
Latin American and Caribbean Area Studies

AFFILIATED FACULTY

The following Binghamton faculty have expertise in Latin American and/or Caribbean area studies. Most teach LACAS-related courses on a regular basis.

Anthropology

Carmen Ferradás
Michael M. Horowitz
William H. Isbell
Randall H. McGuire
H. Stephen Straight

Art and Art History

Oscar Vázquez

Comparative Literature

Brett Levinson
Cynthia Young

English

Michael Hames-García

History

Nancy Appelbaum
Adalberto López
Tiffany Patterson

LACAS

María Lugones, director

Library

Rachelle Moore

Management

George H. Westacott

Music

David Brackett

School of Education and Human Development

Gladys Jiménez-Muñoz

Sociology

Juanita Díaz-Cotto
Ramon Grosfoguel
James F. Petras
Kelvin Santiago-Valles
Dale W. Tomich

Romance Languages and Literatures

Carrol Coates
Carlos Riobó
Horacio Xaubet

Other contributing departments:

Africana Studies
Geography

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

The Latin American and Caribbean Area Studies (LACAS) program offers an interdisciplinary approach to the study of Latin America, the Caribbean and Latinos in the U.S. By combining interdisciplinary coursework with fieldwork in Latin America, the Caribbean or among Latinos in the U.S., students are prepared for careers of teaching and research in the Latin American, Caribbean or U.S. Latino fields, and careers in international, social service, educational or political organizations engaged in promoting the economic, social and cultural life of the peoples of Latin America, the Caribbean and U.S. Latinos.

Information on study abroad opportunities can be obtained by contacting the International Programs office. Students who plan to major in LACAS are advised to discuss the field project early in their majors with the director of the LACAS program.

LACAS Major

The undergraduate major in Latin American and Caribbean area studies is a well-established program that began in 1973.

To qualify for the major, students must:

1. Complete a minimum of 10 courses selected from among offerings approved by the committee on LACAS. The following stipulations apply:
 - a. Four courses are to focus on either Latin America, the Caribbean or Latinos in the U.S.
 - b. At least one course must be taken in each of three separate departments.
 - c. One course must be in library research.
 - d. One course must be a literature course in one of the original languages approved by the committee on LACAS.
 - e. Three of the courses must be advanced courses. One course must be a 400-level course.
 - f. No more than half of the courses may be taken outside Binghamton.
2. Show a proficiency in a language relevant to the area of specialization. Proficiency will include written as well as oral proficiency, taking into account the differences in fluency between those formally and those informally educated in the languages. Those informally educated will be expected to have an intermediate level of reading comprehension. Those formally educated will be expected to have an intermediate level of verbal fluency. Students will be formally evaluated by two members of the LACAS committee.
3. Complete the field study requirement. Each student will, in consultation with a LACAS

faculty member, design a field project during the semester prior to going to the field. The project will be carried out in either Latin America or the Caribbean or in Latin/Chicano/Caribbean communities in the U.S., depending on the student's area of specialization. The student will sign up for LA&C 496, Independent Field Research, during the time in the field and for LA&C 498, LACAS Senior Thesis, during the semester after the field. At that time the student will write up the results of the fieldwork as a senior thesis.

Honors Program

To earn honors in the Latin American and Caribbean Area Studies program, a student majoring in LACAS must earn a grade-point average of 3.5 or above in major courses and a 3.3 or above overall, and must complete an honors independent study course that results in a research paper that is judged to be of honors quality (grade of A) or earn honors in the Senior Thesis. The work will be evaluated by a committee designated by the LACAS committee. Contact the director of LACAS for more information.

Cross-Disciplinary LACAS Certificate

The undergraduate cross-disciplinary certificate in LACAS is designed for undergraduates unable to fulfill the requirements for the major but who wish to graduate with formal recognition for coursework in the field. Students who complete the requirements for the cross-disciplinary certificate in LACAS receive recognition of completion upon graduation.

To qualify for this certificate, a student must:

1. Meet the same language requirement as for the major (see above).
2. Complete a minimum of six courses selected from among offerings approved by the committee on LACAS. The following stipulations apply:
 - a. Three courses in either Latin America, the Caribbean or Latinos in the U.S.
 - b. At least one course must be a 300-level course and at least one course must be a 400-level course.
 - c. No more than half the courses may be taken outside Binghamton.

Any student interested in pursuing a LACAS certificate should meet with a member of the LACAS committee or the director to discuss the requirements, and then meet with the director to formulate a plan of study.

SOME CLARIFICATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Students interested in the major or the cross-disciplinary certificate should keep the following in mind:

1. The main difference between the major and the cross-disciplinary certificate is that the major requires a minimum of 10 courses and the cross-disciplinary certificate a minimum of six, and that the major includes the design and execution of a field project.

2. Depending on the nature of the courses, some courses taken in Latin American and/or Caribbean universities may be used to fulfill part of the requirements for the major and/or the cross-disciplinary certificate.

3. It is strongly recommended (but not required) that students interested in the LACAS major combine that major with a major in a regular department. This ensures the recognition of a traditional discipline by employers and graduate schools, as well as providing students with further background in a related field.

4. In accordance with normal Harpur College policy, students may use the same course(s) to fulfill part of the course requirements for both their regular major and the major or cross-disciplinary certificate in LACAS. At least four of the courses in the student's minor must be in addition to those counted toward the student's major.

COURSE OFFERINGS/ UNDERGRADUATE

NOTE: Unless otherwise noted, all undergraduate courses carry 4 credits and are offered every year.

LA&C 105. INTRO TO LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

fall

Explores the history, culture and current issues of Latin America and the Caribbean.

LA&C 106. LATINOS IN THE UNITED STATES *spring*

Explores the history, cultures and current condition of Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Cubans and others in the United States.

LA&C 226 (also ANTH 226). WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA

Examines women's changing roles in various social formations, using case studies from pre-Columbian, colonial, postrevolutionary and contemporary Latin America to examine how the variables of class, gender, race and ethnicity affect women's status.

LA&C 240 (also SOC 240). WOMEN OF COLOR IN THE U.S.

Examination of the diverse struggles (political, economic, social, legal, etc.) of Asian, Native American, African American and Latina/Chicana women in the U.S. and the ways in which public institutions and agencies (federal, state, local) deal with women of color.

LA&C 244 (also SPAN 244). INTRODUCTION TO HISPANIC LITERATURE: LITERARY ANALYSIS

Analysis of representative works of Peninsular and Latin American literature (poems, plays, essays, narratives); emphasis on study of basic literary concepts and terminology. Recommended for students planning to take SPAN 360 and/or 370/372. Prerequisite: SPAN 215, or four or more years of high school Spanish.

LA&C 252 (also SOC 252). SOCIAL CHANGE IN PUERTO RICO

Development of capitalism in Puerto Rico since 1898. Interrelationship of economic, political, and class structures. Process of industrialization, changes in form of local state after 1945.

LA&C 255 (also ANTH 255). INDIANS OF SOUTH AMERICA

Economic and social structure of Inca empire. Evolution of Andean deities. Hydrology of the Amazon Basin. War, blow guns, and hallucinogens among jungle tribes. Male-female interactions among the savanna tribes: men's houses and female associations.

LA&C 271. LIBRARY RESEARCH ON LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Resources and information skills primarily associated with electronic forms of information for research and study of Latin America, the Caribbean and Latinos. The Internet is introduced through demonstrations and hands on exercises. Assignments focus on historical and contemporary issues.

LA&C 2 313 (also SOC 2 313). SLAVERY, RACE, CULTURE

Sociological analysis of slavery as process of social and cultural change and of redefinition of social groups within the world economy. Draws on materials from United States, the Caribbean and Brazil. Different experiences of slavery, impact on populations of African origin, response of these populations to slavery. Methodological and theoretical problems entailed in analyzing slavery.

LA&C 321. (also SOC 321) RACE AND CULTURAL RELATIONS IN THE WORLD COMMUNITY

Historic identity as important factor in social development in multiethnic and multiracial world community. Selected communities from Africa, Asia and Europe.

LA&C 330 (also SOC 330). LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

Examination of the political, social and economic role of women in their communities in Latin America and the Caribbean. Emphasis placed on post-World War II developments.

LA&C 340 (also SOC 340). WOMEN AND THE U.S. CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Focuses on the interrelationship among gender, race/ethnicity, class and sexual orientation, and on how these influence the crimes for which women are arrested and institutionalized. Examines the punishment women receive and the conditions they face once imprisoned.

LA&C 363 (also ANTH 363). ANTHROPOLOGY OF

DEVELOPING NATIONS

Social, political and economic change in the Third World. Articulation of rural production systems with world market. Analysis of rural and urban development, famine, population, poverty, inequality and powerlessness. Economic and environmental impacts of United Nations, World Bank and other development organizations.

LA&C 370 (also SPAN 370). SURVEY OF LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE

Selected readings reflecting historical developments of Latin American literature from colonial to contemporary period. Prerequisite: SPAN 244, 250 or 251, or equivalent.

LA&C 371 (also SOC 371). THEORIES OF SOCIAL CHANGE

How social theorists analyze large-scale social change, conceptions of origins, structure, development of modern social systems, classes and social groups, the state and bureaucracy, problems of rationalization and technology, problems of theory and method.

LA&C 372 (also SPAN 372). SURVEY OF LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE

Selected readings reflecting historical developments of Latin American literature from colonial to contemporary period. Prerequisite: one from SPAN 244, 250 or 251, or equivalent.

LA&C 474 (also SPAN 474). LATIN AMERICAN SHORT STORY

Principal development from Independence to present. Prerequisite: SPAN 244 and 370 or equivalent.

LA&C 483 (also SPAN 483). SPECIAL TOPICS IN LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE

Significant period, literary movement, or group of authors. Specific subject to be announced. Prerequisites: SPAN 244 and 370, or equivalent. May be repeated for credit.

LA&C 491. COLLEGE PRACTICUM

Independent study by assisting in a particular LACAS course. Course instructor directs students in preparation of course materials, as well as lecturing and/or leading discussions. May be repeated for total of no more than eight credits. Credit may not be used in conjunction with course in which student is currently enrolled. Does not satisfy major or all-college requirements.

LA&C 496. INDEPENDENT FIELD RESEARCH

Off-campus independent field research. A faculty member must approve in advance the proposed project. The student will write a proposal in communication with an on-site organization and a LACAS faculty member. The work will be written up as a senior thesis during the term after return from the field, as a separate four-credit course (LA&C 498).

LA&C 498. SENIOR THESIS

The senior thesis, under the guidance of a member of the LACAS faculty, is the conclusion of the field research. The student writes up and provides the analytical framework for interpretation of the data gathered in the field. Papers written for the course may be submitted for consideration for honors on advice of the instructor.

LA&C 523. FOLK/POPULAR EDUCATION

Different theories and practices of folk education. Will compare and connect Antonio Gramsci's and Paulo Freire's work, and look at the relation between folk education and radical social change. Focus will be on the folk education movement in Latin America and the communities of color in the U.S.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

The certificate program in Latin American and Caribbean Area Studies offers an opportunity for graduate students to receive special recognition for work in Latin American and Caribbean Area Studies. The requirements of the program are above and beyond those of a specific department, although work in the program may usually be used to satisfy a number of departmental requirements. In general, it is expected that candidates for the certificate need not complete more than two or three courses beyond the number required by their department for the advanced degree.

Those who receive the certificate in effect have two credentials: the MA or PhD in an established discipline and a certificate in Latin American and Caribbean area studies. Admission to the program requires previous admission to a department of study and approval by the committee on Latin American and Caribbean Area Studies.

Certificate Requirements

To qualify for a graduate certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Area Studies, students must:

1. Take a minimum of four graduate courses directly relevant to Latin America and the Caribbean area in at least two departments.
2. Show evidence of proficiency in a language relevant to the Latin American and Caribbean area other than English (Spanish, Portuguese, French or another language where primary interests indicate a need). In practice, this level of proficiency includes a basic competence in reading, speaking and understanding the spoken language.

Students who wish more information should contact the director of the Latin American and Caribbean Area Studies program.