller

On-site experience in business, governmental organization, or non-profit organization dealing with Latin America and/or the Caribbean. Permission from the Academic Director is required in order to receive credit for an internship.

LAS 606: Civic Engagement

Instructor: Fuller

On-site experience in a civic engagement project in business, governmental organization, or non-profit organization dealing with Latin America and/or the Caribbean. Permission from the Academic Director is required in order to receive credit for an internship.

LAS 681: Re-conceptualizing Global Public Health: Latin America and the Caribbean

Wed: 5-7:40 Instructor: Porcelain

The aim of this course is to demystify global health issues and policies, with a specific focus on Latin America and the Caribbean, by studying public health within the wider context of the political, economic, social, cultural, ethical, ecological, environmental and technological factors. Consequently, this course will examine conceptual frameworks in public health and expand beyond the biomedical, biosocial and ecological models to address important regional and international studies perspectives. This includes the study of globalization and health disparities, the political economy of health, securitizing health and the role of health diplomacy to construct a more robust interdisciplinary study of regional (public to planetary) health governance challenges in the twenty first century.

The course format includes a critical analysis of the scholarly literature across academic disciplines, using a journal club approach and case studies, classroom and field based lectures and discussions. Topics will include issues and policies from historical to current infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, injuries, violence and mental health issues in the Americas.

LAS 694: Directed Readings in Latin America and Caribbean

Instructor: Fuller

Independent Study leading to an original piece of research, or creative project on a Latin American or Caribbean interdisciplinary topic.

LAS 697: Readings for the Comprehensive Exam

Instructor: Fuller

Readings for M.A. students who are preparing for comprehensive examinations.

LAS 810: Pre Candidacy Thesis Credits

Instructor: Fuller

The student working on his/her master's thesis enrolls for credit, before student has been admitted to candidacy. Credit is not awarded until the thesis has been accepted. Six (6) credits of 810 are required for MA students in Latin American Studies.

LAS 820: Research in Residence

Instructor: Fuller

Used to establish research in residence for the thesis for the master's degree after the student has enrolled for the permissible cumulative total in LAS 810 (usually six credits). Credit not granted. May be regarded as full time residence.

Spring Break Travel Courses

LAS 302: Fieldwork in Coastal Management

W 6:30-8:50pm Instructor: Suman

The focus of this 2017 course will be Chiloé Island, Chile, the second largest island in Chile and located in southern Chile in the Los Lagos Region. We will explore its physical geography, culture, legal framework and institutions, and tourism-development-aquaculture conflicts. In addition, the course will examine different methodologies for diagnosing the site's socioeconomic, governance, and environmental characteristics. Participants will meet weekly throughout the semester in Miami to discuss background readings and develop a group research field project that course participants will carry out during a Spring Break trip to the research site in Chiloé Island. Upon return to the University of Miami, the class will prepare manuscripts and presentations based on the field data that course participants have collected during the trip.

Travel Dates: March 10-18 (Spring Break)

*course fee of \$550, students responsible for arranging travel

LAS 302: Travels Through Cuba

TuTh 12:30-1:45pm Instructor: Manzor

Course involves travel during the Spring Break (pending approval) and it has a program fee. As the largest island of the Antilles, Cuba has long captivated the attention of explorers seeking conquest and wealth, religious conversion and scientific knowledge, and other encounters with the island's diverse landscape, wildlife, and people. From Christopher Columbus onwards, many travelers and explorers have come to Cuba to unlock the island's mysteries, traversing its coasts, its jungle, as well as Havana and other cities. This course examines the experiences of foreign and domestic travelers over the course of the last five centuries in Cuba. Students will look carefully at the shared assumptions of travelers and compare their modes of social inquiry, scientific investigation, and the ways in which they reflect about the island and its various realities. In pursuing a better understanding of the genre of travel writing and its literary and historical significance, the course draws upon a variety of first-person accounts about the island Columbus called, right after disembarking in its shores, "The most beautiful land human eyes have ever seen." Students will have the opportunity to work in archives at the Cuban Heritage Collection and visit several sites in Miami in preparation for the trip to the Cuban cities of Havana, Matanzas, Trinidad, and Cienfuegos (pending final approval). Coursework, archival work, and field experience will be incorporated in their final research/creative projects.

***additional course and travel fees will be needed**