

# LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES, BALAS

## *for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts & Sciences Major in Latin American Studies*

A major in Latin American Studies, which is administered by the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, provides an integrated exploration of a major world area. Depending upon the student's interests and career aspirations, individual programs of study are designed in close consultation with the Associate Director of the Center, who also serves as the academic adviser. Consultation revolves around the career goals of the student. The undergraduate program reflects an integrative, cross-disciplinary approach, and courses must be taken from these categories:

1. LAST 170 (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/search/?P=LAST%20170>)- Introduction to Latin American Studies;
2. Approved courses with content focused on Latin America;
3. Approved courses with content focused on Latin America in a global context;
4. LAST 490 (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/search/?P=LAST%20490>) - Independent Study, or approved Study Abroad course, or approved service-learning course.

Courses for the major must be selected in consultation with the Associate Director of the Center.

Students are also expected to demonstrate a substantial command of a Latin American language (Spanish, Portuguese, Quechua or other Native American language indigenous to MesoAmerica or South America), either by passing a proficiency examination or through advanced courses of Latin American language(s) beyond the general Liberal Arts and Sciences language requirement.

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Each student's course of study is devised in consultation with the Associate Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and is subject to the Associate Director's approval.

A Major Plan of Study Form must be completed and submitted to the LAS Student Affairs Office before the end of the fifth semester (60-75 hours). Please see your adviser.

**Departmental distinction:** To be eligible, a student must achieve at least a 3.5 grade point average in the major, complete a senior thesis, and receive the approval of the center's research committee.

**General education: Students must complete the Campus General Education** (<https://courses.illinois.edu/gened/DEFAULT/DEFAULT/>) **requirements including the campus general education language requirement.**

**Minimum required major and supporting course work: Normally equates to 33 hours. Twelve hours of 300- and 400-level in the major must be taken on this campus.**

**Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours.**

| Code   | Title  | Hours     |
|--|--|-----------|
| LAST 170   | Que Pasa in Latin America? Cultures, Histories and Politics South of the Rio Grande <sup>1</sup>           | 3         |
| Approved courses with primary focus on Latin America.  |  | 12        |
| Approved courses with primary focus on Latin America in a global context.  |  | 12        |
| LAST 490   | Individual Study (or an approved study abroad course or an approved service-learning course.) <sup>2</sup> | 3         |
| Advanced language course in a Latin American language (Spanish, Portuguese, Quechua, or other Native American language indigenous to Mexico, Central, or South America) beyond the level specified by the LAS language requirement, or the equivalent as demonstrated by special examination. At the end of their language study, all students are urged to take an oral proficiency test based on ACTFL guidelines. |  | 3         |
| <b>Total Hours</b>   |  | <b>33</b> |

<sup>1</sup> Normally taken in the freshman or sophomore year.

<sup>2</sup> Normally taken in the senior year.

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1. **Strong Declarative Knowledge Base** on Latin American Culture and its position in the broader global world
  - Students should understand the diversity and complexity of Latin American cultures and languages and their historical, cultural, political, and economic development.
  - Students should develop appropriate expertise on a sub-region or culture of Latin America and/or a thematic topic related to Latin America
  - Students should also be able to place their knowledge of Latin American in a broader global context.
2. **Critical Thinking**
  - Students should be able to critically and reasonably evaluate and formulate claims about social, cultural, political, historic, and economic issues related to Latin America in both academic and popular media.
  - Students should be able to critically and reasonably evaluate and apply their knowledge to real world problems.
3. **Effective Written Communication**
  - Students should be able to identify research problems, approach these problems with appropriate methodologies and effectively communicate the results. They should be able to apply their knowledge to real world situations.
  - Students should be able to effectively communicate their knowledge of Latin American culture and language to a broad non-specialist audience.
4. **Advanced Proficiency in Spanish or Portuguese OR Intermediate – High proficiency in an Indigenous Latin American Language** - This will be assessed through completion of appropriate level course work and through OPI or equivalent testing.

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**center website:** Latin American Studies (<https://clacs.illinois.edu/academics/clacs-undergraduate-programs/>)

**center faculty:** Latin American Studies Faculty (<https://clacs.illinois.edu/directory/faculty/>)

**overview of college admissions & requirements:** Liberal Arts & Sciences (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/schools/las/academic-units/>)

**college website:** <https://las.illinois.edu/>

**email:** szremski (szremski@illinois.edu)@illinois.edu (clacs@illinois.edu)