**Latin American Studies Course Descriptions**  
**Fall 2019**

**LAS-0001-Elementary Portuguese I**

Block E – Maria Champlin  
Designed to introduce the student with little or no knowledge of the language to the Portuguese-speaking world. Teaches fundamental communication skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Provides exposure to the culture and civilization of Brazil, Lusophone African countries, and Portugal through media broadcast, literature readings, films, and music. Quizzes, midterm, oral presentation and compositions. Conducted in Portuguese. No prerequisites.

**LAS - 0003-Intermediate Portuguese I**

Block C– Maria Champlin  
Continuation of POR 002. This is a beginning intermediate course for students interested in expanding and strengthening their basic linguistic skills in Portuguese. Listening, reading, writing, and conversational competency is emphasized through the study of authentic materials. Continued study of grammar and syntax with emphasis on more advanced structural principles and more extensive readings on cultural, social, and literary topics. Students may register for a recitation section that consists of a weekly 40-minute conversation group. Conducted in Portuguese. Prerequisite: POR 024, POR 002 or consent.

**LAS - 0007-Introduction to Latin American Art**

Block J+- Adriana Zavala  
Art and visual culture of Mexico and Latin America from the colonial era to the present. The role of art in the development of cultural identities in different Latin American contexts; the role of art in sustaining real and imagined historical narratives including the revival of preconquest and contemporary indigenous/folk culture; the struggle between religious and secular, nationalist, and international avant-garde artistic currents. The social and ideological uses of art and the representation of race, ethnicity, class, and gender.
**LAS - 0018 – Colonial Latin America**

Block K+ – Barbara Corbett

(Cross-listed with HIST 18) The indigenous and European backgrounds of Latin American history, the encounter and the conquest, Iberian colonial systems, economy and religion, society and sexuality, reform and rebellion.

**LAS - 0021 – Composition & Conversation I**

Block E – Cristiane Soares

This course aims to develop students’ ability to speak and write in Portuguese, with special focus on contemporary Brazilian culture. The course combines written and oral/aural practice of Portuguese through oral reports, compositions, class discussions and debates on assigned topics, articles, short literary works and films. It offers a review of more advanced grammatical structures with the aim of achieving greater accuracy. Given the focus on oral expression, active participation in class is essential. Students are required to register for a recitation section that consists of a weekly 40-minute conversation group. Conducted in Portuguese. Prerequisite: Por 004 or consent.

**LAS- 0031 – Latin American Literature from Nation-Building to the 21st Century**

01 – Block H+ -Jose Antonio Mazzotti  
02 – Block E+ - Nina Gerassi-Navarro  
03 – Block G+ - Pablo Ruiz

A survey of Latin American literature from the early nineteenth century to the twenty-first. From nation-building texts (Bolívar, Sarmiento) and Modernist poetry and prose through the groundbreaking trends of the twentieth and twenty first-century, such as Regionalist and Indigenist narrative, Magical Realism, the "boom" in the Latin American letters of the sixties and seventies, and more recent and postmodern texts. Writers include Rubén Dario, Pablo Neruda, Gabriel García Márquez, Jorge Luis Borges, and others. Historical context as well as literary analysis. Conducted in Spanish. Not for seniors or for students returning from programs abroad. Recommendations: SPN 22 or equivalent.

**LAS- 0033 - Latin American Literature from Colonial Times to Nation Building**

Block F+ - Amy Millay

Traces the development of Latin American literature from the earliest chronicles of discovery and conquest of the 16th century to nation-building literature of the early 19th century. Reading of key works of prose, poetry and other genres from various cultures of Spanish America (including indigenous) as well as see films related to the topics under study. Authors include Sor
Juana Ines de la Cruz, Inca Garcilaso, Bernal Diaz among others. Emphasis on historical context as well as literary analysis. Varied writing assignments, oral presentations and exams; class participation is essential. Conducted in Spanish. Not for senior majors or for students returning from programs abroad. Recommendations: Spanish 22 or consent.

**LAS- 0091 – Sugar and Nation in the Hispanic Caribbean**

A – Block 11 – Barbara Corbett

From its beginning as a plantation crop on the island of Hispaniola in the 1490’s, sugar has played a major role in the historical development of the societies, cultures, and literatures of the Spanish Caribbean. Through the reading of influential historical studies and documents in conjunction with important essays, slave testimonies, novels, poetry, music and paintings, this course will examine the discourses of nation and national identity in the Spanish Caribbean of the 19th and 20th centuries. Close attention will be paid to the ways that sugar production and consumption has helped shape the languages of race, gender, culture and citizenship on the island nations of Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.

**LAS - 0104 – Poetry in Spanish America**

Block L+ - Jose Antonio Mazzotti

An introduction to the rich Spanish-American poetic tradition developed throughout the twentieth century. Reading of poems by modern and contemporary poets such as Darío, Vallejo, Neruda, Huidobro, Parra, Cardenal, Cisneros, Pacheco, Pizarnik, Castellanos, Zurita, etc. Introduction to some of the main critical concepts and ideas traditionally used to think about poetry. Topics include the diversity of cultural contexts, the avant-garde movements, the larger questions of memory and identity, and the debate on the public role of poets and poetry.

**LAS - 0116 – Revolution and Counterrevolution In Central America**

Block 10+ - Peter Winn

A comparative study in historical perspective of the causes, course, and consequences of revolution and counterrevolution in twentieth-century Central and South America.
**LAS - 0122 – Reassessing Museums: Collecting and Art Exhibiting**

Block 2 - Eulogio Guzman

As museum collections have expanded so have their responsibilities, making of these institutions one of the premier disseminators of knowledge. In some instances, museum collections can reflect the values of collectors wanting to advance and secure both their economic and social interests, but not necessarily the interest of society at large. Some museums act as receptacles of social artifacts and artistic objects organized to display the historical development and notable artistic achievements of those cultures they exhibit.

This course examines the constantly changing role of the museum and their complicated social, political and cultural agendas. The wide existence of museums worldwide (over 100,000 by some accounts) makes it clear, there is no single way to understand their complicated workings. However, students in this class will examine (through class lectures, discussions, assigned readings and museum visits) a variety of institutions and issues related their exhibiting and acquiring collections, to mine the ways museums operate in the twenty-first century.

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**LAS - 0126 – Portuguese in the Community**

Block I+ - Cristiane Soares

This course combines academic activities such as readings, videos, and analysis with a service-learning component. The curricular content of the course focuses on the Portuguese, Brazilian and Cape-Verdean immigration experience as it relates to the journey, reception, integration, and use of the Portuguese language in Massachusetts and the United States. For the service-learning component, students volunteer in Portuguese-language agencies and institutions, discussing and evaluating the experience in class. The course requires a commitment to provide volunteer services in the community in a timely and responsible fashion and to respect the needs of the community agencies and their clients as well as our own academic objectives. Conducted in Portuguese. Prerequisite: POR 21 or consent.

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**LAS - 0127 – Latin American Politics**

Block K+- Consuelo Cruz

Introduces established and changing patterns in Latin American politics. Offers a brief historical background before concentrating on twentieth-century populist politics, corporatist modes of interest representation, authoritarian rule, civil-military relations, democratization, and social movements.

Recommendations: Sophomore standing or permission of instructor.
**LAS - 0146 – Spanish in the Community**

Block 3+ - Nancy Levy-Konesky

This course combines academic activities such as readings, videos, and analysis with a service-learning component. The curricular content of the course focuses on the Portuguese, Brazilian and Cape-Verdean immigration experience as it relates to the journey, reception, integration, and use of the Portuguese language in Massachusetts and the United States. For the service-learning component, students volunteer in Portuguese-language agencies and institutions, discussing and evaluating the experience in class. The course requires a commitment to provide volunteer services in the community in a timely and responsible fashion and to respect the needs of the community agencies and their clients as well as our own academic objectives. Conducted in Portuguese. Prerequisite: POR 21 or consent.

**LAS - 0148 – Latin American Politics**

Block D+ - Amy Millay

This course considers the social determinants of health in Latin America. We will explore the impact that a variety of factors, including social status, sex, age, education, and culture have on an individual's access to health services. Students will examine health systems in several Latin American countries, including Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Peru. Special attention will be paid to such topics as women and health, nutrition and child and infant health, pesticide use, and HIV-AIDS. Texts include scholarly articles, narrative, poetry, and film. Oral presentations, 3 short papers, final project, and an exam. Conducted in Spanish. Prerequisite: Two courses above 22 or consent.

**LAS - 0149 – Latin American Society**

Block G+ - Fahlberg

Although colonial rule over Latin America officially came to an end nearly two centuries ago, its people continue to suffer from high rates of poverty, oppression, corruption, and violence. At the same time, communities across Latin America continue to resist inequality through a range of political, social and cultural practices and discourses. After briefly reviewing the larger historical trajectories that led to contemporary economic, political and social landscapes, this course will examine many key themes that traverse the multiple populations who inhabit Latin America. Some of the core questions we will explore include: How do colonial legacies continue to play out in contemporary political, economic and social structures? How do these interact with race, class, gender and sexuality to produce uneven relations of power? What are the consequences of globalization and neoliberalism on the lived realities of Latin America’s poor? And finally, what forms of resistance do marginalized populations employ to address, resist, or subvert structures of domination? The course will center around ethnographic texts that illuminate these questions through the stories of real, everyday people. By focusing on case studies of several countries across Central and South America we will draw upon a range of examples and theoretical frameworks to consider the changes and continuities across Latin American society.

*Prerequisite: One Sociology course or permission of instructor.*
**LAS-0191-01 – Approaches to Latina American Literary Theory**

Block E+ - Palou

A study on the chronological view of the authors that have discussed the Latin American tradition, the key concepts of theory, historiography and historical and sociological approaches to literature. From Reyes and Mariategui to Moraña and Bueno and crossing thru Cornejo Polar, Rama, Losada among others.

**LAS-0191-02 – Icons of Latin America**

Block I+ = Gerassi-Navarro / Eulogio Guzman

How do films tell stories? What do they chose to represent and how do they represent those stories? This course explores different ways recent Latin American films have dealt with the issue of representation. Focusing on a number of topics such as political unrest, sexuality, and immigration among others, we analyze the effect camera techniques, editing and acting have in the stories conveyed, both in documentaries as well as in fiction films. Films from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, and Uruguay. Prerequisite: Two 30 level courses or consent.

**LAS-0191-03 – Encounters of Death and Reason in Latin American Fiction**

Block I+ - Ruiz

Around mid-nineteenth century, the American writer Edgar Allan Poe invented a kind of literary work that would give rise to a whole new genre, profusely practiced all over the world throughout the twentieth century, and still very vital today. In this course we will study the different ways in which detective fiction has been used and modified by some major twentieth-century Latin American authors. From Borges to Roberto Bolaño, from Virgilio Piñera to Gabriel García Márquez, Juan Carlos Onetti, Ricardo Piglia or Cristina Rivera Garza, all of them
have resorted to this genre covering an increasingly wider range of possibilities. Why is this genre so attractive for such different authors? What kind of meanings can be conveyed through it? How is this genre related to existential, social, philosophical or anthropological problems? Students are invited to resort to the detective in them and try to find the elusive Truth.

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**LAS-0191-04 – Seminar: Comparative Social Equality**

Block 1 - Dias

This course focuses on the causes and consequences of social inequality in cross-national perspective. A comparative and cross-national lens to the study of inequality provides the analytical tools to better understand how the political, institutional, and economic processes in different societies ultimately help create and perpetuate different forms of social inequality. The course will focus on the ways in which different social institutions, such as schools, labor markets, and governments play in generating social inequalities. We also examine the ways in which social inequality is expressed on the basis of race/ethnicity, gender, and class status. After assessing the institutional and social mechanisms associated with the reproduction of social inequality, we consider possible policy solutions and interventions in reducing inequality. Cross-listed with AAST 0194-04, AFR 0147-08, AMER 0194-06, LAS 0188-01 and LST 0194-04. Prerequisites: Junior standing, at least 2 previous courses in Sociology, OR permission of instructor.