



Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

PROPOSAL TITLE: Revision of the BALAS in Latin American Studies, within the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

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COLLEGE CONTACT: Kelly Ritter, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. 333-1350, ritterk@illinois.edu

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

The revision to the Latin American Studies major entails reducing the hours from 45 to 33 hours by revising course requirements.

The LAST 170 Introduction to Latin America requirement is maintained. Four additional requirements are specified:

- 1) 12 hours of approved courses with 50% or more Latin American content (see appendix), which will be chosen from a list of 186 total courses on campus that have a Latin American component. These courses will be chosen in consultation with the Associate Director of the program, who is also the undergraduate advisor, as well as with a Faculty affiliate, in accordance with the student's particular academic interests within Latin American Studies;
- 2) 12 hours of approved courses with Latin America within a global perspective (see appendix). The process for selection is the same as for the 50% content courses, above;
- 3) 3 hours of Research or Fieldwork experience in the form of either an approved individual study under a faculty, or an approved study abroad program, or an approved service in the community course; and
- 4) 3 hours of an advanced language course in a Latin American language (Spanish, Portuguese, Quechua or other Native American language indigenous to Mexico, Central or South America).

JUSTIFICATION:

Latin America has been the focus of research at the University of Illinois since as early as 1904, with a Latin American Studies major being established in 1949, and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) being created in 1963. In a consortium with the University of Chicago,

CLACS is a Title VI National Resource Center, receiving continuous funding since 1976 from the U.S. Department of Education. Since 2009, CLACS houses the Lemann Institute for Brazilian Studies, one of only three in the country. Through its activities and academic programs, and strong and distinguished cohort of 150 faculty from across campus, CLACS engages in promoting transcultural and global competence, alongside social responsibility.

The proposed revision of the undergraduate major in Latin American Studies is in response to a national trend in leading interdisciplinary area studies programs focusing on Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies. Peer major programs at the University of Michigan, the University of Wisconsin, and Tulane University all require between 30 and 40 credit hours, with the 30 credit hour programs being exclusive of advanced language hours. To remain competitive with these peers, and responsive to national standards, we are proposing a reduction in our major from 45 to 33 hours, in line with the hour requirements in these benchmark programs. Aside from the change in hours, the change of focus in the new curriculum also reflects a move away from the traditional path of study of Latin America which required students take survey courses in five disciplinary perspectives (Anthropological and Geographical; Historical; Humanistic; Social, Political, and Economic; and Ecological and Environmental). The revised major is designed around a more streamlined, dynamic, and interdisciplinary curriculum which allows students to develop both depth and breadth in Latin American Studies through examination of a topic, period, or sub-region. This, too, is reflective of the topical curricular requirements in the above three benchmark programs, and others nationwide.

The proposed curriculum guides students through two sets of courses with the first set focusing primarily on Latin America and its history, cultural, politics, economies etc., and the second set focusing on placing Latin America within its global context through courses that examine broad themes (climate, public health, economic development, international relations, etc.) from an international perspective. The proposed major also includes 3 hours of various types of practicum, which can include the traditional research under a faculty, or a fieldwork-oriented or service-learning type study-abroad course, or a service-learning course taught at our university that works with Latin American immigrant families in our community. These options better respond both to the diversity of interests from our students and also to employer demands, as employers are increasingly looking to hire graduates who have hands-on, on the ground experience. One example of a fieldwork opportunity is a cross-listed course with Engineering (Honduras Water Project)

The language requirement for the Latin American Studies major revision has also changed to include 3 hours of advanced language beyond the LAS requirement. This rigorous language requirement will make our students more competitive on the job and academic markets and will also make them eligible to apply for the Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship, and similar forms of funding. The 33 hours required, therefore, includes these 3 advanced hours (a third semester) but does *not* include the “hidden” hours entailed in gaining intermediate proficiency in one of the languages of the region; the earlier hours involved in this proficiency are not counted toward the 33 hours in the major. This is similar to the requirements for language proficiency in relation to credit hours at both Michigan and Tulane.

Reducing the number of required hours from 45 to 33 brings our major more in line with majors from other departments in LAS, especially those with an interdisciplinary focus (for example, Religion at 30 hours, Asian American Studies at 33, English at 36, Communication and French at 37) Some students may want to take our major as a second major; the lower number of hours will more readily allow this option, while still providing a rigorous program of study that is in line with national standards in the field.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:

1) Resources

- a. How does the unit intend to financially support this proposal?
No additional financial support is necessary.
- b. How will the unit create capacity or surplus to appropriately resource this program? If applicable, what functions or programs will the unit no longer support to create capacity?
No additional financial support is necessary.
- c. Will the unit need to seek campus or other external resources? If so, please provide a summary of the sources and an indication of the approved support.
No campus or other external resources are needed.
- d. Please provide a letter of acknowledgment from the college that outlines the financial arrangements for the proposed program.
N/A

2) Resource Implications

- a. Please address the impact on faculty resources including the changes in numbers of faculty, class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratios, etc.
None, since the courses already exist.
- b. Please address the impact on course enrollment in other units and provide an explanation of discussions with representatives of those units. (*A letter of acknowledgement from units impacted should be included.*)
None foreseen.
- c. Please address the impact on the University Library (*A letter of estimated impact from the University Librarian must be included for all new program proposals. If the impact is above and beyond normal library business practices, describe provisions for how this will be resourced.*)

None foreseen.
- d. Please address the impact on technology and space (e.g. computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.)

None foreseen.

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2018

STATEMENT FOR ACADEMIC CATALOG:

Overview Tab

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A major in Latin American Studies, which is administered by the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, provides an integrated exploration of a major world area. Depending upon the student's interests and career aspirations, individual programs of study are designed in close consultation with the Associate Director of the Center, who also serves as the academic advisor. Consultation revolves around the career goals of the student. The undergraduate program reflects an integrative, cross-disciplinary approach, and courses must be taken from these categories:

1. LAST 170: Introduction to Latin American Studies
2. Approved courses with content focused on Latin America;
3. Approved courses with content focused on Latin America in a global context;
4. LAST 490: Independent Study; or approved Study Abroad course; or approved service-learning course.

Courses for the major must be selected in consultation with the Associate Director of the Center.

Students are also expected to demonstrate a substantial command of a Latin American language (Spanish, Portuguese, Quechua or other Native American language indigenous to MesoAmerica or South America), either by passing a proficiency examination or through advanced courses of Latin American language(s) beyond the general Liberal Arts and Sciences language requirement.

Major Tab

Major in Latin American Studies

Major in Sciences and Letters Curriculum

E-mail: clacs@illinois.edu

Degree title: Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences

Minimum required major course work equates to 33 hours

General education: Students must complete the Campus General Education requirements including the campus general education language requirement.

Twelve hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be taken on this campus.

Each student's course of study is devised in consultation with the Associate Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and is subject to the Associate Director's approval.

A Major Plan of Study Form must be completed and submitted to the LAS Student Affairs Office before the end of the fifth semester (60-75 hours). Please see your adviser.

Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours

Departmental distinction: To be eligible, a student must achieve at least a 3.5 grade point average in the major, complete a senior thesis, and receive the approval of the center's research committee.

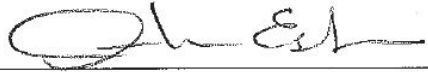
LAST 170	Introduction to Latin America ¹	3
Approved courses with primary focus on Latin America.		12
Approved courses with primary focus on Latin America in a global context		12
LAST 490 Individual Study or an approved study abroad course or an approved service-learning course. ²		3
Advanced language course in a Latin American language (Spanish, Portuguese, Quechua or other Native American language indigenous to Mexico, Central or South America) beyond the level specified by the LAS language requirement, or the equivalent as demonstrated by special examination. At the end of their language study, all students are urged to take an oral proficiency test based on ACTFL guidelines.		3

¹ Normally taken in the freshman or sophomore year.

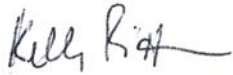
² Normally taken in the senior year.

CLEARANCES:

Signatures:



Unit Representative:



College Representative:



Date:

10-20-17

Date:

Appendix A: Proposed Curriculum Revisions

Current Requirements:	Current Hours	Proposed Requirements:	Proposed Hours
LAST 170 – Intro to Latin American Studies²	3 Hours	LAST 170 – Intro to Latin American Studies	3 Hours
LAST 490 – Individual Study³	3 Hours	LAST 490 Individual Study or approved study abroad course or approved service-learning course.	3 Hours
Approved courses with Latin American content including courses in the following perspectives: ³ Anthropological and Geographical; Historical; Humanistic; Social, Political, and Economic; and Ecological and Environmental.	33-34 Hours	Approved courses with primary focus on Latin America.	12 Hours
		Approved courses with primary focus on Latin America in a global context	12 Hours
Advanced conversation and composition in a Latin American language (Spanish, Portuguese, Quechua or other Native American language indigenous to Middle or South America) beyond the level specified by the LAS language requirement, or the equivalent as demonstrated by special examination.	5-6 Hours	Advanced language course in a Latin American language (Spanish, Portuguese, Quechua or other Native American language indigenous to Mexico, Central or South America) beyond the level specified by the LAS language requirement, or the equivalent as demonstrated by special examination. At	3 Hours

<p>Students successfully completing the examination are expected to use these 5 or 6 hours in approved courses of Latin American content from any of the above perspectives (including literature courses). At the end of their language study, all students are urged to take an oral proficiency test based on ACTFL guidelines.</p>		<p>the end of their language study, all students are urged to take an oral proficiency test based on ACTFL guidelines.</p>	
<p>TOTAL:</p>	<p>43-45 hours</p>	<p>TOTAL:</p>	<p>33 hours</p>
<p>¹ <i>Each student's course of study is devised in consultation with the Associate Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and is subject to the Associate Director's approval.</i></p> <p>² <i>Normally taken in the freshman or sophomore year.</i></p> <p>³ <i>Normally taken in the senior year.</i></p> <p>⁴ <i>Includes 12 hours in one of the listed perspectives, 9 semester hours each in two other perspectives. Twelve hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be taken on this campus.</i></p>		<p>¹ <i>Normally taken in the freshman or sophomore year.</i></p> <p>² <i>Normally taken in the senior year.</i></p>	

APPENDIX B: Proposal for a revision of the Major in Latin American Studies (Approved courses)

PROPOSAL:	CLACS Major Curriculum Revision	33 hours (from 45)
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A: 1 course	Introduction Course	3 hours
	LAST 170 Intro to Latin American St	

B: 4 courses	Focus on Latin America	12 hours
	HIST 105 Latin Am to Indep	
	HIST 106 Modern Latin America	
	ANTH 106 Hist Arqueol Americas	
	ANTH 182 Latin American Cult	
	HIST 200 (Section B) Ethnohistory in Colonial Latin America	
	HIST 205: LatAmHist: Primary Accounts	
	LLS 220 Mx/LatAm Migration	
	HIST 279 Mexican-American History	
	HIST 280 Caribbean Latina/o Migration	
	HIST 292 Latina/o Social Movements	
	HIST 305 And Countries of SA	
	HIST 306 History of Central America	
	SPAN 309 Oral Varieties of Spanish [in Sp]	
	SPAN 324 Cult Studies Americas I	
	SPAN 326 Cult Studies Americas II	
	PS 353 Gov and Politics	
	PS 353 Gov & Polit of Lat Am	
	HIST 369 Spain & Portugal from 1808	
	ANTH 376 Aztec Civilization	
	LLS 396 Mx Feminism in Film	
	PORT 404 Luso-Braz Culture	
	HIST 405 Hist of Brazil from 1808	
	HIST 406 Hist of Mx from 1519	
HIST 407: Slavery and Race in Latin Am		
PORT 406 Braz Film		
ECON 452 Latin Am Economies		
ANTH 459 Ancient Maya		
ANTH 481 Andean Ethnography		
SOCW 412: Hispanics in the US		

C: 4 courses	Latin America and the World	12 hours
	GWS100/SOC 130 Gender & Women Stu	GEOG 204 Cities of the World
	GLBL 100 Introduction to Global Studies	UP 205 Ecology & Environ Sustainability
	HIST 100 Global History	GEOG 210 Social & Environ Issues
	GEOG 101 Geography of Developing Countries	UP 210 Environmental Economics
	ANTH 103 Anthropology in a Changing World [some semesters]	ANTH 224 Tourist Cities & Sites
	GEOG/ESE 106 Geographies of Globalization	CWL 225 Constr African & Caribbean Identity

APPENDIX B: Proposal for a revision of the Major in Latin American Studies (Approved courses)

RLST World Religions	PS 241 Comparative Politics in Developing Nations
GEOG 110 Geography of International Conflicts	CWL 242 Lit Europe & Americas II
LING 111 Language and Globalization	GLBL 250 Development
MUS 133 Introduction to World Music	ACE 251 The World Food Economy
ESE 140 Climate and Global Change	UP 260 Soc Inequality & Plann
SOC 160 Global Ineq & Social Change	SOC 261 Gender Trans Perspective
UP 185 Cities in Global Perspective	AFRO 261 Intro Afr Diaspora
	MACS264 - The Creative Economy
	GLBL 270 Global Buss Ins & Soc
	ANTH 278 Climate Change & Civilization
	PS 280 Intro to Intern Relations
	PS 282 Governing Globalization
	GEOG/ESE 287 Environment and Society

PS 300 (Section L) Comparative Communist Regimes	MACS410 - Information Ethics
SPAN 308 Spanish in the U.S. [in Sp]	EPS 420 Sociology of Educ
DANC 310 (section C) Capoeira	ECON 420 Int Economics
ACE 310 Nat Resource Econ	GWS 442/KIN 442 Body, Cult, Soc
LLS 379 Latina/os in the city	SOC 447 Environmental Sociology
MACS 389—International Communications	ECON 450 Developing Economies
GLBL 392 Int Dipl and Neg	ACE 451 Agr in Int Dev
ANTH 393 The World of Jewish Sepharad	GEOG 466 Env Policy
ANTH 399 Int Sustainability Dev	SOC 470 Social Movements
ANTH 399: Special Topics (varies)	LLS 473 Imm, Health & Society
	MACS496: Coca-Cola Culture: Corporate, Commodity and Consumer Culture

C: 1 course	Research/Fieldwork Experience		3 hours
	In Latin America / CLACS sponsored (Ex.)	Champaign-Urbana	Fac-led Research
	CLACS sponsored - Quito, Ecuador (U San Francisco de Quito)	SPAN 232 Spanish in the Community	Varies
	CLACS sponsored - Ecuador Highlands (U San Francisco de Quito)	SPAN 332 Span & Entrepreneurship	
	CLACS sponsored - Ecuador Highlands (Pontificia U Católica de Ecuador)		

D: 1 course 3 hours	Quechua or other Native American Language of Latin America (beyond LAS requirement)	Portuguese (beyond LAS requirement: 200 or above). Ex:	Spanish (beyond LAS requirement: 200 or above). Ex:
	LAST 445	PORT 201	SPAN 204 Adv Gramm
		PORT 202	SPAN 208 Oral Sp
		PORT 200	SPAN 228 Sp Composition
		PORT 320 Reading in Port	SPAN 202 Sp in the Professions