LATIN AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN STUDIES COURSES 2019-2020
SPRING 2020

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 Lima
MWF 11:30-12:20PM
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.
PQ: SPAN 20100 or instructor consent.

LACS 16300/34800 (ANTH 23103; HIST 16103/36103; SOSC 26300; CRES 16103; PPHA 39780)
Introduction to Latin American Civilizations III
Brodie Fischer
MWF 1:30-2:20PM
Taking these courses in sequence is not required. This sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies. This sequence is offered every year. This course introduces the history and cultures of Latin America (e.g., Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean Islands). The third quarter focuses on the twentieth century, with special emphasis on economic development and its political, social, and cultural consequences.
ENGL 20046 (LACS 20046)
Introduction to Caribbean Studies
Kaneesha Parsard
MW 1:30-2:50PM
Why have critics, writers, and artists described the Caribbean as “ground zero” of Western modernity? Beginning with the period before European settlement, we will study slavery and emancipation, Asian indentureship, labor and social movements, decolonization, debt and tourism, and today’s digital Caribbean. We will survey literary and visual cultures, primary source documents, and thought across the English, French, Spanish, and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. All readings will be available in translation. (Fiction, Theory)

ARTH 20603/30603 (LACS 20603/30603; KNOW 27001/37001)
Image and Text in the Mexican Codices
Claudia Brittenham
F 1:30-4:20PM
In most Mesoamerican languages, a single word describes the activities that we would call “writing” and “painting.” This seminar will investigate the interrelationships between image and text in Central Mexico both before and immediately after the introduction of alphabetic writing in the 16th century. We will also review art historical and archaeological evidence for the social conditions of textual and artistic production in Mexico, and how these traditions were transformed under Spanish colonial rule. We will consider the materiality of text and image by working with facsimiles of Mesoamerican books in the Special Collections Research Center of the Regenstein Library. At the end of the course, students will have acquired a basic literacy in Aztec and Mixtec writing systems, and will have refined their ability to look productively and write elegantly about art.

SPAN 21100 (LACS 21100)
Las Regiones del Español
Lidwina Van Den Hout
MW 1:30-2:50PM
This sociolinguistic course expands understanding of the historical development of Spanish and awareness of the great sociocultural diversity within the Spanish-speaking world and its impact on the Spanish language. We emphasize the interrelationship between language and culture as well as ethno-historical transformations within the different regions of the Hispanic world. Special consideration is given to identifying lexical variations and regional expressions exemplifying diverse sociocultural aspects of the Spanish language, and to recognizing phonological differences between dialects. We also examine the impact of indigenous cultures on dialectical aspects. The course includes literary and nonliterary texts, audio-visual materials, and visits by native speakers of a variety of Spanish-speaking regions.
PQ: SPAN 20300 or placement

SPAN 22003 (LACS 22003)
Introducción a las literaturas hispánicas: textos hispanoamericanos del modernismo al presente
Danielle Roper
MW 1:30-2:50PM
Students in this course study an array of texts written in Spanish America from the late nineteenth century to the present, including the literature of the Hispanic diasporas. Authors may include José Martí, Rubén Darío, Mariano Azuela, Pablo Neruda, César Vallejo, Teresa de la Parra, Jorge Luis Borges, Octavio Paz, Rosario Castellanos, Mario Vargas Llosa, and Pedro Pietri.
Note: Taught in Spanish.
*NEW* SPAN 23020 (LACS 23020; GNSE 23004)
The Poetics of Life in Modern Latin America
Ali Kulez
TR 12:30-1:50PM
How do Latin American authors imagine humans, animals, and other nonhuman lives? In what ways do considerations of race, gender, and species determine their cultural imaginary? This course will explore representations of life in Latin American fiction from the nineteenth century to the present. Paying special attention to subjects that are considered “other” (women, indigenous people, animals, cyborgs), we will reflect on the ways in which bodies are valued, ordered, and discarded in stories and novels. Through this examination of the hierarchies of life, we will gain insights into the major shifts in Latin American politics of the past two centuries. Moreover, we will see how literature, often considered to simply “mirror” contemporary values, may become a locus of resistance against racist, speciesist, and gender-based oppression and violence. Our readings will be complemented by excerpts from major cultural theorists and critics including Michel Foucault, Donna Haraway, and Gabriel Giorgi.
NOTE: Taught in Spanish

*NEW* SPAN 24020 (LACS 24020)
Para arribar a la ínsula: poéticas de la isla en el Caribe hispano del siglo XX
J.D. Mariategui
TR 9:30-10:50AM
In this course, we will examine the literary representations of the Caribbean’s most notable geographic feature: the island. Many Caribbean authors throughout the twentieth century have made the figure of the island a central trope in their essays, novels, and poetry. The focal point of the course will be the many “poetics” of the island, that is, the discourses that seek to envision, mold and construct insular spaces. How does this rhetorical figure help to think about nationality and nationalism, especially in the century of North American colonial intervention? Does the island come to be thought of as a political form, and, if so, how does it relate to other forms like that of the “country”? What are the cultural, political and economic dimensions of these island “poetics”? Who gets to live on these islands, and what temporalities do they inhabit? Primary readings will range across Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, and may include texts by José Lezama Lima, Virgilio Piñera, Guillermo Cabrera Infante, Abilio Estévez, Antonio Pedreira, Francisco Matos Paoli, José Luis González, Eduardo Lalo, and Joaquín Balaguer. Theoretical readings on space, insularity and the figure of the archipelago may include Henri Lefebvre, Michel de Certeau, Antonio Benítez-Rojo, Ottmar Ette, and Juan Carlos Quintero Rivera.
NOTE: Taught in Spanish

*NEW* PORT 25000/35000 (LACS 25005/35005; ENST 25000)
The Amazon: Culture, History, Environment
Victoria Saramago
TR 3:30-4:50PM
From colonial travelers to contemporary popular culture, the Amazonian forest has been a source of endless fascination, greed and, more recently, ecological concern. The numerous actors that have been shaping the region, including artists, writers, scientists, anthropologists, indigenous peoples, and the extractive industry, among others, bring a multifaceted view of this region that has been described as the paradise on earth as much as a green hell. This course offers an overview of Amazonian history, cultures, and environmental issues that spans from the sixteenth to the twenty-first century. What are the major topics, works, and polemics surrounding the ways the Amazon has been depicted and imagined? How can the region’s history help us understand the state of environmental policies and indigenous rights today? What can we learn about the Amazon from literature and film? What is the future of the Amazon in the context of Brazil’s current political climate? From an interdisciplinary perspective, we will cover topics such as indigenous cultures and epistemologies,
deforestation, travel writing, modern and contemporary literature, music, photography, and film, among others. Authors may include Claudia Andujar, Eduardo Viveiros de Castro, Euclides da Cunha, Ciro Guerra, Milton Hatoum, Susanna Hecht, Davi Kopenawa, Andrea Tonacci and the project Video in the Villages, among others.

**Note:** Taught in English. Materials available in English, Portuguese, and Spanish.

**NEW** SPAN 25660/35660 (LACS 25660/35660)

**US Imperialism and Cultural Practice in Latin America**
Danielle Roper
MW 4:30-5:50PM
This course examines the ways histories of US intervention in Latin America have been engaged in cultural practice. We assess the history of US intervention by reading primary documents alongside cultural artifacts including film, performance and visual art, song, music, and poetry. The course begins with the Cuban revolution and ends with the ongoing crisis in Puerto Rico.

**Note:** Taught in English.

**NEW** LACS 26384 (HIST 26319)

**Art and the Archive**
Diana Schwartz Francisco
TR 11:00AM-12:20PM
How and why do artists engage records of the past in their work? What are the politics of both creating archives and culling from them to visually render or represent the past? Focusing on artists, art-making, and archives in Greater Latin America (including the United States), this course will consider the process of collecting and creating in artistic production from the perspectives of both theory and practice. Students in the course will work directly with archival materials in Chicago and collaborate on contemporary artistic projects that consider issues of relevance to people and places of the Western Hemisphere.

**NEW** HIST 26416/36416 (LACS 26316/36316)

**History of Iberian and Ibero-American Ideas**
Mauricio Tenorio
TR 11:00AM-12:20PM
The course explores the intellectual history, the big ideas, that have concerned the Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking worlds from the early nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. Each week we study an idea (such as nation, pueblo, saudade, mestizaje, chingada) as an axis of analysis of variegated tendencies.

HIST 26509/36509 (LACS 26509/36509; LLSO 26509)

**Law and Citizenship in Latin America**
Brodie Fischer
T 2:00-4:50PM
This course will examine law and citizenship in Latin America from the nineteenth to the twenty-first centuries. We will explore the development of Latin American legal systems in both theory and practice, examine the ways in which the operation of these systems has shaped the nature of citizenship in the region, discuss the relationship between legal and other inequalities, and analyze how legal documents and practices have been studied by scholars in order to gain insight into questions of culture, nationalism, violence, inequality, gender, and race.

**PQ:** Some background in either Latin American studies or legal history.

**NEW** LACS 26623 (ANTH 23071; GLST 26623; HMRT 26623)

**Anti-Corruption Politics in Latin America**
Alejandra Azuero Quijano, Ignacio Martín-Baró Prize Lecturer
TR 12:30PM-1:50PM
Calls for corporate accountability from civil society and widespread public anxieties concerning largescale corporate corruption scandals have become salient modes of articulating questions of power in contemporary Latin America & the Caribbean. This trend, while not homogenous
or new, denounces the relation between two modes of power — state and corporate — considered to be at the heart of the region’s democracies. What is the relation between today’s war against corruption and ongoing transformations of corporate and financial power? What has been the effect of anti-corruption discourse over horizons for emancipatory politics — such as Human Rights praxis? This course critically examines anti-corruption politics as constituting one of the region’s most salient frameworks of accountability in the present. Crucially, we will situate it in relation to Latin America’s robust trajectory of critiquing power through the analysis of corporate power as well as the mobilization of Human Rights discourse.

**Politics and Public Policy in Latin America**
*Maria Bautista*

TR 12:30-1:50 PM

This course will cover the politics of policy making in Latin America. The first part will focus on understanding the problems of economic development in the region. It will address how and why Latin America is different by looking at its economic outcomes, economic and social policies and political institutions. It will also look at different examples of how political institutions shape policy outcomes. The second part will ground the distinctiveness of Latin America in its history, and show why understanding this is critical for comprehending why it is so different from the United States. It will explore how these historical factors persist, for example, how the legacy of authoritarianism shapes redistributive policies and how these historical foundations have created the weak Latin American states we see today. The third part of the course will look at how groups such as civil society or violent actors can also shape policymaking and welfare in this region. Finally, it will discuss some perspectives on whether some countries in the region have managed to find ways to change their political institutions and subsequently their social and economic policies with the prospect of creating a more prosperous society. The aim of this course is for students to gain empirical knowledge on the region’s politics and policies as well as a practical understanding of political factors that shape policy outcomes.

**SPAN 33444 (LACS 33444)**
*Fin-de-siglo, Modernización, Cultura, Exilio: El caso de José Martí*
*Agnes Lugo-Ortiz*

TR 2:00PM-3:20PM

Enfocándonos en la obra del escritor cubano José Martí, en este seminario abordaremos algunas cuestiones clave de los procesos de modernización cultural que se aceleraron en los mundos hispanoamericanos hacia finales del siglo XIX. Si bien este periodo vio el colapso final del imperio español en América (con la pérdida de sus últimas colonias, Cuba y Puerto Rico, en la Guerra del 1898), la emergencia de los Estados Unidos como una nueva potencia imperial, el fin de la esclavitud jurídica y el despegue de un proletariado industrial, urbano y militante (piedra de toque de una nueva concepción de “guerra social”), todo ello se dio en conjunto con otra serie de transformaciones culturales no menos significativas. Este fin de siglo fue escenario de importantes reformulaciones en la esfera de lo estético, en los modos de organización e institucionalización de la cultura y, más sutilmente, de agonías y euforias existenciales generadas por experiencias de exilio, entendidas aquí tanto en un sentido material como filosófico. Tal vez ningún otro escritor de las Américas registró con tal riqueza las complejidades incommensurables de esa coyuntura en la historia de las Américas como José Martí. Con una obra ingente, y una experiencia de vida atenta que atravesara tres continentes, la escritura de Martí es verdadero síntoma y archivo de toda una época. En el seminario examinaremos el arco de la obra martiana desde sus escritos de juventud, sus crónicas periodísticas, su revolucionaria obra poética, culminando con su diario de campaña, escrito en el fragor de la última guerra de independencia cubana (1895) y testimonio emblemático de una vida encabalgada entre el arte y la política, entre el deseo y el imperativo moral. Estas lecturas se harán en contrapunto con la obra de otros escritores con quien Martí estableció un importante diálogo imaginario, entre ellos los norteamericanos Ralph Waldo Emerson y Walt Whitman y el irlandés Oscar Wilde.
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.

ARTH 42905 (LACS 42905)  
**Modernism at the Margins**  
Megan Sullivan  
R 2:00PM-4:50PM  
This seminar explores approaches to modernism outside of the Euro-American tradition. Focusing primarily, but not exclusively, on Mexico and Brazil, we will attend to how both modern art and modernity have been conceptualized in the region by art historians, anthropologists, historians, and the artists themselves. Questions and themes to be explored include: the distinct relationships between modernism, modernity, and modernization outside of Europe, the applicability of postcolonial theory in Latin America, the temporality and teleology of modernism, the adaptation of European social, political, and artistic forms, the impact of postmodernism and globalization, and the potential dissonance between theories of peripheral or alternative modernisms and the practices of artists. Finally, we'll ask if and how any of this is pertinent in the twenty-first century. Authors to be studied might include Timothy Mitchell, Néstor García Canclini, Roberto Schwarz, Beatriz Sarlo, Enrique Dussel, Nelly Richard, Arjun Appadurai, George Yúdice, Ticio Escobar, and Eduardo Viveiros de Castro. Although we will concentrate on Latin America for most of the course, comparative studies from other regions will be included and research papers dealing with theories or practices from other world areas are welcome.

PLSC 48700 (LACS 48700; PPHA 37105)  
**Crime, Conflict, and the State**  
Benjamin Lessing  
W 1:30-4:20PM  
Scholars of civil war emphasize the importance, and perhaps primacy, of criminal profits for insurgencies, especially in the post-cold war era. But theories of civil war generally rest on an assumption that insurgents aim to replace state power. This seminar approaches the issue from the other end of the spectrum: armed conflict between states and "purely" criminal groups--particularly drug cartels. Cartel-state conflict poses a fundamental puzzle: Why attack the state if you seek neither to topple nor secede from it? After a brief survey of the literature on civil war and organized crime, we will study recent work on criminal conflict, particularly in Latin America. We also consider the related topics of prison-based criminal networks and paramilitaries, and explore how crime and political insurgency interact in places like West Africa and Afghanistan. Throughout, we evaluate the concepts, questions and designs underpinning current research.