COURSE GUIDE

- 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 are listed in numerical order by the course host’s listing number. Course numbers in parentheses indicate departments with which the course is cross-listed. All courses on this sheet count toward the LACS Major/Minor and MA program content course requirements unless otherwise indicated.

PORT 12200 (LACS 12200)
Portuguese for Spanish Speakers
Ana Maria Lima
MWF 10:30 – 11:20 AM
This course is intended for speakers of Spanish to develop competence quickly in spoken and written Portuguese. In this intermediate-level course, students learn ways to apply their Spanish language skills to mastering Portuguese by concentrating on the similarities and differences between the two languages.
Additional Notes: SPAN 10300 or consent. No auditors.

LACS 16100/34600 (ANTH 23101; HIST 16101/36101; SOSC 26100; CRES 16101)
Introduction to Latin American Civilizations I
Emilio Kourí
MWF 1:30 – 2:20PM
May be taken in sequence or individually. This course 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.
*NEW* HIST 17105 (LACS 17105, CRES17105)
Race and Racism in the Americas
Mauricio Tenorio
TR 12:30 - 1:50PM
This course seeks to explore the variegated ways the idea, and the consequences, of race has affected the history of the Americas from the eighteenth to the early twentieth century. The course emphasis comparisons and different forms of racisms in Canada, the United States, Mexico, Cuba, and Brazil.

*NEW* LACS21001/1 (HMRT 21001, HIST 29304, LLSO 21001)
Human Rights: Contemporary Issues
Susan Gzesh
M 3:00 - 4:20PM
W 3:00 - 4:20PM Discussion UNDERGRAD
W 4:30 - 5:50PM Discussion GRAD
This interdisciplinary course presents an overview of several major contemporary human rights problems as a means to explore the use of human rights norms and mechanisms. The course addresses the roles of states, intergovernmental bodies, national courts, civil society actors including NGOs, victims, and their families, and other non-state actors. Topics are likely to include universalism, enforceability of human rights norms, the prohibition against torture, U.S. exceptionalism, and non-citizens.

*NEW* SPAN 21619 (LACS 21619, GSNE 21619, TAPS 25219)
From Lorca to Lin-Manuel Miranda: Staging Latinidad
Isaias Fanlo Gonzalez
TR 11:00 - 12:20 PM
In this course, we will delve into ten significant theatre plays written in the last century by Spanish, Latin American and Latinx playwrights. We will examine how latinidad, with its multiple definitions and contradictions, emerges in these plays; and also, which questions these works pose regarding the different historic and cultural contexts in which they were written. As a discipline that aims to explore and embody social practices and identities, theatre has become a place where these questions articulate themselves in a critical manner. A physical space where bodies and languages explore, sometimes through its mere unfolding on the page and the stage, unforeseen limits of class, identity, and ethnicity. Each week, we will discuss one play and one or two significant critical essays, and the discussion will be conducted through a set of questions and crossed references. To which extent does the domestic exploration and the all-women cast of Lorca's La casa de Bernarda Alba resonate in Fornés' Fefú And Her Friends? How does the experience of immigration affect the characters of Marqués' La carreta, and how do Chiara Alegría Hudes and Lin-Manuel Miranda echo this foundational fiction in In the Heights? How was the success of plays such as Valdez's Zoot Suit or Cruz's Anna in The Tropics received within the Latino community, and how did it affect the general reception of Latino plays?
PQ: Taught in English. Readings available in both English and Spanish. Spanish majors and minors must do the readings and/or writings in Spanish.

FREN 21719 (LACS 21719)
Histoire, Superstitions et Croyances dans le roman francophone des XXe et XXIe siècles
Kenfack
TR 9:30 – 10:50AM
examinerons également les rapports entre ces deux notions et celles d'identité et d’altérité. Les auteurs plus 
particulièrement étudiés seront Mariama Bâ, René Depestre, Jean-Roger Essomba, Véronique Lordinot, André 
Paradis, Gisèle Pineau, Jacques Roumain, Simone Schwarz-Bart et Véronique Tadjo.

Note: FREN 20500 or 20503. This is an introductory-level course. Taught in French.

CMST 21806/31806 (LACS 21806/31806)
The New Latin American Cinema
Salome Skvirsky
TR 12:30-1:50 PM
T 7:30-10:30 PM Screening
This course will introduce students to Latin American film studies through an assessment of its most critically 
celebrated period of radical filmmaking. The New Latin American Cinema (NLAC) of the late 1950s–70s generated 
unprecedented international enthusiasm for Latin American film production. The filmmakers of this loosely 
designated movement were defining themselves in relation to global realist film traditions like Italian Neorealism 
and Griersonian documentary, in relation to—mostly failed—experiments in building Hollywood-style national film 
industries, and in relation to regional discourses of underdevelopment and mestizaje. Since the late 1990s, a 
reassessment of the legacy of the NLAC has been taking shape as scholars have begun to interrogate its canonical 
status in the face of a changed political climate. In the sphere of filmmaking, contemporary Latin American new wave 
cinemas are also grappling with that legacy—sometimes disavowing it, sometimes appropriating it. We will situate 
the NLAC in its historical context, survey its formal achievements and political aspirations, assess its legacy, and take 
stock of the ways and the reasons that it haunts contemporary production.

SPAN 24110/34110 (LACS 24110/34110; PORT 24110/34110)
Ecocritical Perspectives in Latin American Literature and Film
Victoria Saramago Padua
T 2:00 – 4:50PM
This course provides a survey of ecocritical studies in Latin America. Through novels, poems, and films, we will 
examine a range of trends and problems posed by Latin American artists concerning environmental issues, from mid-
nineteenth century to contemporary literature and film. Readings also include works of ecocritical criticism and 
theory that have been shaping the field in the past decades.

LACS 25105/35105 (ARTH25105/35105, ARCH 25105)
Chichen Itza
Brittenham
R 2:00 – 4:50 PM
This course investigates the visual culture of Chichen Itza, one of ancient Mesoamerica’s most cosmopolitan cities. 
Thriving in the centuries after the collapse of the lowland Maya kingdoms, the city of Chichen Itza articulated a new 
political and cosmological vision of authority, drawing on traditions from all over Mesoamerica, past and present, to 
create an innovative visual synthesis. This course will investigate Chichen Itza's most famous architectural and 
sculptural monuments in the light of new epigraphic and chronological discoveries, paying close attention to 
questions of innovation, repetition, and serial production.
PQ: This is an Art History Traveling Seminar with limited registration. In order to register, a student must have 
previously applied for and been accepted into the course by the instructor. Contact arthistory@uchicago.edu if you 
have questions or concerns.

LACS 25122/35122 (SPAN 25119/35119)
Historia cultural: Dinámicas identitarias y culturales
Staff
TR 12:30 – 1:50PM
In recent decades we have undergone a radical transformation in the ways in which we look at and understand 
representation and identity. The complex relationship between globalization and localism, the restructuring of 
borders, and the large flow of migrants from the ‘underdeveloped’ world to the United States and Europe have 
reinforced the importance of identity, even putting into question current forms of citizenship and social census. The
object of this course is to review the traditional understanding of ‘culture’ through the history of anthropological approaches to small communities, the changes to the understanding of culture posed by postmodern anthropology, as well as the current debates that bring culture closer to history and economy and invoke the concept of identity.

Note: Course taught in Spanish.

LACS 25123/35123 (HIST 26418, HIST 36418)
The Mexican Political Essay
Staff
MW 4:30-5:50 PM
Alfonso Reyes famously described the essay as a centaur. A hybrid form of expression: part literature and part science. This course introduces students to the rich tradition of the Mexican political essay. Students will discover the value of these open approximations to history, institutions, culture, identity. As a literary form, it may elude the methodological rigors of political science, but it represents a peculiar perspective to understand change and continuity in Mexican history, to question authority and tradition, to offer guidelines to action. We will discuss the value of the essay form as opposed to the academic production of political science. Identity and democracy, the meaning of history and the urgency of action; the role of intellectuals and the nature of Mexico’s contradictions will be considered in the course through the imaginative observations of Emilio Rabasa, Luis Cabrera, Jorge Cuesta, Alfonso Reyes, Octavio Paz, Rosario Castellanos, Gabriel Zaid and other Mexican essayists.

Additional Notes: Class will be taught in English. Readings will be in both English and Spanish.

ENGL 25805 (LACS 25805, FNDL 25085)
Popol Vuh, Epic of the Americas
Edgar Garcia
MW 1:30 – 2:50PM
As one of the oldest and grandest stories of world creation in the indigenous Americas, the Mayan Popol Vuh has been called “the Bible of America.” It tells a story of cosmological origins and continued historical transformations, spanning mythic, classic, colonial, and contemporary times. In this class, we will read this work fully and closely (in multiple translations, with some account of its original K’iche’ Mayan language as well), attending to the important way in which its structure relates myth and history, or foundations and change. In this light, we will examine its mirroring in Genesis, The Odyssey, Beowulf, Ovid’s Metamorphoses, and the Diné Bahane’ to consider how and why epics struggle with a simultaneity of origins and historiography. In highlighting this point of tension between cosmos and politics, we will examine adaptations of the Popol Vuh in contemporary political contexts by Miguel Ángel Asturias, Ernesto Cardenal, Diego Rivera, Dennis Tedlock and Andrés Xiloj Peruch, Humberto A’k’ab’al, Xpetra Ernandex, Ambar Past, Patricia Amlin, Gregory Nava, Arturo Arias, and Werner Herzog. As we cast the Guatemalan-born Popul Vuh as a contemporary work of hemispheric American literature (with extensive North American, Latin American, Latinx, and Indigenous literary engagement), we will take into account the intellectual contribution of Central America and the diaspora of Central Americans in the United States today. As a capstone to our class, we will visit the original manuscript of the Popol Vuh held at the Newberry Library in Chicago, thinking carefully about how this Mayan story of world creation implicates us to this day. (Poetry, Fiction)

HIST 26304/36304 (PORT 26304/36304; LACS 26304/36304)
Literature and Society in Brazil
Dain Borges
W 3:00 – 5:50 PM
This course explores the relations between literature and society in Brazil, with an emphasis on the institution of the novel in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The nineteenth-century Brazilian novel, like the Russian novel, was an arena in which intellectuals debated, publicized and perhaps even discovered social questions. We will examine ways in which fiction may be used and misused as a historical document of slavery and the rise of capitalism, of race relations, of patronage and autonomy, and of marriage, sex and love. We will read works in translation by Manuel Antonio de Almeida, José de Alencar, Machado de Assis, Aluisio de Azevedo and Euclides da Cunha.
HIST 26500/36500 (LACS 26500/36500; CRES 26500/36500; LLSO 26500)

History of Mexico, 1876-Present

Emilio Kourí
TR 2:00 – 3:20 PM

From the Porfiriat and the Revolution to the present, this course is a survey of Mexican society and politics, with emphasis on the connections between economic developments, social justice, and political organization. Topics include fin de siècle modernization and the agrarian problem; causes and consequences of the Revolution of 1910; the making of the modern Mexican state; relations with the United States; industrialism and land reform; urbanization and migration; ethnicity, culture, and nationalism; economic crises, neoliberalism, and social inequality; political reforms and electoral democracy; violence and narco-trafficking; the end of PRI rule; and AMLO’s new government. Assignments: Class presentations, take-home midterm, and final essays.

ENGL 29101 (CRES 29101, GSNE 29103, LACS 29101)

Archive [Yellow] Fever

Sarah Johnson
TR 9:30 – 10:50 AM

This course examines slavery in the 18th and 19th-century Caribbean through the lens of maladies within and of the archive. The course also provides an introduction in methods of working in historical and contemporary archives. We will read fictional, archival, methodological and theoretical texts to examine fears of contagion and disease on the Middle Passage and plantations of the Caribbean, as well as scholarship on the difficulty of working in archives, especially those of slavery. The class will make two trips to special collections, one to view archival texts from the period and another to find an archival object of the student’s choosing (relevant to their own research interests) that will provide the topic of their final paper. Texts in this course include the work of Saidiya Hartman, Marisa Fuentes, Jacques Derrida, Carolyn Steedman, Christina Sharpe, Simone Browne, Michel Foucault; Richard Ligon, Mary Seacole, Thomas Thistlewood, William Earle. This course is offered as part of the Migrations Research Sequence. (1650-1830, 1830-1940)

Additional notes: This courses is part of the 2019-2020 Undergraduate Research Cluster.

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

F 9:30-12:20PM

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.
SPAN 38800 (LACS 38800)
Problemas críticos y teóricos en el estudio de las culturas ibéricas y latinoamericanas
Miguel Martinez
TBD
En este seminario abordaremos algunas de las problemáticas clave que han estructurado el campo de los estudios literarios hispánicos/ibéricos y latinoamericanos en las pasadas décadas.
Note: Course taught in Spanish.

LACS 40100
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 40300
MA Paper Prep: Latin American Studies
ARR.
Independent MA thesis course
PQ: Consent of faculty adviser required.

LACS 40501
MA Proseminar
T 3:30-6:20PM
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
TBD
Advanced course for the study of Mesoamerican Languages and Linguistics topics. Students must work with John Lucy to establish the language to be studied.

ENGL 52102 (LACS 52102)
Hemispheric Studies
Galvin
F 10:30 – 1:20 PM
This course examines the Hemispheric Studies approach to the literature of the Americas, which combines a commitment to comparativism with attention to the specificities of local contexts ranging from the Southern Cone to the Caribbean to North America. We’ll investigate debates about the theories and uses of a method that takes the American hemisphere as its primary frame, yet does not begin with the U.S. as the default point of departure; and the conceptual and political limitations of such a method. Theories drawn from American Studies, Canadian Studies, Caribbean Studies, Latin American Studies, Poetry and Poetics, Postcolonial Studies, and U.S. Latinx Studies will be explored in relation to literature primarily written in the 20th and 21st centuries by writers residing throughout the Americas. In the last part of the course, we’ll take meta-theoretical look at the development of Hemispheric Studies and the politics of academic field formation. No knowledge of Spanish or French is required. (18th/19th, 20th/21st)
HIST 60302 (LACS 60302; AMER 60302; GNSE 60300)

Colloquium: Immigration and Assimilation in American Life

Ramón Gutiérrez
T 9:30 – 12:20 PM

This course explores the history of immigration in what is now the United States, starting with the colonial origins of Spanish, French, Dutch, and English settlements, the importation of African slaves, and the massive waves of immigrants that arrived in the nineteenth and twentieth century. Additionally, we will study the adaptation of these immigrants, exploring the validity of the concept of assimilation, comparing and contrasting the experiences of the "old" and "new" immigrants based on their race, religion, and class standing.

PQ: Open to upper-level ugrads with consent of instructor