LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES COURSES SPRING 2018

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.

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

SPAN 21100 (LACS 21100)
Las regiones del Español
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: Open only to native and heritage speakers with consent of instructor.

LACS 21335 (HMRT 26619, CRES 26619, ANTH 23081)
Who Counts, What Counts? Racial Governance in 21st Century Latin America
Karma Frierson
TR 2:00-3:20PM
In 2015 for the first time in Mexico’s history, there was an official count of its population of African descent, leaving Chile as the only nation in the hemisphere not to do so. A year prior, Brazil introduced a quota system for all federal jobs, leading to new questions about who qualifies for these positions. These examples and more highlight a new era in Latin America that questions who counts—both literally as with censuses and figuratively as with affirmative action—as Afro-descended in a region characterized by racial mixture. In this course we will analyze the new turn toward racial governance as we grapple with the following questions. How does the racial governance of the 21st century upend or echo the racial governance of the colonial era? How does this new era affect our understanding of race and identity? What is lost and gained by counting people as black?
SPAN 22003 (LACS 22003)
Introducción a las literaturas hispánicas: textos hispanoamericanos del modernismo al presente
Laura Gandolfi
TR 3:00-4:20PM
This course offers an introduction to modern Spanish American literature, from the late nineteenth century through the present moment. Drawing from essays, fiction, poetry, and film, the course focuses on the complex relations between literary production, aesthetics, and sociopolitical transformations. Among other topics, we will discuss how to approach literary texts and how to interpret them. How does literature signify? How does it work? What does it say about history, politics, and society in Spanish America? How do literary fictions relate to other cultural forms such as photography and film?

SPAN 24420 (LACS 24420)
Unsettling Encounters: Colonial Latin America in Film
Larissa Brewer-Garcia
TR 10:30-11:50AM
This course explores a selection of foundational texts of Latin American literature in conversation with films about colonial Latin America by American and European directors. We will engage questions of how, when, and why images remember historical moments, and will consider the possibilities and limitations of using film to represent history. Students will learn and practice techniques of textual analysis and film criticism while discussing themes such as visual literacy, cultural imperialism, and economic colonialism.
PQ: SPAN 20300

HIST 26158 (LACS 26128, CLCV 22917, KNOW 23002)
How to Build a Global Empire
Stuart McManus
TR 12:30-1:50PM
Empire is arguably the oldest, most durable and most diffused form of governance in human history that reached its zenith with the global empires of Spain, Portugal and Britain. But how do you build a global empire? What political, social, economic and cultural factors contribute to their formation and longevity? What effect do they have on the colonizer and the colonized? What is the difference between a state, an empire and a “global” empire? We will consider these questions and more in case studies that will treat the global empires of Rome, Portugal and Britain, concluding with a discussion of the modern resonances of this first “Age of Empires.” The course will include classes taught in the Regenstein Rare Books Collection and the Smart Museum.

LACS 26415
Latin American Extractivisms
Stefanie Graeter
TR 12:30-1:50PM
This course will survey the historical antecedents and contemporary politics of Latin American extractivisms. While resource extraction in Latin America is far from new, the scale and transnational scope of current “neoextractivisms” have unearthed unprecedented rates of profit as well as social conflict. Today’s oil wells, open-pit mines, and vast fields of industrial agriculture have generated previously unthinkable transformations to local ecologies and social life, while repeating histories of indigenous land dispossession in the present. Yet parallel to neo-extractive regimes, emergent Latin American social movements have unleashed impassioned and often unexpected forms of local and transnational resistance. Readings in the course will
contrast cross-regional trends of extractive economic development and governance with fine-grained accounts of how individuals, families, and communities experience and respond to land dispossession, local and transregional conflict, and the ecological and health impacts of Latin American extractivisms.

LACS 26621 (LING, HMRT 26621)
Linguistic Minorities and Language Rights in Latin America
Adam Singerman
TR 11:00-12:20PM
This course examines the ongoing struggle to maintain, preserve, and revitalize the native languages of Latin America. How can we understand this struggle as part of a wider initiative, grounded in international understanding of human rights, to promote the marginalized traditions of indigenous peoples? We begin by examining Latin America’s linguistic diversity and history as they pertain to questions of present-day human rights struggles. Next, we will make sense of the interrelated phenomena of language shift, language endangerment, and language death. We will then read scholarly efforts (including legal approaches) to contextualize the question of minority languages within the broader discourse of human rights. Finally, we will examine a series of case studies on different Latin American linguistic minorities — including the Maya of Guatemala and Mexico and the Quechua- and Aymara-speaking populations of the Andes — and their efforts to preserve, standardize, and gain official recognition for their languages.

PLSC 28710 (LACS 28710, LLSO 28710)
Democracy and the Politics of Wealth Redistribution
Mike Albertus
MW 3:00-4:20PM
How do political institutions affect the redistribution of wealth among members of a society? In most democracies, the distribution of wealth among citizens is unequal but the right to vote is universal. Why then have so many newly democratic states transitioned under conditions of high inequality yet failed to redistribute? This course explores this puzzle by analyzing the mechanisms through which individual and group preferences can be translated into pro-poor policies, and the role elites play in influencing a government’s capacity or incentives to redistribute wealth. Topics include economic inequality and the demand for redistribution, the difference in redistribution between democracy and dictatorship, the role of globalization in policymaking, and the effects of redistribution on political stability and change.

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 29900
Prep BA Essay: Latin American Studies
ARR.
Independent BA thesis course. PQ: Consent of undergraduate adviser required
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.

*This course may not be used toward the LACS content course requirement for the LACS minor.

LACS 16300/34800 (ANTH 23103; HIST 16103/36103; SOSC 26300; CRES 16103)
Introduction to Latin American Civilizations III
Brodwyn 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.

LACS 22503/32503
Elementary Haitian Kreyol 3
William Balan-Gaubert
MW 2:30-3:50PM
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 25106/35106 (LACS 24106/34106)
Art & Urbanism at Teotihuacan
Claudia Brittenham
W 1:30-4:20PM
This course will take stock of our understanding of Mesoamerica’s first great city. How did Teotihuacan’s unprecedented urban form, and the art created within it, structure a sense of collective identity for the city’s multiethnic population? How did the city change over time, and how did it engage with its Mesoamerican neighbors? Recent discoveries from the Pyramid of the Feathered Serpent and the Temple of the Sun will play an important role in our investigations.

LACS 25114/35114 (MUSI 23718/33718, SPAN 23117/33117)
Research and Performance: Latin American Baroque Music
Miriam Escudero, Tinker Visiting Professor, Music
MW 1:20-2:50PM
This course will examine the musical document as a source of musicological studies and its relationship to performance. We will look at various types of documents and assess specific problems of each age and geographical area. Topics include: major reservoirs of music documents in Latin America; the early music ensemble, Ars Longa, and the rescue of opera ominia; recording and performing Cuban and Latin American
music in a historically informed way; the Sacred Music Collection from eighteenth century Cuba. There is a performance component to this class. Students are encouraged to have some background in music or Latin American history prior to entering the course.

PQ: Recommended background of MUSI 153 or MUSI 272 OR SPAN 203 plus a course in Latin American history or literature.

LACS 25116/35116 (ANTH 23061/33061)

The Maroon Societies in South America
Olívia Gomes da Cunha, Tinker Visiting Professor, Anthropology
TR 9:30-10:50AM

This course will examine recent ethnographies on slave descendants societies in South America. Its main purpose is to explore current anthropological studies of the Maroon experience, focusing on new approaches on the relations of these communities with Amerindian, peasants, and other neighboring populations, as well as their dialogues with other non-human beings who inhabit their existential territories.

HIST 26220/36220 (LACS 26220/36220)

Brazil: Another American History
Brodwyn Fischer
TR 2:00-3:20PM

Brazil is in many ways a mirror image of the United States: an almost continental democracy, rich in natural resources, populated by the descendants of three continents, shaped by colonialism, slavery, and sui generis liberal capitalism. Why, then, has Brazil's historical path been so distinct? To explore this question, this course will focus on the history of economic development, race, citizenship, urbanization, the environment, and popular culture.

HIST 29905/39905 (LACS 29905/39905)

History of the Magalopolis in the Americas
Mauricio Tenorio
M 9:30-12:20PM

The megalopolis comprises a unique phenomenon where social conflicts, such as violence and inequality, and ecological devastation occur simultaneously with social mobility and economic, cultural, and political opportunities. And all occur at exponential rates. What historical factors made such monsters possible in the Americas? What do they tell us about larger urban, social, and cultural assumptions about history? The course will explore these questions, focused on such cities as Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Buenos Aires, New York City, Los Angeles, and Chicago.

GRADUATE COURSES

SPAN 38800 (LACS 38802)

Estudio de Literaturas y Culturas Ibericas y Latinoamericanas
Miguel Martínez

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.
SPAN 38810 (LACS 38810)
Empire, Slavery, Salvation: Writing Diff. in Colonial Americas
Larissa Brewer-García
M 1:30-4:20PM
This course explores portrayals of human difference in literature, travel writing, painting, and autobiography from Spain, England, and the Americas. Students will become versed in debates surrounding the emergence of human distinctions based on religion, race, and ethnicity in the early modern era. Understanding these debates and the history surrounding them is crucial to participating in informed discussion, research, and activism regarding issues of race, empire, and colonialism across time and space.

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.

PLSC 41101 (LACS 48710)
The Politics of Wealth Redistribution
Mike Albertus
T 12:30-3:20PM
How do political institutions affect the structure and scope of wealth redistribution initiatives? This graduate seminar will introduce students to the scholarly literature on redistribution, focusing primarily on recent work. We will study the causes and consequences of redistribution, focusing both on the institutions that shape incentives for governments to implement redistribution, as well as the mechanisms, actors, and international conditions that can erode government incentives or capabilities to redistribute. The emphasis of the course will be twofold: rigorously examining the inferences we can draw from existing work, and designing research that can contribute to a better understanding of the fundamental questions regarding redistributive policies.

LACS 478413
Advanced Seminar in Mesoamerican Linguistics
ARR.
PQ: Students must make arrangements directly with John Lucy to enroll in this course.