Latin American Studies

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Karen Lindvall-Larson, M.L.S., Geisel Library
Keith Pezzoli, Ph.D., Urban Studies
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UCSD’s program in Latin American Studies has attained national and international distinction for its excellence in teaching, research, and public service. Each year its faculty offers approximately 100 Latin America-related courses in fourteen academic departments, and the Latin American Studies Program offers three interdisciplinary degrees:
• bachelor of arts in Latin American Studies,
• minor in Latin American Studies, and a
• master of arts in Latin American Studies.
Latin American Studies at UCSD offers distinct advantages:
• At the undergraduate level, students may take elective courses on Latin American topics or pursue a minor or a B.A. degree in Latin American Studies. At the graduate level, they can work on Latin America through interdisciplinary master’s programs or through doctoral programs in academic departments.
• Latin American Studies integrates teaching, research, and policy analysis, encouraging students to develop interdisciplinary perspectives and to work actively with faculty on research projects and conferences.

Students participate in the activities of an outstanding array of research and teaching organizations, including the Center for Iberian and Latin American Studies, the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, and the Institute of the Americas. The Center for Iberian and Latin American Studies (CILAS) sponsors multidisciplinary colloquia, conferences, projects, and publications. The center also awards fellowships and grants each year to promising graduate students.

Students are encouraged to interact with visiting Latin American scholars and to participate in Latin America-related internships, seminars, clubs, foreign exchange programs, and other extracurricular activities.

Students at UCSD have access to one of the largest and fastest-growing library collections on Latin America in the United States.

The Curricular Program

Degree programs in Latin American Studies are supervised by an interdisciplinary faculty group under the chairmanship of the director of Latin American Studies. Students in Latin American Studies are encouraged to participate in the Education Abroad Program (EAP) in Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, or Mexico; by petition, credits earned through EAP can fulfill UCSD’s degree requirements.

Undergraduate Major in Latin American Studies

The bachelor of arts in Latin American Studies blends coverage of methodological and theoretical approaches to the study of Latin America with a broad foundation in the humanities and social sciences. Students receiving this degree will be prepared for private and government employment or for graduate training; the major also provides a valuable supplement for those who subsequently pursue professional degrees in business, law, engineering, medicine, or other fields.

To satisfactorily complete the B.A. degree, students must take a broad range of courses from at least three of UCSD’s humanities and social science departments. All students entering the major must enroll in LATI 50 “Introduction to Latin America,” an interdisciplinary course that prepares majors to build a coherent curriculum on
Latin America from UCSD’s interdisciplinary offerings (see list of approved courses below). They must also demonstrate proficiency in Spanish.

During the senior year, all B.A. candidates are required to successfully complete LATI 190, a writing seminar. This course will culminate in the preparation of an interpretive paper based on the secondary analysis of existing scholarly research (approximately twenty to forty pages in length).

As part of the overall requirements, students are strongly encouraged to enroll in four credits of Individual Study (LATI 199) with a member of the Latin Americanist faculty, who will serve as the student’s principal adviser.

Study abroad can significantly enhance understanding of Latin America. Students are encouraged to study abroad through the Education Abroad Program before their senior year and may use a maximum of six upper-division courses to satisfy major requirements. These must be approved by the department (based on syllabi and course work) after they have been entered on the student’s official record at UCSD.

Students majoring in Latin American studies are also urged to minor in a core discipline such as anthropology, economics, history, literature, political science, or sociology. In summary, the requirements for the bachelor of arts in Latin American Studies are:

**LOWER-DIVISION REQUIREMENTS**

1. The equivalent of at least two years of college-level language instruction in Spanish, comparable to satisfactory completion of Literature/Spanish 2C; students who satisfy this requirement by examination are strongly encouraged to study Portuguese.
2. Latin American Studies 50.

**UPPER-DIVISION REQUIREMENTS**

1. Eleven upper-division courses selected, with the approval of the director of Latin American Studies, from a designated list of Latin American studies courses offered in the humanities or social sciences. Students must take course work in at least three departments; and they must take at least three courses, but no more than five, from one department. At least two of the eleven courses must concentrate exclusively on periods earlier than the twentieth century. The collection of courses should be structured so as to provide both depth in a special area of study and breadth across the broader field.
2. Enrollment in the four-credit Senior Seminar (LATI 190), usually to be taken in the winter quarter of the senior year; satisfactory completion of a substantial paper is required of all graduating majors.
3. With the sole exception of LATI 199, all courses must be taken for a letter grade.

**Honors in Latin American Studies**

Individuals who wish to pursue Honors in Latin American Studies, as distinct from the regular major, must complete nine upper-division courses from at least three departments, with no more than five courses from any single department and with at least two courses on material prior to the twentieth century. Honors students also take a three-quarter sequence during the senior year that will culminate in the presentation and defense of an original thesis based on primary research (usually between 50 and 100 pages in length), and they must maintain a minimum GPA in the major of 3.5.

In summary, to receive Honors, students must:
1. satisfy all lower-division requirements of the major program;
2. complete nine upper-division courses;
3. complete a three-course sequence consisting of Individual Study, the Senior Seminar, and the Honors Seminar (LATI 199, 190, and 191, respectively);
4. produce an original thesis based on primary research in Latin American Studies under the direction of a mentor selected from the Latin Americanist faculty, and defend this thesis during the spring quarter before an interdisciplinary faculty committee; and
5. maintain a minimum GPA of 3.5 in the major.

**Undergraduate Minor in Latin American Studies**

The Latin American Studies minor allows students to explore interdisciplinary approaches to a significant world region while pursuing a major in an academic discipline. To complete the program, students take at least six Latin America-related courses in the humanities and social sciences all taken for a letter grade; five of these courses must be at the upper-division level. Students must also complete the equivalent of two years of college-level Spanish or Portuguese.

**Master of Arts in Latin American Studies**

The master of arts in Latin American Studies is designed for students who seek to integrate a broad range of disciplinary approaches to a world region of growing international significance. Upon graduation, most students pursue additional advanced degrees in academic or professional fields; others proceed to careers in the private sector, in international organizations, or in government.

To qualify for admission, students must have a B.A. with a grade-point average of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale for the final two years of undergraduate study plus satisfactory scores on the Graduate Record Examination. To receive the master of arts in Latin American Studies, a student must:
1. demonstrate foreign language competence in Spanish or Portuguese;
2. complete forty units of course work (ten courses) in at least three fields, with no more than sixteen units in any one department; four of those units must be taken in the Latin American Studies Core Seminar (LATI 200) and four must be taken in the seminar on Latin American Library Resources (LATI 210).

Students are encouraged to include four units of Independent Research (LATI 299) for work on the master’s thesis.

3. successfully complete either a comprehensive exam or master’s thesis.

**COURSES**

**LATI 50. Introduction to Latin America (4)**

Interdisciplinary overview of society and culture in Latin America—including Mexico, the Caribbean, and South America: legacies of conquest, patterns of economic development, changing roles of women, expressions of popular culture, cycles of political change, and U.S.-Latin American relations.

**LATI 120/220. Special Topics in Latin American Studies (1-4)**

A course designed to cover various aspects and various disciplines of Latin American Studies.

**LATI 190. Senior Seminar (4)**

Research seminar on selected topics in the study of Latin America; all students will be required to prepare and present independent research papers. (Honors students will present drafts of senior research theses, of no less than fifty pages in length; non-honors students will...
present final versions of analytical papers of approximately twenty-five to forty pages in length.) Prerequisites: satisfactory completion of LATI 50 and a working knowledge of Spanish.

LATI 191. Honors Seminar (4)
Independent reading and research under direction of a member of the faculty group in Latin American Studies; goal is to provide honors students with an opportunity to complete senior research thesis (to be defended before three-person interdisciplinary faculty committee). Prerequisites: successful completion of LATI 50, working knowledge of Spanish; minimum GPA of 3.5 in the major.

LATI 199. Individual Study (4)
Guided and supervised reading of the literature on Latin America in the interdisciplinary areas of anthropology, communications, economics, history, literature, political science, and sociology. For students majoring in Latin American Studies, reading will focus around potential topics for senior papers; for honors students in Latin American Studies, reading will culminate in formulation of a prospectus for the research thesis. Prerequisites: LATI 50 and working knowledge of Spanish.

LATI 200. Core Seminar on Interdisciplinary Research and Methodology in Latin American Studies (4)
A team-taught course wherein members of the faculty group in Latin American Studies present diverse disciplinary and thematic approaches to the region. Topics vary from year to year. Grades are based on discussions and on a series of analytical papers. Prerequisite: enrollment in the master's degree program in Latin American Studies or permission of instructor.

LATI 210. Latin American Library Resources (4)
The major research methods and resources for the study of Latin America will be studied. Both conventional library materials (books, journals, documents, microfilm, special collections) and those available electronically (CD ROMs, Infopath, Melvyl) will be explored. Skills will transfer to any major research library. Prerequisite: graduate standing or consent of instructor.

LATI 298. Directed Reading (1–12)
Guided and supervised reading of the literature of the several areas included in the interdisciplinary fields of anthropology, communications, economics, history, literature, political science, and sociology. Prerequisite: graduate standing in Latin American Studies.

LATI 299. Independent Research (1–12)
Independent work by graduate students engaged in thesis research and writing under the direct supervision of a faculty advisor.

LATI 500. Teaching Apprenticeship (1–4)
The course is designed for teaching assistants to learn effective teaching methods through supervision and mentorship by the faculty. Student will learn handling of discussions; preparation and grading of examinations and other written exercises; and student relations.

COURSES THAT SATISFY UNDERGRADUATE/GRADUATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Approved Interdisciplinary Courses: The following is a list of courses available in UCSD departments that are approved to satisfy the requirements of the major, minor, and master's in Latin American Studies. Please note that these courses may not be offered every quarter or year and new courses may be added. Check the current schedule of classes or the Latin American Studies Web site (http://www.orpheus.ucsd.edu/las) for updated information.

The Departments of Linguistics and Literature and the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies offer language courses in Spanish and Portuguese. Language courses do not count toward the course requirements for Latin American Studies degrees.

Anthropology

ANRG 90 Undergraduate Seminar: Latin American Topics
ANRG 114 Urban Cultures in Latin America
ANRG 121 The Archaeology of South America
ANRG 126 Rise of New World Civilizations: Mesoamerica and the Andes
ANRG 134 The Cultures of Mexico

Communication

COCU 110 Cinema in Latin America: Visions of a Continent in Transition
COHI 114 Bilingual Communication
COHI 175 Advanced Topics: Chicano Visual Culture
COSF 140C Comparative Media Systems: Latin America and the Caribbean
COGR 275 Communication Development and Learning

Economics

ECO 161 Latin American Economic Development

Ethnic Studies

ETHN 130 Social and Economic History of the Southwest I
ETHN 131 Social and Economic History of the Southwest II
ETHN 132 Chicano Dramatic Literature
ETHN 133 Hispanic American Dramatic Literature
ETHN 135 Development of Chicano Literature
ETHN 136 Themes and Motifs in Chicano Literature
ETHN 137 Chicano Prose
ETHN 138 Chicano Poetry
ETHN 139 Chicano Literature in English
ETHN 180 Special Topics in Mexican-American History
ETHN 189 Special Topics in Ethnic Studies

History

HILA 100 Latin American Colonial Transformation
HILA 101 Latin American Independence 1810–1898
HILA 102 Latin America in the Twentieth Century
HILA 105 South America: Labor, Coercion, and Society/Nineteenth Century
HILA 107 State and Society in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Latin America
HILA 112 Economic and Social History of the Andean Region
HILA 113 Lord and Peasant in Latin America
HILA 114 Social History of Colonial Latin America
HILA 115 Latin American City, A History
HILA 116 Encounter of Two Worlds/Colonial Latin America
HILA 117 Indians, Blacks, Whites: Family Relations in Latin America
HILA 118 Subverting Sovereignty: US Aggression in Latin America, 1898–present
HILA 120 History of Argentina
HILA 121 History of Brazil
HILA 122 Cuba: From Colony to Socialist Republic
HILA 123 The Incas and Their Ancestors
HILA 131 History of Mexico in the Nineteenth Century
HILA 132 History of Contemporary Mexico
HILA 160/260 Topics in Latin American Colonial History 1500–1820
HILA 161/261 History of Women in Latin America
HILA 162/262 Special Topics in Latin American History
HILA 166/266 Cuba: From Colony to Socialist Republic
HILA 170/270 Topics in Latin American History, 1820–1910
HILA 171/271 Special Topics in Latin American History since 1910
HILA 172/272 Machismo and Matriarchy: The Latin American Social Structure
HIGR 245ABC Seminar in the Literature of Latin American History
HIGR 246ABC History of Mexico
HIGR 247AB Readings and Seminar on Colonial Latin America
HIGR 248AB Readings and Seminar on Latin America, National Period
HIGR 249 Topics in Colonial Latin America
HIGR 250 Topics in the National Period of Latin America
HIGR 251 Topics in the History of Mexico
HIGR 252 History, Social Evolution, and Intellectuals in the Andes
HIUS 186/286 Special Topics in History of Los Angeles

International Relations and Pacific Studies

IRGN 409 Economic Policy in Latin America
IRGN 410 Politics and Policy in Latin America