



# LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES COURSES

## AUTUMN 2017

Courses numbered 10000-19000 are general education and introductory courses. Courses numbered 20000- 29900 are intermediate, advanced, or upper-level courses and are open only to undergraduates. Courses numbered 30000 and above are graduate or professional school courses and are available to undergraduate students only with the consent of the instructor. Undergraduates registered for 30000-level courses will be held to the graduate-level requirements. To register for courses that are cross listed as both undergraduate and graduate (20000/30000), undergraduates must use the undergraduate number (20000).

Courses that begin with the LACS code are hosted by the Center and include descriptions. All other courses (ANTH, HIST, SPAN, etc) are cross-listed with Latin American and Caribbean Studies, but are hosted by other departments. To view course times and locations for a specific quarter, please visit [classes.uchicago.edu](http://classes.uchicago.edu).

## UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

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ANTH 21335 (LACS 21335)

### **Defining the “Afro” in Afro-Latin America**

**Karma Frierson**

What does it mean to be Black in Latin America? Where do our understandings of race come from and do they translate across borders? Is the term “Afro-Latin America” redundant—could there be a Latin America without the “Afro”? We will tackle these questions and more as we consider the various ways in which countries throughout the Americas have remembered, acknowledged, and treated the contribution Africans and their descendants have given their local and regional cultures. We will begin by learning how nationalist projects and racial logics inform each other in specific case studies. Alongside class discussion, students will build the analytic toolset required to critically review of the documentary series *Black in Latin America* and the accompanying book. We will then analyze ways in which blackness functions the lived experiences of people throughout Latin America. As we grapple with the broader questions of the course, students will apply theoretical interpretations to case studies, assess and differentiate between various racial logics, and familiarize themselves with debates in the field of the African Diaspora in Latin America.

LACS 29700

### **Reading/Research: Latin American Studies**

**ARR.**

Students and instructors can arrange a Reading and Research course in Latin American Studies when the material being studied goes beyond the scope of a particular course, when students are working on material not covered in an existing course or when students would like to receive academic credit for independent research.

PQ: Consent of faculty adviser required.

LACS 29801

### **BA Colloquium: Latin American Studies**

**ARR.**

This colloquium, which is led by the preceptor and BA adviser, assists students in formulating approaches to the BA essay and developing their research and writing skills, while providing a forum for group discussion and critiques. Graduating students present their BA essays in a public session of the colloquium during the Spring Quarter.

PQ: Must be a 4th year major in Latin American Studies to enroll.

LACS 29900

### **Prep BA Essay: Latin American Studies**

**ARR.**

Independent BA thesis course. PQ: Consent of undergraduate thesis/project adviser required

## **UNDERGRADUATE/GRADUATE COURSES**

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LACS 16100/34600 (ANTH 23101; HIST 16101/36101; SOSC 26100; CRES 16101)

### **Introduction to Latin American Civilizations I**

**Emilio Kourí**

**MWF 1:30-2:20**

May be taken in sequence or individually. This sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies. This course is offered every year. Autumn Quarter examines the origins of civilizations in Latin America with a focus on the political, social, and cultural features of the major pre-Columbian civilizations of the Maya, Inca, and Aztec. The quarter concludes with an analysis of the Spanish and Portuguese conquest, and the construction of colonial societies in Latin America.

LACS 22501/32501

### **Elementary Haitian Kreyol 1**

**William Balan-Gaubert**

**MW 3:00-4:20**

This 3 course sequence will provide students with an in-depth study of the Haitian Kreyol language in its modern context, with emphasis on developing students' proficiency in speaking and writing, and in listening and reading comprehension. The course will also provide necessary cultural and historical context.

ARTH 25110/35110 (LACS 24110/34110)

### **Maya Sculpture**

**Claudia Brittenham**

This course will examine the sculptural production of the ancient Maya, from its earliest manifestations in the first millennium BCE to the Spanish conquest. We will consider the interrelationships between freestanding sculpture, architectural sculpture, and hand-held objects. In addition to paying attention to issues such as workshop production and materiality, we will examine spatial contexts, political rhetorics, invocations of the past, and ontologies of art.

LACS 25115/35115 (SPAN 25117/35117)

### **Nuevas formas de la intimidad en las escrituras latinoamericanas actuales**

**Tamara Kamenszain**

**TR**

La literatura del siglo XX se caracterizó por poner el foco en el "yo" del escritor. Ya sea para ocultarlo, para mostrarlo tímidamente o para exhibirlo sin prejuicios, lo cierto es que ese "yo" se

transformó en el protagonista de los cambios literarios que apuntaron al siglo XXI. Este fenómeno, que se produjo tanto en la poesía como en la narrativa y en el teatro, permite hoy el surgimiento de formas nuevas que descolocan los viejos géneros literarios. Formas donde los restos de las novelas en primera persona, del “yo lírico” de la poesía, del viejo diario íntimo, de las autobiografías, de las crónicas, se pueden encontrar insertados en nuevas escrituras del presente que operan más a la manera de la producción escrita en las redes sociales, que con el protocolo estético de lo literario. Este curso se propone analizar el recorrido de estas verdaderas transformaciones subjetivas, en relación directa con los contextos históricosociales en los que se producen. Para esto se trabajarán textos narrativos, poéticos y teatrales de diversos creadores latinoamericanos contemporáneos.

Note: This course will be taught in Spanish.

HIST 26106/36106 (LACS 26106/ 36106)

## **Tropical Commodities in Latin America**

**Emilio Kourí**

This course explores selected aspects of the social, economic, and cultural history of tropical export commodities from Latin America, e.g., coffee, bananas, sugar, tobacco, henequen, rubber, vanilla, and cocaine. Topics include land, labor, capital, markets, transport, geopolitics, power, taste, and consumption.

# **GRADUATE COURSES**

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LACS 35401 (CHDV 35401)

## **Advanced Topics in Mesoamerican Language and Culture**

**John Lucy**

**ARR.**

A seminar that considers recent research in the ethnography of language in the Mesoamerican region (especially Guatemala and southern Mexico). The course is intended for advanced students with prior experience studying the indigenous languages and cultures of the region through coursework and/or fieldwork. Class effort will be devoted to reading and discussion of selected contemporary ethnographic works, complemented by a few relevant classics. The substantive foci will vary over time but may include language standardization, multilingualism, language socialization, and aspects of the broader communicative ecology including migration, missionization, nonverbal communication, and new media. Special attention will be given to the place of community-based fieldwork in a contemporary context that increasingly demands both narrower topical and broader contextualizing perspectives (whether these be historical, regional, or global).

PQ: CHDV 20400/30401, ANTH 21230/30705, LACS 20400/30401, CRES 20400, or instructor permission. All undergraduates require permission to register.

SPAN 40017 (CDIN 40000, ENGL 63400, CMLT 40000)

## **From Baroque to Neo-Baroque**

**Miguel Martínez**

**T 12:30-3:20**

We will take a transatlantic and hemispheric approach to examining the political, epistemological, and aesthetic dimensions of the concept of the Baroque, by reading European and Latin American theory and poetry from three centuries (17th, 20th, 21st). The course is purposefully designed to put modern and early modern texts in constant dialogue. The literary essays of 20th-c. Latin American writers such as Lezama Lima and Alfonso Reyes, for instance, will illuminate the 17th-c. poems of Góngora and Sor Juana, while these will be read in conjunction with those of José Kozer, Luis Felipe Fabre, and Tamara Kamenszain. The remarkable persistence of the Baroque across centuries, geographies, and cultures raises a number of questions. Why has the Baroque not gone out of fashion, but rather, been reborn again and again? How does this

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apparently recondite mode manage to remain politically relevant and articulate urgent ideas in its moment? How does the Baroque provide poets with a prism through which to explore questions of subjectivity, originality, and capital? How does the Baroque contribute to or complicate notions of intertextuality? How does a Baroque aesthetic theorize accumulation and waste in developing capitalist and late capitalist societies? How does the connection between the neo-Baroque and antropofagia, the Brazilian notion of cultural cannibalism, play out in poems not only written in Brazil, but also throughout Latin America and in the U.S.?

PQ: Spanish encouraged; co-taught with Rachel Galvin, English

LACS 40100

### **Reading/Research: Latin American Studies**

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Students and instructors can arrange a Reading and Research course in Latin American Studies when the material being studied goes beyond the scope of a particular course, when students are working on material not covered in an existing course or when students would like to receive academic credit for independent research.

PQ: Consent of graduate adviser required

LACS 40300

### **MA Paper Prep: Latin American Studies**

**ARR.**

Independent MA thesis course

PQ: Consent of faculty adviser required.

LACS 40501

### **MA Proseminar**

**ARR.**

Required course for the Master's in Latin American Studies degree program. Students will gain an introduction to the variety of disciplinary approaches, discourses, and foci that fall under the large rubric of Latin American Studies. The proseminar introduces students to specialists in the field at the University of Chicago and to the research and investigation in which they are involved. Open only to program students.

PQ: For Latin American Studies MA students only

LACS 47813

### **Advanced Seminar in Mesoamerican Linguistics**

**John Lucy**

**ARR.**

Advanced course for the study of Mesoamerican Languages and Linguistics topics. Students must work with John Lucy to establish the language to be studied.

PQ: Students must make arrangements directly with John Lucy to enroll in this course.

HIST 79301 (LACS 79301)

### **Seminar: Inequality in Latin American History 1**

**Brodwyn Fischer**

**T 2:00-4:50**

This course is devoted to the issue of inequality in Latin America's history and historiography. We will consider the role that inequality has played in shaping Latin American societies; we will also pay close attention to the ways in which political and intellectual constructions of inequality have impacted the development of Latin American historiography. Throughout the course, we will pay particular attention to historical methodology: the ways in which historians formulate their questions, the interaction of theory and research, and the nature of historical research. Issues covered will include colonialism, slavery, citizenship, social movements, and the Latin American manifestations of global inequalities.