Latin American Studies, BA

Banner Code: LA-BA-LAS

Email: las@gmu.edu
Website: las.gmu.edu/programs/LA-BA-LAS

This program is no longer accepting applications for new students.

The BA in Latin American studies looks at contemporary Latin America and its progress through a long and turbulent history of conquest, resistance, and cultural mixing. The result is a rich and unique blend of African, indigenous, and European cultures. Majors develop a broad expertise in the region while also pursuing an individualized program of study that suits their interests. Students improve their language skills and take courses in many disciplines, including anthropology, dance, economics, folklore, geography, government, history, and literature. All students have opportunities for research, global engagement, public service, and career preparation.

Admissions & Policies

This program is no longer accepting applications for new students.

Policies

Students pursuing this degree must complete 33 credits within the major, with a minimum GPA of 2.00.

For policies governing all undergraduate degrees, see AP5 Undergraduate Policies.

Requirements

This program is no longer accepting applications for new students.

Degree Requirements

Total credits: minimum 120

Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.

Core Courses in the Major

Required Introductory Course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAS 300</td>
<td>Latin American Studies: Interdisciplinary Perspectives</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 3

Required Courses in History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST 271</td>
<td>Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 272</td>
<td>Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 6

Social Science Courses Related to Latin America

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 302</td>
<td>Peoples and Cultures of Latin America (Mason Core)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 361</td>
<td>Economic Development of Latin America (Mason Core)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GGS 316</td>
<td>Geography of Latin America</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVT 331</td>
<td>Government and Politics of Latin America</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 6

Humanities Course Related to Latin America

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 315</td>
<td>Folklife and Folklife</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 322</td>
<td>Introduction to Latin American Culture (Mason Core)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 325</td>
<td>Major Hispanic Writers (Mason Core)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 3

Seminar Course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAS 499</td>
<td>Research Seminar in Latin American Studies (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 3

Language Requirement

All Latin American studies majors must demonstrate reading, speaking, or writing knowledge of Spanish or Portuguese by exam or achieving a minimum grade of 2.00 in a 300-level course in the language selected. Upper-level Latin American literature or culture courses taught in Spanish or Portuguese may be used to satisfy the electives requirement.

Electives in Latin American Studies

Select four electives in Latin American studies 1

Total Credits 12

1 Students may satisfy the electives requirement with any course that contains a significant emphasis on Latin America or the culture, politics, sociology, or history of Latinos living in the United States. In addition, students are strongly encouraged to use an internship (LAS 490 Internship) or a study-abroad program to fulfill some of these credits. The electives must be approved by the director of the program. Upper-level Latin American literature or culture courses taught in Spanish or Portuguese may be used to satisfy the electives requirement.

Writing-Intensive Requirement

The university requires all students to complete at least one course designated “writing intensive” in their major at the 300 level or above. Students majoring in Latin American studies should consult with the director for a course to fulfill this requirement.
Upper Level Requirement

Students seeking a bachelor’s degree must apply at least 45 credits of upper-level courses (numbered 300 or above) toward graduation requirements.

Additional Electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any remaining credits may be completed with elective courses to bring the degree total to 120.

College Level Requirements for the BA Degree

In addition to the Mason Core program, students pursuing a BA degree must complete the coursework below. Except where expressly prohibited, a course used to fulfill a college level requirement may also be used simultaneously to satisfy other requirements (Mason Core requirements or requirements for the major).

Philosophy or Religious Studies

Select 3 credits from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that the following courses may not be used to fulfill this requirement:

- PHIL 323 Classical Western Political Theory
- PHIL 324 Modern Western Political Theory
- PHIL 327 Contemporary Western Political Theory
- PHIL 393 Humanities College to Career
- PHIL 460 Senior Seminar in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

Additionally, PHIL 253 Philosophy and Literature (Mason Core) and RELI 235 Religion and Literature (Mason Core) cannot be used to fulfill both the philosophy/religious studies requirement and the Mason Core literature requirement.

Social and Behavioral Sciences

Select 3 credits of social and behavioral sciences from the following (additional to the Mason Core social and behavioral sciences requirement)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Or choose from the following GGS courses:

- GGS 101 Major World Regions (Mason Core)
- GGS 103 Human Geography (Mason Core)
- GGS 110 Introduction to Geoinformation Technologies
- GGS 301 Political Geography
- GGS 303 Geography of Resource Conservation (Mason Core)
- GGS 304 Population Geography (Mason Core)
- GGS 305 Economic Geography
- GGS 306 Urban Geography
- GGS 315 Geography of the United States
- GGS 316 Geography of Latin America
- GGS 320 Geography of Europe
- GGS 325 Geography of North Africa and the Middle East
- GGS 330 Geography of the Soviet Succession States
- GGS 357 Urban Planning
- GGS 380 Geography of Virginia

1. The two courses used to fulfill the combined college and Mason Core requirements must be from different disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences.

2. HIST 100 History of Western Civilization (Mason Core) and HIST 125 Introduction to World History (Mason Core) may not be used to fulfill this requirement.

Foreign Language

Intermediate-level proficiency in one foreign language, fulfilled by:

- Completing a course in a foreign language numbered 202 (or higher level courses taught in the language)
- Or achieving a satisfactory score on an approved proficiency test
- Or completing the following ASL three course sequence:
  - EDSE 115 American Sign Language (ASL I)
  - EDSE 116 American Sign Language (ASL II)
  - EDSE 219 American Sign Language (ASL III)

1. Students who are already proficient in a second language may be eligible for a waiver of this requirement. Additional information on waivers can be found at the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu).

Non-Western Culture

Select 3 credits of an approved course in the study of a non-Western culture (additional to the Mason Core requirement in global understanding)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH</td>
<td>Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH</td>
<td>Civilizations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH</td>
<td>Native North Americans</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH</td>
<td>Peoples and Cultures of Latin America (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH</td>
<td>Peoples and Cultures of the Andes</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH</td>
<td>Peoples and Cultures of Island Asia (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH</td>
<td>Ancient Mesoamerica (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH</td>
<td>Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ANTH 309  Peoples and Cultures of India (Mason Core) 3
ANTH 313  Myth, Magic, and Mind (Mason Core) 3
ANTH 314  Zombies 3
ANTH 316  Peoples and Cultures of the Caribbean (Mason Core) 3
ANTH 323  Digging and Dealing in the Dead: Ethics in Archaeology 3
ANTH 330  Peoples and Cultures of Selected Regions: Non-Western 3
ANTH 332  Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Globalization (Mason Core) 3
ANTH 381  Medical Anthropology 3
ANTH 383  Cities of the Global South 3
ANTH 396  Issues in Anthropology: Social Sciences (Mason Core) 3
ARAB 360  Topics in Arabic Cultural Production 3
ARAB 420  Survey of Arabic Literature 3
ARAB 440  Topics in Arabic Religious Thought and Texts (Mason Core) 3
ARTH 203  Survey of Asian Art (Mason Core) 3
ARTH 204  Survey of Latin American Art (Mason Core) 3
ARTH 206  Survey of African Art (Mason Core) 3
ARTH 318  Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt 3
ARTH 319  Art and Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (Mason Core) 3
ARTH 320  Art of the Islamic World (Mason Core) 3
ARTH 382  Arts of India (Mason Core) 3
ARTH 383  Arts of Southeast Asia (Mason Core) 3
ARTH 384  Arts of China (Mason Core) 3
ARTH 385  Arts of Japan (Mason Core) 3
ARTH 386  The Silk Road (Mason Core) 3
ARTH 482  RS: Advanced Studies in Asian Art 3
CHIN 318  Introduction to Classical Chinese (Mason Core) 3
CHIN 320  Contemporary Chinese Film 3
CHIN 325  Major Chinese Writers (Mason Core) 3
DANC 118  World Dance (Mason Core) 3
ECON 361  Economic Development of Latin America (Mason Core) 3
ECON 362  African Economic Development (Mason Core) 3
FREN 451  Topics in Sub-Saharan Francophone Literature and Culture 3
FREN 454  Topics in Caribbean Francophone Literature and Culture 3
GGS 101  Major World Regions (Mason Core) 3
GGS 316  Geography of Latin America 3
GGS 325  Geography of North Africa and the Middle East 3
GGS 330  Geography of the Soviet Succession States 3
GGS 399  Select Topics in GGS 3
GOVT 328  Global Political Theory 3
GOVT 332  Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa 3
GOVT 333  Government and Politics of Asia 3
GOVT 338  Government and Politics of Russia 3
GOVT 340  Central Asian Politics 3
GOVT 341  Chinese Foreign Policy 3
GOVT 345  Islam and Politics 3
GOVT 433  Political Economy of East Asia 3
HIST 251  Survey of East Asian History (Mason Core) 3
HIST 252  Survey of East Asian History (Mason Core) 3
HIST 261  Survey of African History (Mason Core) 3
HIST 262  Survey of African History (Mason Core) 3
HIST 271  Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core) 3
HIST 272  Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core) 3
HIST 281  Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization (Mason Core) 3
HIST 282  Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization (Mason Core) 3
HIST 326  Stalinism 3
HIST 327  The Soviet Union and Russia Since World War II 3
HIST 328  Rise of Russia (Mason Core) 3
HIST 329  Modern Russia and the Soviet Union (Mason Core) 3
HIST 353  History of Traditional China 3
HIST 354  Modern China 3
HIST 356  Modern Japan (Mason Core) 3
HIST 357  Postwar Japan (Mason Core) 3
HIST 358  Post-1949 China (Mason Core) 3
HIST 360  History of South Africa (Mason Core) 3
HIST 364  Revolution and Radical Politics in Latin America (Mason Core) 3
HIST 365  Conquest and Colonization in Latin America (Mason Core) 3
HIST 366  Comparative Slavery 3
HIST 367  History, Fiction, and Film in Latin America 3
HIST 387  Topics in Global History (Mason Core) 3-6
HIST 426  The Russian Revolution 3
HIST 460  Modern Iran (Mason Core) 3
HIST 461  Arab-Israeli Conflict 3
HIST 462  Women in Islamic Society (Mason Core) 3
HIST 465  The Middle East in the 20th Century 3
JAPA 310  Japanese Culture in a Global World (Mason Core) 3
JAPA 340  Topics in Japanese Literature (Mason Core) 3
KORE 320  Korean Popular Culture in a Global World 3
MUSI 103  Musics of the World (Mason Core) 3
RELI 211  Religions of the West (Mason Core) 3
RELI 212  Religions of Asia (Mason Core) 3

Latin American Studies, BA 3
RELI 240  Death and the Afterlife in World Religions  3
RELI 272  Islam  3
RELI 313  Hinduism (Mason Core)  3
RELI 314  Chinese Philosophies and Religious Traditions  3
RELI 315  Buddhism (Mason Core)  3
RELI 337  Mysticism: East and West  3
RELI 365  Muhammad: Life and Legacy  3
RELI 374  Islamic Thought (Mason Core)  3
RELI 375  Qur’an and Hadith  3
RELI 379  Islamic Law, Society, and Ethics  3
RELI 387  Islam, Democracy, and Human Rights  3
RELI 490  Comparative Study of Religions (Mason Core)  3
RUSS 353  Russian Civilization (Mason Core)  3
RUSS 354  Contemporary Post-Soviet Life (Mason Core)  3

A course used to fulfill the Mason Core global understanding requirement may not be simultaneously used to satisfy this college-level requirement. A course used to fulfill this requirement may be used simultaneously to fulfill any other requirements (Mason Core requirements, college-level requirements, or requirements for the major). Additional information on waivers can be found at the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu).

Honors

This program is no longer accepting applications for new students.

Honors in the Major

Latin American studies majors who have completed 75 credits (a minimum of 15 in Latin American studies, 6 of which must have been taken at Mason) with an overall minimum GPA of 3.50 and a minimum GPA of 3.50 in the major may apply to pursue advanced work leading to graduation with honors in the major. The application consists of a transcript, a recommendation from one member of the LAS faculty, and a brief description of a proposed research project.

Once accepted into the program, students pursuing honors in the major complete a two-course sequence LAS 491 Directed Reading for Honors in Latin American Studies and LAS 499 Research Seminar in Latin American Studies (Mason Core) (an honors section), which must be taken in successive semesters. In this sequence, students complete an advanced research project under the guidance of a faculty member. To graduate with honors in the major, students must earn a minimum GPA of 3.50 in the honors courses.

Mason Core

Note: Some Mason Core requirements may already be fulfilled by the major requirements listed above. Students are strongly encouraged to consult their advisors to ensure they fulfill all remaining Mason Core requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Foundation Requirements</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Written Communication (ENGH 101)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oral Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quantitative Reasoning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Information Technology and Computing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Exploration Requirements</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Global Understanding</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Natural Science</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social and Behavioral Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Western Civilization/World History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Integration Requirements</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Written Communications (ENGH 302)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing-Intensive ¹</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Synthesis/Capstone ²</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Most programs include the writing-intensive course designated for the major as part of the major requirements; this course is therefore not counted towards the total required for Mason Core.

² Minimum 3 credits required.