

Morris Campus

Latin American Area Studies B.A.

M Acad Dean's Admin

Academic Affairs

- Program Type: Baccalaureate
- Requirements for this program are current for Fall 2021
- Required credits to graduate with this degree: 120
- Required credits within the major: 35 to 38
- Degree: Bachelor of Arts

Latin American Area Studies (LAAS) is an interdisciplinary program at Morris. Latin American countries have been our allies, our enemies, our trading partners, and our friends. Our history is entangled with the history of the region south of the US border. We influence their culture, and they influence ours. In LAAS, we study Latin American history and culture using a wide variety of perspectives and methods. When you study in the LAAS discipline you will acquire a basic introduction to Latin American cultures and societies; the means essential to gain an understanding of Latin America and its diverse peoples; and an understanding of Latin America in a comparative perspective.

Objectives:

To provide a basic introduction to the cultures and societies of Latin America, to provide the means essential to gain an understanding of Latin America and its diverse peoples, and to place Latin America in a comparative perspective.

To meet these objectives, three of our core courses engage students in learning about the histories, contemporary events, and research resources on Latin America. In addition, all of our electives courses introduce students to a diversity of significant topics on Latin America, ranging from language proficiency, literature courses on Latin American cultures, issues of social justice, race, gender, migration, development, politics, economics, revolutions, and more. Our Senior Capstone course immerses students in gaining a deeper understanding of selected topics on Latin America. Together, our courses engender greater comprehension of Latin America, language comprehension and communication skills, important analytical skills, greater inter-cultural sensitivity and empathy, and ability to conduct research and compose well-written research papers.

Program Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to think critically and communicate effectively, through informed understandings of Latin America, on issues of historical, social, economic, and political processes affecting the region.
2. Students will be able to locate relevant research resources and apply them in conducting research on Latin America.
3. Students will be able to competently compare and contrast the different countries and regions of Latin America from the perspective of its diverse human populations and societies.
4. Students will be able to apply an interdisciplinary perspective to gain a deeper understanding of Latin America.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Admission Requirements

For information about University of Minnesota admission requirements, visit the [Office of Admissions website](#).

General Requirements

All students are required to complete general University and college requirements. For more information, see the [general education requirements](#).

Program Requirements

Students are required to take 4 semester(s) of Spanish.

Students must enroll through the LAAS coordinator.

Students are required to complete Span 1001, 1002 (or 1003), 2001, and 2002 prior to or during enrollment in the major (the requirement may be waived by testing out of Span 2002).

Students are encouraged to use elective credits to acquaint themselves with as many academic fields of Latin American studies as possible.

Students may have up to a three-course overlap with any other major. Additional overlap must be approved by the LAAS coordinator.

No grades below C- are allowed. Courses may not be taken S/N, unless offered S/N only.

A minimum GPA of 2.00 is required in the major to graduate. The GPA includes all, and only, University of Minnesota coursework. Grades of "F" are included in GPA calculation until they are replaced.

Required Courses

After enrolling in the major and when in residence, 1 credit per semester in LAAS 3100; up to 4 credits can be applied to the 24-credit elective requirement for the major. With approval of the LAAS coordinator and another faculty member, a capstone experience in a different discipline that contains primarily Latin American content may be wholly or partially substituted for LAAS 4901, but requires completion of four total credits.

[HIST 1601](#) - Latin American History: A Basic Introduction [IP] (4.0 cr)

[LAAS 3100](#) - Contemporary Latin America (1.0 cr)

[LAAS 3201](#) - Bibliographical Tools and Journals in Latin American Area Studies (2.0 cr)

[LAAS 4901](#) - Senior Capstone in Latin American Area Studies (2.0 - 4.0 cr)

Elective Courses

These courses must come from at least three different academic disciplines, not including LAAS. Courses and directed studies not listed below may be approved by the LAAS coordinator, provided the subject matter is appropriate for the major.

Take 24 or more credit(s) from the following:

Foundational Level

Take at most 12 credit(s) from the following:

- [ANTH 2001](#) - How We Study People: Introduction to Methods in Cultural Anthropology [SS] (2.0 cr)
- [ARTH 2107](#) - Global Modernisms: Modern Art in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Beyond [FA] (2.0 - 4.0 cr)
- [HIST 1822](#) - Age of Atlantic Revolutions [IC] (2.0 cr)
- [HIST 2608](#) - History of Cuba: From Colony to Revolutionary State [HIST] (4.0 cr)
- [HIST 2609](#) - History of Brazil: From Sugar to Sugar Cars [HIST] (4.0 cr)
- [HIST 2616](#) - Environmental History of Latin America [ENVT] (2.0 cr)
- [HUM 3108](#) - Community Interpreting [E/CR] (3.0 cr)
- [IS 2039](#) - Understanding Cuba [IP] (2.0 cr)
- [LAAS 1993](#) - Directed Study (1.0 - 5.0 cr)
- [LAAS 2993](#) - Directed Study (1.0 - 5.0 cr)
- [SPAN 1054](#) - Associated Languages: Introduction to Nahuatl Language [IP] (4.0 cr)
- [SPAN 2121](#) - Associated Languages: Intensive Portuguese [IP] (4.0 cr)
- [SPAN 3011](#) - Conversation, Composition, and Culture [IP] (2.0 cr)
- [SPAN 3012](#) - Spanish Grammar in Practice [IP] (2.0 cr)
- [SPAN 3108](#) - Community Translation and Interpretation for Spanish Speakers (1.0 cr)
- [SPAN 3111](#) - Readings in Spanish I [HUM] (2.0 cr)
- [SPAN 3112](#) - Readings in Spanish II [HUM] (2.0 cr)

Advanced Level

Take 12 or more credit(s) from the following:

- [ANTH 3502](#) - Latinos in the Midwest [SS] (4.0 cr)
- [ANTH 3603](#) ~~(Inactive)~~ [SS] (4.0 cr)
- [ANTH 3604](#) - Gender and Sexuality in Latin America [IP] (4.0 cr)
- [HIST 3612](#) - Social Revolution in 20th-Century Latin America [HIST] (4.0 cr)
- [HIST 3613](#) - U.S.-Latin American Relations in Historical Perspective [IP] (4.0 cr)
- [HIST 3614](#) - Race and Ethnicity in Latin America [HDIV] (4.0 cr)
- [LAAS 3993](#) - Directed Study (1.0 - 5.0 cr)
- [LAAS 4993](#) - Directed Study (1.0 - 5.0 cr)
- [POL 3475](#) - International Human Rights (4.0 cr)
- [POL 3504](#) - Latin American Politics (4.0 cr)
- [SPAN 3211](#) - Literature and Culture of Latin America [HUM] (4.0 cr)
- [SPAN 3212](#) - Literature and Culture of Spain [HUM] (4.0 cr)
- [SPAN 3651](#) - Seminar: Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra's "El ingenioso hidalgo Don Quijote de la Mancha" [HUM] (4.0 cr)
- [SPAN 3654](#) - Seminar: Sex, Love, and Marriage in Golden Age Spanish Literature [HUM] (4.0 cr)
- [SPAN 3681](#) - Seminar: Romanticism and Revolution in 19th-Century Spain [HUM] (4.0 cr)
- [SPAN 3682](#) - Seminar: Realism and Reform in 19th-Century Spain [HUM] (4.0 cr)
- [SPAN 3683](#) - Seminar: Modernity and Identity in Spain, 1900-1930 [HUM] (4.0 cr)
- [SPAN 3684](#) - Seminar: Hispanic Film [HUM] (4.0 cr)
- [SPAN 3685](#) - Seminar: Slavery and Abolition in Cuban Literature and Culture [IP] (4.0 cr)
- [SPAN 3686](#) - Seminar: Writing History in Spanish American Literature [HUM] (4.0 cr)



- [SPAN 3687](#) - Seminar: Afro-Hispanic Literature and Culture [HDIV] (4.0 cr)
- [SPAN 3690](#) - Seminar: Mexican Cultural Production [HUM] (4.0 cr)
- [SPAN 3691](#) - Seminar: Native Cultural Production of the Americas [HDIV] (4.0 cr)
- [SPAN 3692](#) - Seminar: Nahua Media and Culture [IP] (4.0 cr)
- [SPAN 4001](#) - Research Symposium [HUM] (4.0 cr)