Bachelor of Arts (BA) Degree with a Major in Latin American Studies

Program Learning Outcomes for the BA Degree with a Major in Latin American Studies

Upon completing the BA degree, students majoring in Latin American Studies will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to speak and read fluently, and conduct research in a foreign language.
2. Interpret the historic, cultural, and political dynamics that comprise a specific region selected by the student for in-depth study.
3. Apply critical perspectives on legacies and ongoing forces that are local and global in scope from the field of Latin American Studies.
4. Define a research problem and analyze it from several different disciplinary fields, including appropriate theory, methodology, and concepts for the topic.

Requirements for the BA Degree with a Major in Latin American Studies

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements). Students pursuing the BA degree with a major in Latin American Studies must complete:

- A minimum of 10 courses (30 credit hours) to satisfy major requirements.
- A minimum of 120 credit hours to satisfy degree requirements.
- A minimum of 60 credit hours outside of major requirements.
- A minimum of 6 courses (18 credit hours) taken at the 300-level or above.
- A maximum of 4 courses (12 credit hours) from study abroad or transfer credit. For additional departmental guidelines regarding transfer credit, see the Policies tab.
- At least 1 semester studying abroad.
- A language competency requirement.
- A capstone requirement.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this major. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the major’s academic advisor, or where applicable, the department’s Director of Undergraduate Studies. (Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the major’s Official Certifier (https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degeworks/officialcertifier).) Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

Summary

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Total Credit Hours Required for the Major in Latin American Studies</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<th>Core Requirement</th>
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<td>LASR 158 / SPPO 158 INTRODUCTION TO LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES</td>
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<td>Select 8 courses from department approved electives (see course list below)</td>
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<th>Capstone Requirement</th>
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<td>LASR 491 LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES CAPSTONE</td>
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| Total Credit Hours Required for the Major in Latin American Studies | 30 |

| Additional Credit Hours to Complete BA Degree Requirements | 30 |

| University Graduation Requirements (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements) | 60 |

| Total Credit Hours | 120 |

Footnotes and Additional Information

* Includes coursework completed as distribution credit, FWIS, LPAP, upper-level, residency (hours taken at Rice), 60 hours outside of the major (if applicable), and any additional academic program requirements. The "hours outside of the major" requirement may include all of the above university requirements.

1 This course both introduces and structures the major. This course is taught in English, with discussion sections available in Spanish or Portuguese pending student interest.

2 At least 2 courses (6 credit hours) must be in the humanities and at least 2 courses (6 credit hours) must be in the social sciences.

3 Students must spend at least one semester studying at a Rice-approved, semester-abroad program in which the primary language of instruction is Spanish, Portuguese, or under special circumstances French. Courses taken abroad may count toward completing the Latin American Studies major and toward meeting the distribution requirements. Study abroad courses cannot count for more than 4 courses (12 credit hours) toward the major. While the semester abroad is ideal, under very special circumstances, the advisor to the major can approve a 12-week summer program as the equivalent of a semester, provided the program allows students to complete at least 3 courses (9 credit hours).
Students must demonstrate language competence at three different stages:

- Prior to study abroad - students will be examined by Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication (CLIC) faculty trained in proficiency testing to ensure that the students have adequate language competence for studying abroad—adequate at this stage meaning at least Intermediate-High according to proficiency standards set by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).
- After study abroad - students will be tested for proficiency at the Advanced-Low level, according to ACTFL Guidelines. Proficiency at the Advanced-Low level is desirable, but not required.
- Writing the capstone research paper - students must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the colloquium director their ability to do research in a foreign language.

The capstone is completed following the semester abroad. Students will enroll in LASR 491, which is taught by a faculty member from either Humanities or Social Sciences. As directed by this faculty member, students will write a research paper on a Latin American topic of their choice. During the course, students will be exposed to different research methodologies, theories appropriate to their field of study, and instruction on how best to incorporate research and sources that emerged from their study abroad. Interdisciplinary modes of research and writing will be a major feature of LASR 491. Students will be expected to highlight the interdisciplinary nature of their research in their completed paper. In addition, students enrolled in the capstone course will be expected to workshop their writing at different times during the semester. The completed research paper will be evaluated by the faculty member teaching LASR 491 and one other instructor appropriate to the topic. With the approval of the faculty member teaching LASR 491, this research paper may be written in English.

### Course List to Satisfy Requirements

#### Elective Requirements

Students must complete a total of 8 courses (24 credit hours) from the following department approved electives, which will focus on a specific region, area, or country in Latin America. This area focus will shape each student’s proposed course of study. Each course of study and an area focus must be approved by the advisor to the major. At least 2 courses (6 credit hours) must be in the humanities and at least 2 courses (6 credit hours) must be in the social sciences.

#### Department Approved Electives

Select 8 courses from the following:

- **ANTH 290** History and Ethnography
- **ANTH 361** Latin American Topics
- **ANTH 392** Kings, Queens, and Commoners: The Archaeology of Ancient Mesoamerica
- **ARCH 315 / HART 310** Brazil Built: The Clinic, the Tropical, and the Aesthetic
- **ARCH 323** Seminar in Architecture
- **ARCH 452 / HART 463** Practicing Utopia: Architecture, Eugenics and the Modern Latin City
- **ENGL 268** Introduction to Native American Literature
- **ENGL 369 / SWGS 329** The American West and Its Others
- **ENGL 371 / SPO 354 / SWGS 354** Chicano/a Literature
- **FREN 478 / ARCR 478** The Caribbean in French
- **HART 265** A Visual Culture Travelogue: Art and Politics in Modern Latin America
- **HART 302** From the Sublime to the Sustainable: Art, Architecture and Nature
- **HART 375 / ARCH 375** Latin-Europe/Latin-America: The Aesthetics and Politics of Modern Cities
- **HART 465** Latin American Bodies: On Modernism
- **HIST 188** The Atlantic World: Origins to the Age of Revolution
- **HIST 215** Blacks in the Americas
- **HIST 220** Mexico: 1910 to Present
- **HIST 226** Colonial Spanish America
- **HIST 227** Latin American Cultural Traditions
- **HIST 228** Modern Latin America
- **HIST 239** Native American History: From European Contact to the Era of Removal
- **HIST 328** Poverty and Social Justice in Latin America
- **HIST 330** Atlantic Slave Trade and the Origins of Afro America
- **HIST 337** Latin American Perspectives
- **HIST 366 / ARCH 366** Rio de Janeiro: A Social and Architectural History
- **HIST 420** Mexican History
- **HIST 421** Race, Education and Society in the Urban South
- **HIST 478** Topics in Latin American History
- **LASR 251 / HIST 251** Continuities and Changes in Brazilian History
- **LING 419** Multilingualism
- **POLI 328** Latino Politics in the United States
- **POLI 330** Minority Politics
- **POLI 352** The Politics and Culture of Mexico
- **POLI 354** Latin American Politics
- **POLI 450** Elections in the Americas
- **POLI 459** Sex, Gender, and Political Representation in Latin America
- **SOCI 301** Social Inequality
- **SOCI 309** Race and Ethnic Relations
- **SPO 344** Mapping Latin American Culture
- **SPO 345** Art in Latin American Literature
- **SPO 351** Literatures from the Southern Cone
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### Policies for the BA Degree with a Major in Latin American Studies

#### Transfer Credit

For Rice University’s policy regarding transfer credit, see Transfer Credit (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/transfer-credit). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. The Office of Academic Advising maintains the university's official list of transfer credit advisors on their website: https://oaa.rice.edu. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program's transfer credit advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

#### Departmental Transfer Credit Guidelines

Students pursuing the major in Latin American Studies should be aware of the following departmental transfer credit guidelines:

- No more than 4 courses (12 credit hours) of transfer credit from U.S. or international universities of similar standing as Rice may apply towards the major.
- Requests for transfer credit will be considered by the program director (and/or the program's official transfer credit advisor) on an individual case-by-case basis.

#### Distribution Credit Information

DI courses in Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies deal in questions of broad humanistic interest, including topics in history, literature, linguistics, culture, and art and film. They utilize methodologies characteristic of the Humanities, prompting students to probe a variety of components in the literary, cultural, and social life of Spanish and Portuguese-speaking communities.

A first-year student with no prior humanities training at the university level can succeed in our DI courses, provided he/she has the requisite language skills.

We currently offer courses at the 300- and 400-level. Some of these qualify for DI credit. Only current faculty may initiate requests for DI status. It is the student's responsibility to ensure the courses they take fulfill their distribution requirements.

We believe that our DI courses perform the kind of institutional intervention advocated by the American Academy of Arts and Science in their publication of February 2017, “America’s Languages: Investing in Language Education for the 21st Century.” This document recommends that higher education pursue multiple strategies to ameliorate the stultifying effects of monolingualism in the U.S. In an area of increasing globalization, multilingualism has a wide benefit from business and the arts to national security.

DII designations are managed by the faculty of the School of Social Sciences.

#### Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies website: https://spanishandportuguese.rice.edu/.

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**Opportunities for the BA Degree with a Major in Latin American Studies**

#### Academic Honors

The university recognizes academic excellence achieved over an undergraduate's academic history at Rice. For information on university honors, please see Latin Honors (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university) (summa cum laude, magna cum laude, and cum laude) and Distinction in Research and Creative Work (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university). Some departments have department-specific Honors awards or designations.

#### Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies website: https://spanishandportuguese.rice.edu/.

See https://humanities.rice.edu/student-life for tables of fellowships, prizes, and internships/practica that may be relevant to this major.