LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES (LAST)

LAST127 Catholicism and Ideology in the Hispanic World
Catholicism has played a number of roles in the cultural politics of the Hispanic world, appearing as a place of national being, resistance, and conservatism. In this course, we will read a number of texts from different periods and national contexts with a view to understanding how writers and intellectuals from Spain, Latin America, and the U.S. engage with Catholicism and the historical conditions under which they do so.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-LAST
Identical With: FIST127, RELI127
Prereq: None

LAST188 Sophomore Seminar: Subject Peoples
This course will discuss the techniques and sources used by historians in their studies of subject peoples when the bulk of written evidence consists of reports, observations, and commentary by foreign conquerors or ruling elites. Topics include the contributions of archaeological and anthropological studies, the importance of myth and oral tradition, the various types of available documents, and the nature and reliability of the written evidence. Our goal is to develop the expertise that will allow us to recover the stories of people who have been written out of official histories and national narratives.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST188, HIST188
Prereq: None

LAST200 Colonialism and Its Consequences in the Americas
Why does colonialism matter to the fields of American studies, Latin American studies, and Caribbean studies? What have been the consequences of colonialism for the nations that make up the Western Hemisphere? This course offers a transnational, hemispheric approach to the study of the Americas through a comparative analysis of colonial ventures and their consequences in the Americas. Among the topics to be discussed are organization of production, including state labor systems, chattel slavery, and indenture; governance and colonial bureaucracies; the interaction of indigenous, European, and African peoples and the formation of colonial culture and syncretic belief systems; independence movements and the emergence of nation-states. Consistent with the interdisciplinary nature of American, Latin American, and Caribbean studies, the course introduces diverse theoretical and methodological approaches to these issues.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST, SBS-AMST, SBS-AMST, SBS-AMST
Identical With: AMST200, AMST200, AMST200, AMST200, AMST200, AMST200, AMST200, AMST200, AMST200
Prereq: None

LAST211 Living the Latin American City: Urban History, Politics, and Culture
This course offers an introduction to modern Latin American cities, exploring how the region's urban spaces—including sprawling megalopolises like Mexico City and Rio de Janeiro—have been made and re-envisioned by elite and poor inhabitants alike. Approaching urban space and everyday life as a terrain of political and social negotiation as well as cultural ferment, the course traces the growth of Latin American cities through case studies that examine themes including colonialism, citizenship, migration, inequality, and social movements, and the tensions between state planning and informality. We also consider how the urban experience shaped intellectuals’ and artists’ efforts to chronicle, represent, and reimagine the Latin American city in essays, photography, and film.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: ECON261, ECON261, ECON261, ECON261
LAST226 Spanish American Literature and Civilization
A close study of texts from the colonial period to the present will serve as the basis for a discussion of some of the major writers and intellectuals in Latin America: Las Casas, Sor Juana, Bolívar, Sarmiento, Martí, Rodó, Mariátegui, Neruda, Borges, García Márquez, Poniatowska, and Bolaño. Special emphasis will be placed on issues related to culture and politics. For purposes of understanding context, students will also read selected chapters from works by historians and cultural critics and will see several films, including YO, LA PEOR DE TODAS, CAMILA, ROJO AMANECER, and LA BATALLA DE CHILE.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Identical With: COL225, AFAM223, AMST226, FREN225, FREN225, AFAM223, AMST226, COL225, AFAM223, AMST226, COL225, FREN225, FREN225
Prereq: None

LAST232 Dialogue of Poets: Classical and 20th-Century Poetry in Spain and Latin America
This course samples the rich tradition of Spanish-language verse from its beginnings to the present. It is structured by four primary dialogues: (1) the creative reception of classical poets (Saint John of the Cross, Góngora, Quevedo, and Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz) by leading 20th-century poets from Spain and Latin America (Neruda, Lorca, Machado, Borges, Paz, and Rossetti, among others); (2) the interplay of poetry and essays by those same poets; (3) the round-trip fertilization of popular and elite, oral and written forms of poetry; and (4) the crossing of linguistic, ethnic, religious, and gender boundaries that has shaped Spanish-language verse from its beginnings as love lyrics embedded in Hebrew and Arabic poems (arches) to the creative stimulus of other romance languages (especially Galician and Catalan) in Spain, through Latin American poets open to Amerindian and African influences, and Hispanic American poets exploring bilingualism in the U.S. We will read lyric, epic, and burlesque verse on a wide variety of themes (mysticism, sex, history, reason, travel, love, politics, sensory perception, death, and poetry itself, among others); reflect on how poetry can best be enjoyed and understood; and consider how poetry has been produced, heard, read, and used (ritual and spontaneous song; minstrel performance of epic and ballads; courtly patronage, literary academies, and manuscript circulation; private reading of printed texts and commodification; and 20th-century singer-songwriter musical settings and politics). Although no prior expertise in poetry is expected, a willingness to engage it closely (textually and historically) is essential.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Prereq: None

LAST234 Resistance and Discourse: The Place of the Indigenous in Modern Latin America
This course will examine how intellectuals and writers of the postcolonial period have made use of indigenous cultures as well as of the first European reflections on those cultures: the chronicles of discovery and conquest. Excerpts from VISION de los vencidos and from texts of Cristóbal Colon, Bernal Diaz, Hernan Cortes, and Bartolome de Las Casas will be read in conjunction with 19th- and 20th-century essayists, novelists, short story writers, and poets. An important premise of this course is that the indigenous is not only a complex reality in Latin America, it is also an object of discourse, a kind of wild card in the intellectual’s hand. The major question we will consider is the following: How have so-called pre-Columbian and contemporary indigenous cultures been brought forth in the highly polemical context of nation building in the 19th and 20th centuries?
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Identical With: SPAN227, SPAN227, SPAN227, SPAN227, SPAN227, SPAN227, SPAN227, SPAN227, SPAN227, SPAN227, SPAN227, SPAN227, SPAN227, SPAN227, SPAN227, SPAN227, SPAN227, SPAN227, SPAN227
Prereq: SPAN221

LAST240 Development, the Environment, and Society in Latin America
Few issues have defined Latin America’s modern history so much as the region’s quest for economic development. But the impetus to "develop" has a much longer history of natural resource extraction and directed social change. Policies and practices regarding land use and labor, then, have shaped economic development, the environment, and social and political life in the region to the present.
In this seminar we will ask what the historical relationships are between development, natural resources, and society in Latin America from the onset of European colonialism in the fifteenth century through state- and private-led improvement policies in the twentieth century. Some specific themes we will consider are: How have policies affected the sustainability of land use in the last five centuries? Has the impetus for development, beginning in the nineteenth century and reaching its current intensity in the mid-twentieth, shifted ideas and practices of sustainability in
both environmental and social terms? And more broadly, what has been the historical relationship between humans and their environment in Latin America? We will consider primary and secondary sources covering periods from pre-Columbian times to the late-twentieth century, and regions from Mexico to South America to the Caribbean.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-LAST, SBS-LAST
Prereq: None

LAST241 Asian Latino Encounters: Imagining Asia in Hispanic America
This course will explore the distinctive, and overlooked, Asian connection in Hispanic-American cultures: the fascinating literatures, songs, paintings, and films about "Asian Latinos" in Spanish America, the U.S., as well as the Philippines, a Spanish colony for over three centuries that developed its own Spanish-language literature after 1898—in part as a response to the subsequent Americanization of the Philippines. We will begin examining "Orientalist" or exoticizing views of Asian culture and Asian women of early 20th-century Spanish American and Filipino writers (such as Dario, Tablada, and Jesus Balsom). Then, we will assess travel writings produced across the Pacific—from Mexico to India (Paz), from Chile to Southeast Asia (Neruda), and from the Philippines to Chile (Elizabeth Medina). Finally, we will examine diverse works by writers/artists of Asian descent in Hispanic America. We will encourage students to challenge the notion of "Latinidad"? By looking at the trans-Pacific reach of the Hispanic, we will be in a better position to appreciate the complexity of the cultural, social, and political legacies of both Spanish and U.S. colonialism.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Prereq: None

LAST243 History of Modern Mexico
This course will survey Mexico’s bicentennial celebrations of the Wars of Independence (1810) and the Mexican Revolution (1910). Focusing on the history, memory, myth, and popular culture of these upheavals and their major protagonists from the 19th century to the present day, students will survey modern Mexican history and cultural history approaches to its study.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-LAST, SBS-LAST
Identical With: HIST253, HIST253
Prereq: None

LAST245 Survey of Latin American History
This course presents a broad survey of Latin American history. After a brief overview of the colonial era and the wars of independence, the course explores the abolition era, neocolonialism, development of social and cultural pluralism, 20th-century political movements, and contemporary events. The required readings introduce students to major theoretical approaches to the history of the region; primary documents, maps, video clips, and drawings will be discussed in class.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST245, HIST245, HIST245, HIST245, HIST245, HIST245, HIST245, HIST245, HIST245, HIST245
Prereq: None

LAST246 The State of the State in Latin America
Beginning in the early 1800s, governments imbued with Liberal ideals worked to form the state as the central institution to oversee all sectors of society. While each area of Latin America took a different path in the formation of the state, what was similar was the understanding that a strong centralized state with extensive powers was crucial to the creation of modern and unified nation. In the early years of the formative period of the state, elites worked to "civilize" the citizens through the creation of legal systems and industry, and the inclusion of European immigrants to break away from a colonial past. What developed was a closed society, closely monitored by the state. By the twentieth century, the oligarchic order came under attack from the new populist leaders arising throughout Latin America. Under populist leaders, the state worked closely with labor unions, intellectuals, and peasants to build a new modern society that could provide social justice. The development of the Cold War significantly altered Latin American politics and ushered in a new period of conservative order. Many populist governments slowly failed and Latin America plunged into disorder and civil war. Mounting pressure from the US and elites pressed Latin American military authoritarian states to quickly order and curb the spread of socialism and communism. The state responded with violence, terror, fear, and coercion to eliminate threats. Throughout Latin America, thousands died, were displaced, or disappeared.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-LAST, SBS-LAST, SBS-LAST, SBS-LAST
Prereq: None

LAST247 Caribbean Writers in the U.S. Diaspora
The Caribbean cloaks a complex history in a Club Med exterior. While white sands and palm trees proclaim it the "antidote to civilization," Caribbean writers undertake to represent a fuller picture of the individual in a world shaped by colonialism, slavery, nationalism, and cultural striving. This course will examine selected literary texts as part of an ongoing dialogue among the region’s history, mythology, and aesthetics.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AMST247, AFAM243, ENGL243
Prereq: None

LAST250 Performing "Africa" in Brazil
This course explores the construction, performance, and consumption of blackness in Brazil through embodied cultural practices. African descendants in Brazil went from being considered an obstacle to the country's progress to being celebrated as "the essence" of a unique, welcoming, exotic culture. This course examines the construction of Brazilian identity through the Afro-diasporic traditions of samba, capoeira, and candomble in the early 20th century. Focusing on the state of Bahia, the "Afro-Brazilian capital," this course will also cover late 20th century Afro-centric practices such as blocos-Afro and their relationship to the global tourism industry. We will consider debates of origins, tradition, and authenticity surrounding Afro-diasporic practices in Brazil.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
LAST252 Race and Nation in Latin America

How does race operate in Latin America, and in what ways does it intersect with the concept of nation and national belonging? The regions we call Latin America and the Caribbean have, since the first human encounter between “Old” and “New” Worlds of the 15th century, been often understood as places of mixture—both cultural and biological. From at least the early 19th century, when independent nations in the region began to emerge from colonial rule, intellectuals, statesmen, and citizens alike have had to contend with “race” and its inextricable connection to the concept of “nation.” This course aims to introduce students to the history of race and national formation in Latin America and the Caribbean, from the wake of the independence movements of the early 19th century to the present. It draws on historical, anthropological, and literary approaches to identifying, analyzing, and interpreting the varied meanings of race and nation throughout the region.

Offering: Host

Grading: A-F

Credits: 1.00

Gen Ed Area: SBS-LAST

Prereq: None

LAST254 Tales of Resistance: Modernity and the Latin American Short Story

Latin American writers from the early 20th century forward have regarded the short story as a vehicle through which to make their mark and engage the great cultural issues of the day. Jorge Luis Borges and Julio Cortázar, two of Latin America’s most well-known literary figures, dedicated their careers almost exclusively to the genre. In this course, as we consider the privileged status of the short story in Latin American letters, we will examine the ways in which writers have used the genre to comment on important aspects of modernization, both within and outside their respective countries. Some of those aspects will concern the Mexican Revolution, bourgeois and mass culture, nationalism, globalization, as well as immigration to Europe and the United States.

Offering: Crosslisting

Grading: A-F

Credits: 1.00

Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN

Identical With: SPAN284, SPAN284, SPAN284, SPAN284, SPAN284, SPAN284, SPAN284

Prereq: None

LAST256 Nomadic Islanders: Contemporary Caribbean Diasporas and Identities

Diasporas from Europe, Asia, and Africa have long been a part of Caribbean identities. Since the 1960s however, many Caribbean citizens have left the Caribbean and moved to North American and European cities (Miami, New York, Montreal, Paris), creating a new diaspora and reshaping Caribbean identities. Since the 1960s however, many Caribbean citizens have left the Caribbean and moved to North American and European cities (Miami, New York, Montreal, Paris), creating a new diaspora and reshaping Caribbean identities. This course will focus on two borders—the Straits of Gibraltar and the Río Grande—and on the various genres, have responded to this reality, how and why they have chosen to craft the collective experience of the border as performance, and how they have attended to the cultural and political tensions that are associated with this experience.

The framework for our study will be comparative in both content and format. We will focus on two borders—the Straits of Gibraltar and the Rio Grande—and on the two corresponding migratory experiences: North African and sub-Saharan African.
migration into Europe (Spain); Latin American migration into the United States. SPAN258 will be taught in conjunction with a course offered simultaneously at the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid. When possible, classes will be linked through videoconferencing. Wesleyan students will collaborate with their Spanish peers on certain class projects.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Identical With: SPAN258, THEA228, SPAN258, THEA228, SPAN258, THEA228, SPAN258, THEA238, SPAN258, THEA238, SPAN258, SPAN258, SPAN258, SPAN258, SPAN258, THEA238, SPAN258, THEA238, SPAN258, THEA238, SPAN258, THEA238, SPAN258, THEA238, SPAN258, THEA238, SPAN258, THEA238, SPAN258, THEA238, SPAN258, THEA238, SPAN258, THEA238, SPAN258, THEA238, SPAN258, THEA238, SPAN258, THEA238, SPAN258, THEA238, SPAN258, THEA238, SPAN258, THEA238, SPAN258, THEA238, SPAN258, THEA238, SPAN258, THEA238, SPAN258, SPAN258, THEA238
Prereq: None

LAST260 The Uses of the Past: Literature and History in Latin America
This course aims to examine literary representations of major Latin American political and social events. By focusing on watershed developments such as the Wars of Independence, the Mexican Revolution, and the establishment of dictatorial regimes from 1930s on, we will analyze the ways in which these key events have informed a series of 20th-century texts. We will also study the role played by fiction in recreating, counteracting, and questioning official historical narrations. By doing so, this class will explore the complex interactions between language and reality, the place of fiction in the construction of truth, and the symbolic strategies developed by canonical intellectuals to resist self-legitimating historical discourses and present alternative versions of the past.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Identical With: SPAN270, SPAN270
Prereq: None

LAST261 Intellectuals and Cultural Politics in Latin America
This course will focus on the development of the most internationally celebrated Latin American literary currents of the 20th century: regionalism, the fantastic, and magic realism. With the purpose of analyzing how these literary tendencies became representative of Latin American literature for the world, we will examine the way in which several intellectuals promoted and negotiated a continental cultural identity vis-à-vis European and American literary movements and editorial markets. We will also discuss the manner in which these literary currents confronted previous cultural tendencies to define their own cultural agendas and the critical consequences that their politics of literary representation have had for understanding the extremely diverse cultural manifestations of the continent. Special attention will be given to the study of programmatic essays, polemical texts, and contemporary reviews of major works.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Identical With: SPAN271, SPAN271, SPAN271, SPAN271, SPAN271, SPAN271
Prereq: None

LAST264 African Presences II: Music in the Americas
This course will explore the diversity and full range of musical expression in the Americas—with a focus on musics with a strong African historical or cultural presence—by immersing ourselves in a combination of extensive reading, listening to recordings, viewing videos, discussion, and in-class performances. The hemisphere as a whole will be briefly surveyed and regional traits will be explored, but emphasis will be placed on specific pieces, genres, and countries.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-MUSC, HA-MUSC
Identical With: MUSC266, AFAM251, AMST214, MUSC266, AFAM251, AMST214
Prereq: None

LAST265 Nation and Narration in Latin America
Since the early 19th century, "gauchos," "mestizos," "indios," and "negros" have been repeatedly used as symbols of cultural identity in Latin America. By analyzing narrations concerning ethnic difference, cultural heritage, and political integration, this course will examine the opposing ways in which intellectual discourses have constructed literary versions of subaltern and minority groups to address specific issues: European immigration, state formation, capitalist expansion, and radical political transformations. This exploration will eventually lead us to a reflection on how representations of particular groups have contributed to forge, endorse, or challenge political and cultural traditions in several countries of the continent.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Identical With: SPAN272, SPAN272, SPAN275
Prereq: None

LAST266 Latin American Theater and Performance
This course will focus on the history, theory, and practice of theater and performance in Latin America in the twentieth century. We will be particularly interested in the inter-cultural aspects of Latin American theater and performance, which have reinvented and reinvigorated European dramatic forms through their constant interaction with non-Western cultural expressions in the Americas. We will examine a wide variety of performance practices, including: avant-garde theater, community theater, street performance and agitprop, solo and collective theater. The syllabus is loosely organized in a chronological fashion, structured more importantly around critical themes in Latin American history, culture and society in the twentieth century. We will take as our primary source material both readings and video recordings, when available, which will be supplemented by a wide variety of historical, critical and theoretical background readings, including texts written by theater practitioners, theorists and critics.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Identical With: SPAN279, THEA297, SPAN279, SPAN279, SPAN279, THEA297, SPAN279, THEA297, SPAN279, THEA297, SPAN279, THEA297, SPAN279, THEA297, SPAN279, THEA297, SPAN279
Prereq: None

LAST268 Anthropology of Black Religions in the Americas
This course examines Afro-Creole religions and cultural expressions in selected communities throughout the Atlantic world. How were religious communities created under colonial domination? Under what conditions were religions shaped, and what shapes did they take? How are African-based religions produced through aesthetics and the ritual arts of spiritual talk and sermons, song, dance, drumming, and medicine-making? How do these religions continue to survive, thrive, and, in some cases, grow in the current historical period? This course will pay special attention to the yearly ritual cycle and its attendant festivals: Christmas, Carnivals, Lent, Easter, saints’ days, feasts, and pilgrimages, as well as the emergent spiritual and aesthetic traditions such as Capoeira and Rara. We will study Orisha religions like La Regla de Ocha, or Lukumi, in Cuba and the Latino United States; Candouble in Brazil; Vodou in Haiti; and Garifuna traditions and spiritism in Puerto Rico.
LAST270 Modern Technologies in Latin American Literature

Modern communication technologies and modes of transportation have been a recurrent theme in works of Latin American writers from the 20th and 21st centuries. For example, radio was a significant source of inspiration for avant-garde Mexican poets Manuel Maples Arce and Luis Quintanilla in the 1920s; they both tried to capture the uncanny experience of hearing disembodied human voices through writing. In this class, we will discuss texts that likewise reflect on the effects of various modern means of transport and communication—such as trains, subways, radio, telephone, tape recording, and the Internet—with an emphasis on how these technologies have revolutionized human relations. We will examine how these literary works exceeded the aesthetic or sociopolitical norms of their time, while keeping in mind that the simple act of writing is also a form of technology, and often a transgressive one.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Identical With: RELI268, AFAM387, ANTH267, RELI268, AFAM387, ANTH267, RELI268, AFAM387, ANTH267, RELI268, AFAM387, ANTH267, RELI268, AFAM387, ANTH267, RELI268, AFAM387, ANTH267, RELI268, AFAM387, ANTH267, RELI268, AFAM387, ANTH267, RELI268, AFAM387, ANTH267, RELI268, AFAM387, ANTH267, RELI268, AFAM387, ANTH267, RELI268, AFAM387, ANTH267, RELI268, AFAM387, ANTH267, RELI268, AFAM387, ANTH267, RELI268, AFAM387, ANTH267, RELI268, AFAM387, ANTH267, RELI268, AFAM387, ANTH267, RELI268, AFAM387, ANTH267, RELI268, AFAM387, ANTH267, RELI268, AFAM387, ANTH267, RELI268, AFAM387
Prereq: None

LAST271 Political Economy of Developing Countries

This course explores the political economy of development, with a special focus on poverty reduction. We discuss the meaning of development, compare Latin American to East Asian development strategies (focusing on Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, South Korea, and Taiwan), examine poverty-reduction initiatives in individual countries (including Bangladesh, Chile, and Tanzania), and evaluate approaches to famine prevention and relief. Throughout the course, we pay close attention to the role of procedural democracy, gender relations, market forces, and public action in promoting or inhibiting development.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT, SBS-GOVT
Identical With: GOVT271, CEAS271, GOVT271, EAST271, GOVT271, CEAS271, GOVT271, EAST271
Prereq: None

LAST272 Cubanidad: Diaspora, Exiles, and Cultural Identity in Cuban Literature and Film

This course will examine shifting notions of Cubanness, or "cubanidad," from the 19th century to the present times from a diasporic framework. We will discuss writings by/about African slaves, Chinese indentured laborers and migrants, and Spanish immigrants in Cuba, as well as Cuban exiles in the U.S. and Spain from the 19th century to the beginning of the 20th century. Through a variety of literary texts and films, we will then study select cases of European exiles who visited Cuba in the 1930s and 40s, the later massive waves of Cuban migration to the U.S. after the Revolution, and the more recent immigrants who have settled in Cuba.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Identical With: SPAN272, SPAN272, SPAN272, SPAN272
Prereq: None

LAST273 The Idea of Latin America

Since the end of the 19th century, writers and artists involved in the dissemination of revolutionary discourses of political and symbolic identity have reflected upon the possibility of representing Latin America as a single cultural entity. The emergence of some of the most enduring images of the region is indeed intertwined with the outbreak of political conflicts that transformed the continent's history (the Spanish-American War, the Mexican Revolution, the Cuban Revolution), as well as with the activity of numerous intellectuals who played leading roles in the public arena as cultural and social organizers. This course will analyze popular images of Latin America with the purpose of understanding their historical and ideological meaning; it will also explore how these images were circulated and appropriated in different political and cultural circumstances to convey alternative ideological tenets. In particular, we will discuss how some intellectuals have used them to endorse or challenge official projects of political reform, community change, and cultural agency. In assessing these issues, we will raise questions of hegemony-building and cultural resistance, ideological legitimization, and social control in Latin America.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Identical With: SPAN273, SPAN273, SPAN273, SPAN273, SPAN273
Prereq: None

LAST274 Art and Society in the Ancient American World

In the early 16th century, Hernan Cortes, Francisco Pizarro, and their compatriots encountered two of the world's largest and most spectacular empires, the Aztec and the Inca. Suddenly, the Western world became aware of a parallel group of cultures flourishing in what they called the New World. These two empires, however, grew out of millennia of complex political development that preceded them in their respective areas, Mesoamerica and the Andes. This course surveys the art, architecture, and archaeology of the diverse array of peoples and cultures in ancient Mesoamerica (a geographical area that encompasses much of present-day Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, and Honduras) and those that lived between the Andean mountains and the Pacific coast of present-day South America (countries including Peru, Bolivia, and Chile). Through lectures, reading assignments, and discussions, students will be expected to gain a broad understanding of the urban planning, architecture, monumental sculpture, and portable arts of the ancient Americas, from the earliest times to the arrival of Europeans in the New World. Since most of these cultures did not use the written word, the class will also regularly raise questions of methodology in pre-Columbian scholarship.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART, HA-ART, HA-ART
Identical With: ARHA275, ARHA275, ARHA275, ARHA275, ARHA275, ARHA275
Prereq: None

LAST276 Body Fictions: Latin American Visual Culture and the 20th Century

The French philosopher Jean-Luc Nancy maintains that we do not have bodies, we are bodies. The subject is mere exteriority, infinite exposition: the body emptying itself outward. This exteriority, however, regularly metaphorizes itself, submerging within and taking on allegories; at other times, it manages to call attention to itself as matter. This seminar explores the diverse representations
of the body in Latin America from a visual culture perspective. To this end, it proposes an exploration of different bodies in direct relationship to their matter, races, and sexualities. The seminar makes visible both canonical and marginalized bodies through visual representations (films, performances, photographs, exhibitions) and literary texts.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Identical With: SPAN276, SPAN276, SPAN276, THEA276
Prereq: None

LAST277 Minor Tales: Youth and Childhood in Latin American Culture
This course is an exploration of Latin American literature and film about childhood and youth in the 20th and 21st centuries. Youth, a fundamental concept for political projects and fiction, also serves as the focus of a wide array of issues: poverty, education, cultural identity, language and aesthetics, revolution, political activism and repression, immigration, violence, historical change, sexuality, and marginalization. What does it mean to speak for a child? What is the political function of the testimony of youth? How do texts about growing up in Latin America reflect on the social and psychic formation of the subject? How do they narrate some of the major events that have shaped the region’s history? We will examine a wide array of texts ranging from novels of formation to experimental short fiction, as well as testimony, film, and visual culture of different historical periods of regions.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Identical With: SPAN277, SPAN277
Prereq: None

LAST278 Dangerous Plots: Fictions of the Latin American Jungle
This course is an exploration of the ways in which nature has been plotted in fiction, films, and popular culture, focusing on the tropical jungle, a space that has been central to the way Latin America has been imagined for centuries. We will investigate the construction of jungle as a cultural space where diverse anxieties about sovereignty, nationhood, race, development, gender, and subversion collide. We will evaluate this topography in relation to diverse projects of modernization and development, to the global angst over the environment and its destruction, and to a number of cultural and economic struggles that have shaped the region over the last century.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Identical With: SPAN278, SPAN278, SPAN278, SPAN278, SPAN278, SPAN278, SPAN278, SPAN278, SPAN278, SPAN278
Prereq: None

LAST280 Screening Youth in Contemporary Latin American Cinema
This course will examine some of the most important Latin American films to emerge in the past three decades that have cast children and teenagers as protagonists. As such, this seminar will focus on a wide array of issues such as poverty, education, cultural identity, historical memory, national and regional belonging, revolution, political activism and repression, immigration, violence, sexuality, and marginalization. Students will explore the aesthetic and social dynamics at play in the representation of young protagonists and develop interpretative filmic skills through an exploration of the connections between the technical composition of the works and the social, political, and cultural contexts that they address.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Identical With: SPAN280, SPAN280, SPAN280, SPAN280
Prereq: None

LAST281 Islas sonantes*: Music and Sound Technologies in Hispanic Caribbean Literature
Cuban author Alejo Carpentier once stated that the Antilles (the Caribbean islands) could easily be referred to as "islas sonantes" (sounding islands) because of their strong musical tradition. Music, according to him, is their common denominator. Inspired by this statement and extending it, in this course we will examine the role of music, as well as other sound and vocal productions in Hispanic Caribbean literature from the end of the 19th century to the present. Through close readings, we will reflect on how music and other sound media or communication devices (such as radio, audio recordings, sound magnification, and telephone) have helped reconceptualize social identities, notions of time and space, and human interaction. We will also look at their, at times, ideological, political, or purely aesthetic functions. No knowledge of music or sound technologies is required for this course.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: SPAN281
Prereq: None

LAST283 Literature and Culture of Peru
This course offers a panoramic study of the Andean nation from pre-Colombian times to the present with a focus on seminally polemic issues such as intercultural hybridity, ethnic and political violence, colonialism, postcolonialism, indigenismo, and modernity and beyond. We will study a wide variety of authors’ takes on how to approach and understand Peru’s multiethnic and multilingual heritage. Readings include poetry, short stories, novels, essays, theater, and critical theory.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: SPAN283
Prereq: None

LAST284 Jorge Luis Borges
Jorge Luis Borges is one of the most well-known writers of the 20th century. His short stories and essays have exerted a significant influence on philosophers, historians, filmmakers, and fiction writers across the globe. In this course, we will examine Borges’ literary work, as well as the production of a wide array of cultural critics who have appropriated and discussed his ideas to develop their own intellectual projects. We will pay special attention to the ways in which Borges’ conception of literature has played a special role in developing new notions of authorship, fiction, history, and modernity.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Identical With: SPAN275, SPAN275
Prereq: None

LAST285 Narratives of Crisis: Violence and Representation in Contemporary Latin American Culture
How have Latin American literature, film, and performance of the past three decades articulated the many forms of violence in a region facing complex armed conflicts, wars deployed around the drug trade, and diverse forms of political unrest? Focusing on Colombia, Peru, Central America, and Mexico, we will investigate how contemporary cultural artifacts reflect on the linguistic, ethical,
and social dimensions of subjectivity in times of crisis and provide productive analytical frameworks to examine violence, history, and memory in the region. 

Offering: Crosslisting 
Grading: A-F 
Credits: 1.00 
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN 
Identical With: SPAN282 
Prereq: None 

LAST287 Contemporary Latin American Fiction: Writing After the Boom 
One of the characteristics of recent Latin American fiction is the interest in more open, relaxed forms of narration that focus on individual lives against the backdrop of specific social issues. In this course we examine this new experimentation with novelistic form as we look at several matters, including social and political violence, gay and heterosexual subjectivity, literary tradition, as well as artistic production. Several films will also be discussed. 

Offering: Crosslisting 
Grading: A-F 
Credits: 1.00 
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN 
Identical With: SPAN289, SPAN289, SPAN289, SPAN289 
Prereq: None 

LAST288 Cultures in Conflict: Latin American Novels of the 20th and 21st Centuries 
In this course we will examine several important novels that deal with social and cultural dislocation in the context of revolution, civil war, and globalization. In addition to the crucial issue of innovation in literary form, we will ask ourselves how the novel represents local and national culture, as well as how it portrays the interconnection of power, gender and desire, cultures in conflict, marginalization, and violence. Works of essayists, historians, and theorists, as well as films, will assist us in defining context. 

Offering: Crosslisting 
Grading: A-F 
Credits: 1.00 
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN 
Identical With: SPAN288 
Prereq: None 

LAST291 The Public Intellectual in Mexico 
Mexican writers, intellectuals, and artists have long been recognized for the brilliance with which they have used their work to comment on and shape the direction of the Mexican state. In this course, we will examine the writings of several major figures with the goal of understanding how they see and imagine Mexico. At the same time, we will consider how the concept of the public intellectual has changed over the past decades. Students will analyze novels, essays, poetry, and film. 

Offering: Crosslisting 
Grading: A-F 
Credits: 1.00 
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN 
Identical With: SPAN290, SPAN290, SPAN290, SPAN290 
Prereq: None 

LAST292 Sociology of Economic Change: Latin American Responses to Global Capitalism 
Global markets, imperialism, and global capital have shaped the relative wealth of the Americas for centuries. Latin America today has the highest levels of income inequality in the world and a great diversity of economic structures, from Cuba, one of the last socialist states, to Chile, a model of free-market, export-led development. Latin America is an ideal case to study the influence of imperialism, state vs. market control of the economy, and current trends such as neoliberalism, free trade, and fair trade on economic development. This class examines the rise and fall of economies in Latin America since the conquest with a focus on developments from World War II to the present. We will explore conflicting theoretical perspectives such as world-systems theory, dependency theory, and neoclassical economics. We will read about the influence of class, culture, local elites, labor movements, multinational development institutions, and global capital. We will critically examine the influences of colonialism, import substitution, industrialization, the shifts between democracy and dictatorship, austerity measures, and the current left turn in Latin American politics. We will end this class with an in-depth look at the debates around free trade, fair trade, international solidarity movements, worker cooperatives, and traditional labor movements. 

Offering: Crosslisting 
Grading: A-F 
Credits: 1.00 
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC, SBS-SOC 
Identical With: SOC292, SOC292, SPAN291 
Prereq: SOC151 

LAST293 New Strategies in Political and Economic Development 
This seminar explores several novel strategies in economic development. In particular, the course assesses the strengths and weaknesses of local-based efforts to alleviate poverty. Microfinance, property titling efforts, the fair trade movement, and an overall emphasis on sustainability are primary examples of such efforts and will occupy center stage in this course. These strategies receive considerable accolades in the media, but scholars and practitioners understand much less about how well the programs actually alleviate poverty. Furthermore, the political hurdles limiting or preventing implementation of many economic strategies are poorly understood. This seminar fills the gap as we perform in-depth research and analysis to solidify students’ understanding of novel strategies in development and the political context in which they exist. 

Offering: Crosslisting 
Grading: A-F 
Credits: 1.00 
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT, SBS-GOVT 
Identical With: GOVT293, CEAS293, GOVT293, EAST293 
Prereq: GOVT157 

LAST296 Colonial Latin America 
This lecture course begins with the history of three major indigenous societies—the Maya, the Aztecs, the Incas—and continues through the formation of the Spanish and Portuguese empires. Topics include the initial contact in and conquest of the Caribbean, Meso-America, and the Andes; the imposition of imperial rule and the survival of precontact cultures; the transformation of production; the impact of and resistance to slavery; the structure of colonial communities; the role of gender, religion, ethnicity, and race in the creation of colonial identities; and the independence movements and the end of formal colonial rule. The required readings introduce students to major theoretical approaches to the history of the region; primary documents, maps, drawings, and other texts will be discussed in class. 

Offering: Crosslisting 
Grading: A-F 
Credits: 1.00 
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST 
Identical With: HIST296, HIST296, HIST296, HIST296 
Prereq: None 

LAST297 The Caribbean Epic 
The epic is one of the grand literary genres, claiming world stature and universality. Caribbean literary epics, in addition, direct the reader’s attention to the local place: its history, its people, its geography, its flora and fauna. This course focuses on the interplay between local specificity and claims to universality. 

Offering: Crosslisting 
Grading: A-F 
Credits: 1.00
This course explores democracy, development, and revolution in Latin America, with special attention to Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, and Nicaragua. Questions to be addressed include, Why has Argentina lurched periodically from free-wheeling democracy to murderous military rule? Why is authoritarianism usually less harsh, but democracy often more shallow, in Brazil than in Argentina? How democratic are Latin America’s contemporary democracies? What accounts for the success or failure of attempted social revolutions in Latin America? Why did postrevolutionary Cuba wind up with a more centrally-planned economy and a more authoritarian political system than postrevolutionary Nicaragua? How much progress has each of these countries made toward creating a more affluent, educated, healthy, and equitable society?

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Identical With: RELI279, RELI279, RELI279, RELI279, RELI279, RELI279, RELI279, RELI279, RELI279
Prereq: None

LAST302 Latin American Politics
When we think of historical change, we often look to people, wars, and discovery as key "moments" in history. Yet, we often overlook "biological" agents of change. Diseases, next to man, has been one of the greatest changers in human history. Smallpox, for example, a disease that is now vaccinated, decimated Mesoamerican societies after the arrival of the Spanish to the Americas. In the late 1800s, developments in contagion theory spurred the development of the modern state and the professional medical field. Phrases such as, "hygiene," "germs," and "cleanliness" became common phrases that were given class, gender, and socioeconomic connections. The state equated healthy citizens as proper modern citizens and as examples of national development. Disease was equated with rural, economic, racial, and social backwardness that required transformation from the state. Often detrimental to long term health, DDT spraying and the poisoning of the environment became common place. With the rise of globalization, diseases and health became global problems that united some nations and purposely excluded others. With this, the goals of "assisting..."
and "healing" became proxies for periods of neo-colonialism and questionable medical testing among unsuspecting populations. This course will examine some of the most recent scholarship and provide students with an understanding of where the field of medical history in Latin America is heading.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-LAST, SBS-LAST, SBS-LAST
Prereq: None

LAST308 Greater Latin America: Ideas, Politics, and Culture in the Americas
What is "Latin America," who are "Latin Americans" and what is the relationship among and between places and people of the region we call Latin America, on the one hand, and the greater Latin diaspora in the US on the other? This course will explore the history of Latin America as an idea, and the cultural, social, political, and economic connections among peoples on both sides of the southern and eastern borders of the United States. The course will draw from a variety of sources, including literature, visual arts, music, and oral history. Topics we will consider include the origin of the concept of "Latin America," Inter-Americanism and Pan-Americanism, transnational social movements and intellectual exchanges, migration, and identity politics.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-LAST
Prereq: None

LAST309 Territory, Community, and Identity in the Americas
How does a place shape community social relations? And in what ways do peoples' relationships to natural resources and the built environment shape their political identities? This course will explore these questions by focusing on particular case studies in the Western Hemisphere. We will consider the ways in which communities are tethered to a particular idea of territory, whether they be "fugitives," "runaways," "natives," or "immigrants." The cases we will explore include quilombos and palenques comprised of people who escaped enslavement in Portuguese and Spanish America, indigenous communities forged before, during, and after colonization by Europeans, and newfound communities or colonies comprised of relatively recent (im)migrants.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-LAST
Prereq: None

LAST310 Mayan Mythology and Make-Believe in U.S. Art and Visual Culture
The ancient Maya predicted the end of the world would occur on December 21, 2012--if you believe what you see in the movies, that is. Recent Hollywood films like Apocalypto wove fantastic stories around this date, which marked the conclusion of the Mesoamerican Long Count calendar. But what did ancient Maya civilization believe about 2012? This course will consider the issue of cultural appropriation by contrasting the original history and meaning of Mayan artifacts against their reinterpretation in U.S. museum displays, paintings, sculpture, comic books, and movies. Over the course of the semester, we will address questions such as: What can practices of cultural appropriation tell us about the societies involved? Is the adoption of visual elements from one culture by another ethically objectionable? Why or why not? What does it mean for an object to become divorced from its original context? Do new interpretations overwrite the old, or can multiple meanings and histories coexist for a single object? And finally, how does the example of Mayan mythology in the American imagination provide insight into other instances of cultural appropriation, both historically and in the present day?

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST, SBS-AMST, SBS-AMST, SBS-AMST
Identical With: AMST311, AMST311, AMST311, AMST311, AMST311, AMST311, AMST311, AMST311, ARHA373, AMST311, AMST311, AMST311, AMST311, AMST311, AMST311, AMST311, AMST311, ARHA373
Prereq: None

LAST314 When Words Collide: Narratives of Conquest
On April 21, 1519, Hernán Cortés, 550 Spanish soldiers and sailors, and 16 horses (the first to tread on the American continent) dropped anchor near the island of San Juan de Ulúa, off the coast of Mexico. The chain of events that this arrival set into motion culminated in the conquest of Mexico and Spanish colonization of Latin America. But there are many sides to any story. Often, one is celebrated, retold, and written down—it becomes history. Intentionally or unintentionally, others are suppressed, obscured, or forgotten. In this course, we will use primary and secondary sources, including written and pictorial documents, to compare multiple sides of this particular story: Spaniards' accounts of conquests in Mexico and Guatemala and various indigenous narratives of these invasions.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: ANTH304
Prereq: None

LAST320 Media and Power in Latin America: From Quipus to Twitter
This interdisciplinary seminar explores how media technologies have shaped Latin American societies and politics from the colonial encounter to the dawn of the digital age. Investigating the local histories of indigenous forms like the Andean knotted quipu, scribal texts, newspapers, radio, photography and social media, we examine how Latin Americans made and used these technologies to assert power, claim status, and launch protests. Through brief theoretical readings and historical case studies, we explore such themes as the relationship between colonialism and the written word, the enduring legacy of alternative indigenous literacies, the importance of rumor and oral communication in societies with low literacy rates, and the role of mass media in identity formation and contemporary social movements.

Structured in part as a lab, the class will be organized around producing a physical and digital exhibition of Latin American media materials available in Wesleyan's collections, to be displayed for the broader university community and beyond. We will produce this exhibition over the course of the semester, integrating individual research projects into our broader collective project which will be conducted as a collaborative/team effort. Along the way we will experiment with hands-on activities that might include making quill pens, setting type, and operating a printing press, take field trips to examine rare media materials first hand, and learn from on-campus experts as we develop our public exhibition.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST321, HIST321, HIST321, HIST321
Prereq: None

LAST321 Race, Religion, Art, and Identity in Spain and the Americas
This seminar explores issues of race, religion, and representation in the visual culture of Spain and the Americas. During the Age of Discovery (1500-1800), artists such as El Greco, Velázquez, Zurbarán, and Goya chronicled the tensions and aspirations of golden age Iberia, while indigenous and European artists in Spain's Atlantic colonies absorbed and filtered the art of the old and new worlds to create their own rich body of images. Readings and discussions will explore the role of visual culture and religious practice in the construction of political, social, and racial identities. Topics will include indigenous religions, ecclesiastical
evangelization, and popular devotional; Mexican casta paintings and lineage portraits; viceregal costume and colonial attire; confraterities and processional culture; Morisco culture in early modern Iberia, and the influence of medieval Iberian multiculturalism on new-world architecture and urbanism.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART, HA-ART, HA-ART, HA-ART

LAST322 Exploration, Conquest, and Insurrection: The History of the Amazon 1542 to Present

Dark, wild, primitive, Edenic and infinitely wealthy: the Amazon has been many things in many times and places. From the disgruntled Spanish conquistadors who first traversed the jungle’s rivers in search of cinnamon, to the 19th-century scientific expeditions of enlightened explorers, to contemporary environmentalists, the Amazon remains a mysterious object of inquiry. It still incites the imagination of travelers, filmmakers, and politicians alike. This seminar investigates the multiple ways in which the Amazon and its peoples have been portrayed in chronicles, scientific writings, and film. We will confront the historical circumstances, motives and ideologies that prompted each of these depictions and ideas, and, in turn, they shaped the colonization of the region. We will pay close attention to genre, and to themes such as cross-cultural encounter, imperialism, and the representation of indigenous societies. We begin in 1542 with the chronicle of Francisco de Orellana. As the first Spaniard to navigate the entire length of the Amazon River, Orellana influenced how Europeans imagined the jungle well into the 19th century. Subsequently, we apply readings in history of science and anthropological theory to Claude Lévi-Strauss account of Amazonian tribes in Tristes Tropiques (1955). Students will then conduct independent research into a representation of their interest. Possible topics include scientific expeditions in the region, the jungle and modernization, global warming, or human rights. Finally, we will reflect on the Amazon as a metaphor for the human condition with Werner Herzog’s film Fitzcarraldo (1982).

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST322
Prereq: None

LAST327 The Pre-Columbian World: 100 Objects

From cities of gold and frightful gods to apocalyptic calendars and ritual human sacrifice, the ancient Americas are both sensational and sensationalized. This course delves deeper into the Pre-Columbian world by examining 100 objects made and left behind by indigenous Americans. We will explore cultures and histories in North, Central, and South America from the peopling of the New World over 10,000 years ago to the arrival of Europeans at the end of the fifteenth century. Organizational themes include: the domestication of plants and animals, notions of rulership and authority, modes of communication, and religious ideologies.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH, SBS-ANTH, SBS-ANTH
Identical With: ANTH227, ARCP227, ANTH227, ARCP227, ANTH227, ARCP227, ARHA227, ANTH227, ARCP227, ANTH227, ARCP227, ARHA227
Prereq: None

LAST335 Nature, Science, and Empire in Early Latin America

This seminar will introduce students to a diversity of scientific practices that flourished in the Hispanic World between 1400 and 1800. We will begin by analyzing how a debate known as the "polemic of Spanish Science," together with the Black Legend conditioned the ways in which colonial Latin American science was traditionally approached. From available studies we will then survey some of the significant contributions to botany, astronomy, medicine, and metallurgy of Mesoamerican and Andean civilizations. From there we will read an array of primary and secondary sources in order to reconstruct the varied, and often eclectic knowledge gathering and knowledge making practices that missionaries, humanists, and crown-officials devised to understand the natural world. We will pay close attention to their particular goals and methods and the manner in which they were influenced by the encounter with foreign peoples, the dynamics of conquest and colonization, the movement of books and commodities, and institutions of censorship and patronage.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST335
Prereq: None

LAST340 Performing Brazil: The Postdictatorship Generation

The course takes as its point of departure a close and critical reading of modernist Oswald de Andrade’s “Cannibalist Manifesto” (1928) and the writings of artists working during and after the dictatorship years. As the semester progresses, the course will examine postdictatorship works in film, music, literature, the fine arts, dance, and theater. Students will have access to examples in the form of texts in translation, images, and performance recordings. Discussions will focus on the relationship between Brazil’s postcolonial condition and political history, including the country’s current artistic production and sense of national identity.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA, HA-THEA, HA-THEA
Prereq: None

LAST341 Labor and Development Economics in Latin America

This course will look specifically at the literature of labor markets and related human capital accumulation in Latin America, which has emerged as an entirely separate area of research in recent years. A large part of this literature in Latin American Economic development focuses on urban labor markets, health, and education. The focus of this literature is often on various subsets of the population such as gender and different ethnic groups or rural/urban population. Economic and social policies and external shocks to the local environment will be of particular interest to understand their impact on local economic outcomes. The focus will be foremost on Latin America and cities in Latin America and drawing at time on evidence from across the world to compare the Latin America region with.

In this course, students will read recent economic research papers, drawing on journal articles and policy papers in this area, and discuss the theoretical and empirical results from research and its implication for economic policy. Students are expected to actively present and discuss them and work an individual or group projects. Basic quantitative methods will be taught throughout the course, relating to the economic research papers, and the course will also draw on the resources provided by the QAC.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
LAST343 Forgetting, Denying, and Archiving: A Hemispheric Perspective on Memory and Violence
This course will examine the ways in which violence has been represented and reproduced by various social actors. It will present students with key works on the politics of memory from North America, Central America, and South America. For the Latin American portion, the class will examine the memory of the turbulent 20th century with a special emphasis on the period after the Cold War when Latin nations were forced to confront the memory of years of military repression, disappearances, violence, and death. Students will come away with an understanding that memory is not fixed or pervasive but is, in many ways, a sociocultural construct dependent on various repertoires. Moving from South to Central America, it presents how violent events were denied, acknowledged, and transformed, while selectively archived in a culture pushing to forget but simultaneously immortalize and search for healing. For the North American portion, the class will examine memorialization in relation to Indigenous populations and their encounters and ongoing struggles with settler colonialism, while blurring the boundaries through attention to “border thinking.” By following a trajectory from the repression to the (re)production of memories, one that will in large part play out in the archives and their uses, the class will chart a number of responses to the various forms of colonization of memory.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST, SBS-AMST, SBS-AMST
Identical With: AMST343, AMST343, AMST343, AMST343, AMST343, AMST343
Prereq: None

LAST383 East Asian and Latin American Development
Since 1960, East Asian countries like South Korea and Taiwan have done better than Latin American countries like Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico in achieving economic growth, equitable income distribution, and better living standards for their populations. To explain this development difference, scholars have focused alternatively on cultural values, market friendliness, industrial policy, human resource investment, natural resource endowment, geopolitical situation, and other factors. This seminar will assess the strengths and weaknesses of these alternative explanations, explore the successes and deficiencies of development in each region, and attempt to derive lessons from the East Asian and Latin American experiences that may be relevant to development in other parts of the world.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT, SBS-GOVT, SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

LAST388 Democracy and Development in Latin America
This seminar examines democracy, economic development, and social welfare policy in Latin America. The topics to be addressed include regime classification, populism and neo-populism, the recent rise of the left, women in politics, the political economy of economic growth and human development, the export of natural resources, the recent decline of income inequality, the history of social welfare policy in the region, and recent social policy innovations including conditional cash transfer programs.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Identical With: GOVT388
Prereq: None

LAST401 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topics to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

LAST402 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

LAST403 Department/Program Project or Essay
Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

LAST404 Department/Program Project or Essay
Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

LAST407 Senior Tutorial
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

LAST408 Senior Tutorial
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

LAST409 Senior Thesis Tutorial
Topics to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

LAST410 Senior Thesis Tutorial
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

LAST411 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

LAST412 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

LAST420 Student Forum
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

LAST466 Education in the Field, Undergraduate
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

LAST491 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

LAST492 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT