Latin American Studies is an interdisciplinary major offered by the Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures (MCLC) Department, designed to further understanding of the cultures, histories, and politics of Latin America as viewed from regional and global perspectives.

This major draws from courses and faculty from a wide range of departments and programs, including Anthropology, Architecture, Art History, English, French Studies, History, Spanish and Portuguese, Political Science, and Sociology. This major provides a challenging context for students to develop core skills in interdisciplinarity, language, communication (written and oral), theory, research methodologies, and geography.

Bachelor's Program

- Bachelor of Arts (BA) Degree with a Major in Latin American Studies (https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/humanities/latin-american-studies/latin-american-studies-ba/)

Latin American Studies does not currently offer an academic program at the graduate level.

Chair

Christian J. Emden

Program Advisor

José F. Aranda, Jr.

Professors

Krista Comer
Luis Duno-Gottberg
Farès El-Dahdah
Beatriz González-Stephan
Rosemary Hennessey
Carlos Jiménez
Mark P. Jones
Alida C. Metcalf
M. Rafael Salaberry
Leslie A. Schwindt-Bayer

Associate Professors

José F. Aranda, Jr.
Alexander X. Byrd
Gisela Heffes
A. Cymene Howe
Moramay López-Alonso

Fabiola López-Durán

Assistant Professor

Sophie Esch

For Rice University degree-granting programs:

To view the list of official course offerings, please see Rice's Course Catalog (https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/ISWKSCAT.cat?p_action=cata)

To view the most recent semester’s course schedule, please see Rice’s Course Schedule (https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/ISWKSCAT.cat)

Latin American Studies (LASR)

LASR 158 - INTRODUCTION TO LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
Short Title: INTRO LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
Department: Modrn & Classicl Lit & Culture
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course immerses students into Caribbean and Latin American studies by introducing them to the history, society, politics, and culture of the region, through a cross-disciplinary and a multi-national approach. Taught in English. Open to all students. Cross-list: SPPO 158.

LASR 238 - SPECIAL TOPICS
Short Title: SPECIAL TOPICS
Department: Modrn & Classicl Lit & Culture
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar, Lecture, Laboratory, Internship/Practicum
Credit Hours: 1-4
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Topics and credit hours vary each semester. Contact department for current semester's topic(s). Repeatable for Credit.

LASR 251 - CONTINUITIES AND CHANGES IN BRAZILIAN HISTORY
Short Title: BRAZIL: CONTINUITY & CHANGE
Department: Modrn & Classicl Lit & Culture
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: An exploration of themes essential to understanding modern Brazil, such as the origins of a multi-racial society, the transition from monoculture to industry, authoritarian and democratic trends, the emergence of a uniquely Brazilian culture, and the conflicts - environmental, political, and economic - over the development of the Amazon. Cross-list: HIST 251.
LASR 350 - PIRATES, REBELS, NARCOS: LATIN AMERICAN OUTLAWS IN THE POLITICAL-CULTURAL IMAGINATION
Short Title: PIRATES, REBELS, NARCOS
Department: Modrn & Classicl Lit & Culture
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: The outlaw is a central figure in the political-cultural imagination on Latin America. Through a study of popular culture and literature, this course provides a critical exploration of this figure: from pirates and runaway slaves in colonial times, to nineteenth century bandits, and more recently guerillas and narcos. Taught in English. Recommended Prerequisite(s): LASR 158

LASR 373 - WOMEN'S SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Short Title: WOMEN'S SOCIAL MOVEMENTS
Department: Modrn & Classicl Lit & Culture
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: The course will examine the historical development of women's social movements in Latin America and the Caribbean. We will explore how they are transforming the region through their diverse forms of political engagement. This is a lecture/seminar course that emphasizes writing and discussion. Cross-list: SWGS 373.

LASR 374 - FEMINIST AND QUEER THEORY IN THE AFRICAN DIASPORA
Short Title: FEM THEORY IN AFRICAN DIASPORA
Department: Modrn & Classicl Lit & Culture
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course provides an interdisciplinary overview of the body of Black feminist and queer theory that has emerged within the last forty years. We will examine these frameworks in order to understand how racial difference shapes gender and sexual identities. This is a seminar that emphasizes research and discussion. Cross-list: SWGS 374.

LASR 375 - LATINA AND AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN'S ACTIVISM IN THE URBAN METROPOLIS
Short Title: WOMEN'S ACTIVISM URBAN METRO
Department: Modrn & Classicl Lit & Culture
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course will investigate the contemporary writings of Latina and African American women in urban spaces across the U.S. Understanding these women's experiences in relationship to each other will reveal the shared, yet distinct, trajectories that orient their struggle to resist poverty, racism, homophobia, and sexual and reproductive violence. Cross-list: SWGS 375.

LASR 376 - CHICANA AND LATINA EXPERIENCE THRU FILM
Short Title: CHICANA/LATINA EXP THRU FILM
Department: Modrn & Classicl Lit & Culture
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This seminar explores the Chicana and Latina experience in the U.S. We examine these women's response to each other and forces of conquest, capitalism, and patriarchy. Novels, oral life histories, film, and art will be used to interrogate these women's conceptualization and assertion of feminism, activism, and history. Cross-list: SWGS 376.

LASR 378 - LATIN AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT: IDENTITY, LIBERATION, MODERNITY
Short Title: LATIN AM. POLITICAL THOUGHT
Department: Modrn & Classicl Lit & Culture
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course gives students an overview of the main thinkers, currents, concepts, and topics in Latin American and Latinx political thought. It is organized around three modules that address central topics: identity & transculturation; liberation; and modernity. Taught in English. Counts toward the minor in PLST.
LASR 390 - RECLAIMING THE FUTURE: CONTEMPORARY TECHNOLOGY, CULTURE & SOCIETY IN LATIN AMERICA
Short Title: TECH CULTURE & SOC IN LATIN AM
Department: Modrn & Classicl Lit & Culture
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: What is the role of technology in helping Latin America articulate a post-neoliberal future? This course examines the past, present, and future of the relation between technology and society in Latin America, focusing on contemporary efforts in popular culture and media to syncretize old and new forms of knowledge and techno-social production. Taught in English.

LASR 477 - SPECIAL TOPICS
Short Title: SPECIAL TOPICS
Department: Modrn & Classicl Lit & Culture
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Internship/Practicum, Seminar, Lecture, Laboratory
Credit Hours: 1-4
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Topics and credit hours may vary each semester. Contact department for current semester’s topic(s). Repeatable for Credit.

LASR 490 - INDEPENDENT STUDY IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
Short Title: INDEPENDENT STUDIES
Department: Modrn & Classicl Lit & Culture
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Independent Study
Credit Hours: 1-3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: A variable-credit course designed for students who want to pursue intensive semester-long study of a particular topic not included in the curriculum. Language may be in English or Spanish. Instructor permission required. Repeatable for credit. Instructor Permission Required. Repeatable for Credit.

LASR 491 - LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES CAPSTONE
Short Title: LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES CAPSTN
Department: Modrn & Classicl Lit & Culture
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Students will write original seminar paper on Latin America incorporating reading and research in English and in the Spanish or Portuguese language sources; to be drawn from their research conducted during a study abroad semester in Latin America.

LASR 492 - DIRECTED RESEARCH
Short Title: DIRECTED RESEARCH
Department: Modrn & Classicl Lit & Culture
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Research
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Independent research and investigation on any aspect of Latin America, Latin American studies, or U. S. Latinx studies. This course includes directed research and/or a research project. Student will work independently with only minimal faculty supervision. Permission of the instructor is required. Instructor Permission Required. Repeatable for Credit.

Description and Code Legend
Note: Internally, the university uses the following descriptions, codes, and abbreviations for this academic program. The following is a quick reference:

Course Catalog/Schedule
- Course offerings/subject code for Latin American Studies: LASR

Department Description and Code
- Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures: MCLC

Undergraduate Degree Description and Code
- Bachelor of Arts degree: BA

Undergraduate Major Description and Code
- Major in Latin American Studies: LASR

CIP Code and Description ¹
- LASR Major/Program: CIP Code/Title: 05.0107 - Latin American Studies

¹ Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) 2020 Codes and Descriptions from the National Center for Education Statistics: https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/