Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Professors Linda M. Clemente, Martin F. Farrell, Soren Hauge, Brian H. Smith; Associate Professors Brian Bockelman (on leave), Geoff Guevara-Geer (Co-Coordinator), Assistant Professor Travis E. Nygard (Co-Coordinator)

The Latin American and Caribbean Studies program is designed to provide students with a broad, interdisciplinary knowledge of the region’s history, culture, and contemporary affairs. This multifaceted focus emphasizes the diversity of peoples and complexity of issues, both past and present, that have given shape to the American experience beyond the borders of Canada and the United States. The Latin American and Caribbean Studies program also trains students to develop their independent and critical thinking skills as they tie together multiple intellectual trends and engage in hands-on research in the region.

For majors and minors, this interdisciplinary program allows for a variety of research, professional, or academic specializations after graduation. The major in particular prepares students for careers in the non-profit sector, with government agencies, or with private businesses that have interests in the region, as well as for continued study at the graduate level. The minor allows students with a major in another discipline to broaden their academic scope and demonstrate their varied interests and expertise to the widest range of future employers. Students who seek to pursue advanced study and research in a Latin American or Caribbean field after Ripon may wish to complement their major or minor with another in a related subject area such as anthropology, economics, history, religion, romance and classical languages, or politics and government.

Requirements for a major in Latin American and Caribbean Studies:
1) Proficiency in a language spoken in Latin America or the Caribbean, excluding English, is a prerequisite for the major. It can be demonstrated by the successful completion of SPA 320 (or higher), FRE 307 (or higher), or an approved study abroad program in the region. The language prerequisite need not be met before declaring the major.
2) LAC 201.
3) Six upper-division courses on Latin America and/or the Caribbean chosen from the list below or approved by the coordinator, including no more than three courses in any single department.
4) LAC 401. An independent study project approved by the coordinator and completed under the supervision of a faculty member who teaches in the program.

Requirements for a minor in Latin American and Caribbean Studies:
1) Knowledge of a language spoken in Latin America or the Caribbean, excluding English, is a prerequisite for the minor. It can be demonstrated by the successful completion of SPA 222 (or higher), FRE 222 (or higher), or an approved study abroad program in the region. The language prerequisite need not be met before declaring the minor.
2) LAC 201.
3) Four upper-division courses on Latin America and/or the Caribbean chosen from the list below or approved by the coordinator, including no more than two courses in any single department.
**Off-Campus Study**: Ripon College offers a variety of interesting study abroad opportunities in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. Ranging from *In Focus* course to summer, semester, and year-long programs, these valuable research and study experiences are strongly recommended for students planning to major or minor in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Current ACM programs include the Language, Society, & the Environment (fall) and Field Research in the Environment, Humanities, & Social Sciences (spring) programs in Costa Rica; two semester exchange programs in Brazil, one in environmental studies and the other in liberal studies; and the Service Learning and Language Immersion (Summer) program in Mexico. Students may also earn credit toward the Latin American and Caribbean Studies major or minor through affiliated CCSC programs in Argentina and Spain. Former courses and collaborative student-faculty summer research trips have been offered in Jamaica, Peru, Chile, Mexico, Guadeloupe, and Costa Rica.

These and other study abroad options should be explored in close consultation with the coordinator in order to discuss how courses taken off campus can be used to satisfy the requirements for the major or minor. In addition, students should seek out one of the many campus study abroad advisors to help them locate the programs that best match their academic goals. Lastly, to prepare themselves for the invaluable experience of studying in a foreign country, students are advised to begin the appropriate language courses in their first year at Ripon.

**201. Introduction to Latin American and Caribbean Studies**  
Staff  
Four credits.  
An introduction to the many approaches scholars use to study the diverse peoples and cultures of Latin America and the Caribbean. Among other topics, students will learn about the pre-colonial and colonial roots of modern Latin America; the politics of race, gender, and religion in Latin American and Caribbean societies; the social conscience and aesthetic character of the region’s art and literature; Latin American and Caribbean responses to the current “crisis” of neo-liberal economics; and how new social movements are shaping the political direction of the re-emerging Latin American left. May count toward the global and cultural studies requirement; refer to the Academic Policies: Global and Cultural Studies Requirement section for more information.

**401. Independent Study in Latin American and Caribbean Studies**  
Staff  
Four credits.  
A significant interdisciplinary research project. No more than twelve credit hours of independent study or internship may be taken, and no more than eight credit hours may be in one department. A registration form is required. *Prerequisites: junior or senior standing, consent of the program coordinator and a faculty project director (a faculty member who teaches in Latin American and Caribbean Studies), and 12 credits toward the major.*
Other Courses Counting Toward the Major or Minor in Latin American and Caribbean Studies:

ART 278: Indigenous Art of the Americas
ECO 361: Development Economics I
ECO 364: Economic Policy and Business Strategy in Latin America
  (same as BSA 364)
HIS 268: Colonial Latin America: Conquerors, Rebels, and Slaves
HIS 269: Modern Latin America: The Struggle for Reform
HIS 270: Modernizing Latin America: Revolution & Reaction Since 1900
HIS 276: Latin America at the Movies: History & Film
HIS 375: United States and Latin America, 1776 to the Present
HIS 377: Dirty Wars in Latin America
POL 372: Development and Change in Latin America
REL 322: Religion and Politics in Comparative Perspective
  (same as IDS 322 and POL 375)
SPA 331: Voces Latinoamericanas I
SPA 332: Voces Latinoamericanas II
SPA 410: El cuento hispanoamericano
SPA 415: La ficción de García Márquez
SPA 420: El realismo mágico y otros realismos excéntricos
SPA 425: Cuba: Su revolución y sus artes

Additional topical courses and seminars related to Latin America and the Caribbean are routinely offered by the program faculty. Check the departmental course listings each semester for more information.