Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Director
Patsy P. Lewis
The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) at Brown University facilitates the study of this dynamic region from a multidisciplinary perspective. CLACS organizes academic conferences, lectures, and cultural programming, and supports our over 100 faculty affiliates as well as graduate and undergraduates interested in the region. The undergraduate concentration was first approved in 1973 and was later incorporated into the Center for Latin American Studies (eventually renamed CLACS) after its establishment in November of 1984.

For additional information, please visit the department's website: http://www.watsoninstitute.org/clacs/

Latin American and Caribbean Studies
Concentration Requirements

The concentration in Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACA) leads to a strong, interdisciplinary understanding of culture, history, and contemporary issues in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Latinx diaspora.

Requirements are intentionally broad and flexible to accommodate the focused interests of students in understanding the diverse reality of this region. Concentration requirements include four themes: language, area studies, research, and internship or service work. A wide selection of courses from departments across the University expose students to the methods and materials of different disciplines and provide a background in the contemporary and historical contours of Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx societies. For more information, contact the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Erica Durante (erica_durante@brown.edu?subject=LACA%20concentration).

Concentration Requirements

1. Ten courses on Latin American, Caribbean, and/or Latinx subjects. These may be explicitly designated as LACA classes, but do not need to be. Up to two of these courses can be language learning classes. Relevant courses from study abroad may count toward this total. For double concentrators, up to two classes can count toward the course requirements of both LACA and another concentration. At least two different academic disciplines should be represented in the ten courses. Courses in which the student did substantial work on a Latin American, Caribbean, or Latinx subject may count toward this total, even if the course as a whole has a more general subject matter. Concentrators should periodically update their courses on ASK and confirm with the Director of Undergraduate Studies that they are on track to meeting the coursework requirement.

The courses must include at least one survey course providing a comprehensive and comparative view of the region. Examples include the following:

- **LACA 0500**  Around Latin America in 80 Days: An Historical and Cultural Journey
- **LACA 1504G**  Arts of the Environment in the Americas
- **LACA 1510I**  Urban Latin America
- **LACA 1630**  Engaged Humanities: Storytelling in the Americas
- **HISP 0730**  Encounters: Latin America in Its Literature and Culture
- **HISP 1330Z**  Tropical Fictions: Geography and Literature in Latin American Culture
- **HIST 0234**  Modern Latin America
- **HIST 1966Q**  Colonial Encounters and the Creation of Latin America
- **POLS 1210**  Latin American Politics
- **POBS 0280**  Mapping Food, Eating Meaning, Making Community: A Welcome to the Lusophone world

2. Competence in a Latin American and/or Caribbean language. Competence in Spanish, Portuguese, French, Haitian Kreyol, Kaqchikel Maya, etc. may be demonstrated through a departmental test, AP credit, language courses at Brown or elsewhere, study abroad, etc; please contact the concentration advisor to confirm. (If the student’s primary area of study is the Anglophone Caribbean, a field language is not necessary.)

3. An internship or volunteer service, located in the U.S. or overseas, for one semester or one summer. Work completed during study abroad may count toward this requirement. The service work will connect theory to practice, applying scholarly knowledge to social challenges. Students are encouraged to consult with the Swearer Center for Public Service for assistance finding a volunteer placement. Students should also meet with the DUS by the beginning of junior year to discuss their work plan for their service component. Upon completion of the internship or service work, students fill and submit via ASK the Internship, Work or Volunteer Service Form, available online in the LACA Undergraduate Concentration webpage (https://watson.brown.edu/clacs/education/undergraduate). In addition they are expected to submit via ASK a short letter from a supervisor confirming the completion of the work.

4. A capstone project. This may be a senior honors thesis or creative project, supervised by a primary advisor and a secondary reader; a non-honors research paper; or a reflective paper about non-academic work (such as service or foreign study) related to Latin America, the Caribbean or the Latinx experience.

The project may be completed for honors if the student is eligible (see Honors, below).

All concentrators are required to enroll in LACA 1900 during their junior or senior year to complete their Capstone project requirement (capstone project or honors thesis). In addition to this course, students may also elect to enroll in one or two semesters of independent study (LACA 1990, LACA 1991) with their thesis/project advisor. All Honors Candidates are expected to attend the Annual Concentration Research Day and to give a 10-minute oral presentation of their honors thesis project followed by a short Q&A.

Writing Requirement

To satisfy Brown’s writing requirement as a LACA concentrator (which must be completed by the end of the 7th semester), students are encouraged to consider courses that have an emphasis on revision and feedback such as the following:

- **LACA 1900**  Preparation for Honors and Capstone Projects on Latin American and Caribbean Topics
- **ETHN 1200D**  Latinx Literature
- **LACA 0500**  Around Latin America in 80 Days: An Historical and Cultural Journey
- **LACA 1504G**  Arts of the Environment in the Americas
- **LACA 1630**  Engaged Humanities: Storytelling in the Americas
- **COLT 0710I**  New Worlds: Reading Spaces and Places in Colonial Latin America
- **HISP 0730**  Encounters: Latin America in Its Literature and Culture
- **HIST 0233**  Colonial Latin America
- **HIST 1977I**  Gender, Race, and Medicine in the Americas
Engaged Scholars Program

The concentration also allows students to pursue the Engaged Scholars Program (http://watson.brown.edu/clacs/node/654/). The Engaged Scholars Program (ESP) in Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACA) is designed for LACA concentrators who are especially interested in making deeper connections between their academic work and local communities in Providence and beyond. Engaged Scholars combine hands-on experiences such as internships, public service, humanitarian, and development work with their academic learning in order to develop a deeper understanding of, and appreciation for, social engagement.

Honors

Qualified undergraduates may work towards the A.B. in Latin American and Caribbean Studies with Honors.

Requirements to graduate with Honors:
1. Maintenance of at least an A- average in the ten courses counting for the Latin American and Caribbean Studies concentration
2. Maintenance of at least a B+ average in all course work at Brown
3. Completion of a senior honors thesis or project with a grade of A

Grades of S do not negatively affect the eligibility for honors.

Graduating seniors with Honors in Latin American and Caribbean Studies are eligible for an award administered by the concentration for Outstanding Senior Thesis or Project.

Senior Honors Thesis or Project Timeline:

For Senior-Year Students-
- **By the end of sixth semester:** Students fill and submit a one-page proposal to the concentration advisor the Honors Thesis Declaration Form available online in the LACA Undergraduate Concentration webpage (https://watson.brown.edu/clacs/education/undergraduate). In the form, they are expected to indicate their thesis or project title and short description. The Honors Thesis Declaration Form must be signed by a primary advisor. Students who study abroad spring semester junior year may apply for admission to the Honors Program but must meet the application deadline. Students in this position should start thinking about a proposal and contact advisors well in advance.
- **By January 15:** Students submit the first section of their thesis or project to their research advisor for review. They should agree with their advisor on the schedule for the remaining portions.
- **By March 15:** A draft of the entire thesis or project is due to the primary advisor and the secondary reader for review and feedback.
- **By 5 pm EST on April 15:** The final, complete senior honors thesis or project is due.
- Students submit one copy each to the primary advisor and the secondary reader.
- Students submit one paper copy and one electronic copy to the concentration advisor and one electronic copy to the Brown Library Digital Repository (BDR).

For Mid-Year Completers:

Mid-year completers must apply for the Honors Program their 6th semester, as 2nd semester Juniors. They undertake the thesis in their 7th and 8th semesters, allowing them to complete the following Honors course sequence:
- **By the end of the 6th semester:** Students fill and submit to the concentration advisor the Honors Thesis Declaration Form available online in the LACA Undergraduate Concentration webpage (https://watson.brown.edu/clacs/education/undergraduate). In the form, they are expected to indicate their thesis or project title and short description. The Honors Thesis Declaration Form must be signed by a primary advisor.
- **By September 15:** Students submit the first section of their thesis or project to their research advisor for review. They should agree with their advisor on the schedule for the remaining portions.
- **By October 15:** A draft of the entire thesis or project is due to the primary advisor and the secondary reader for review and feedback.
- **By 5 pm on November 15:** The final, complete senior honors thesis or project is due.
- Students submit one copy each to the primary advisor and the secondary reader.
- Students submit one paper copy and one electronic copy to the concentration advisor and one electronic copy to the Brown Library Digital Repository (BDR).

Latin American and Caribbean Studies Graduate Requirements Graduate Program

Brown offers no advanced degree in Latin American Studies, but our faculty work closely with interested graduate students in other departments such as Hispanic Studies, History, Economics, American Civilization, Anthropology, Sociology, Political Science, Portuguese and Brazilian Studies, and the A.M. in Development Studies. Information about these degrees may be obtained directly from these departments or programs.

Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Time/Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LACA 0021F</td>
<td>Popular Music and Society in Latin America (MUSC 0021F)</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>LACA0021FS01 18437 'To Be Arranged'</td>
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<tr>
<td>LACA 0030</td>
<td>Health of Hispaniola (PHP 0030)</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>LACA0030S01 18407 'To Be Arranged'</td>
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<td>LACA 0066N</td>
<td>People and Cultures of Greater Mexico (ANTH 0066N)</td>
<td>Fall</td>
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<td>LACA 0090A</td>
<td>The Border/La Frontera (ETHN 0090A)</td>
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<td>LACA0090AS01 18431 'To Be Arranged'</td>
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<td>LACA 0100A</td>
<td>Beginning Nahuahtl (NAHU 0100A)</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>LACA0100AS01 18474 'To Be Arranged'</td>
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<tr>
<td>LACA 0190A</td>
<td>Islands of Empire (ETHN 0190A)</td>
<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>LACA 0210</td>
<td>Afro Latin Americans and Blackness in the Americas (AFRI 0210)</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>LACA0210S01 18474 'To Be Arranged'</td>
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<td>LACA 0232</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>LACA0232S01 18474 'To Be Arranged'</td>
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<tr>
<td>LACA 0233</td>
<td>Colonial Latin America (HIST 0233)</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>LACA0233S01 18474 'To Be Arranged'</td>
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<td>LACA 0234</td>
<td>Modern Latin America (HIST 0234)</td>
<td>Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>LACA 0271</td>
<td>Introduction to Latina/o History (ETHN 0271)</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>LACA0271S01 18474 'To Be Arranged'</td>
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<tr>
<td>LACA 0281</td>
<td>Digital Dress: Brazil Cinema on the World Stage (POBS 0281)</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>LACA0281S01 18474 'To Be Arranged'</td>
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<tr>
<td>LACA 0500</td>
<td>Around Latin America in 80 Days: An Historical and Cultural Journey</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>LACA0500S01 16877 1:00-2:20(08) (E. Durante)</td>
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Interested students must register for COLT 0710F.
LACA 0510F. Fidel Castro and Che Guevara: The Men and the Myths
Interested students must register for COLT 0510F.
LACA 0537A. Popular Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean
Interested students must register for HIST 0537A.
LACA 0537B. Tropical Delights: Imagining Brazil in History and Culture
Interested students must register for HIST 0537B.
LACA 0550. Intermediate Spanish for Heritage Speakers
Interested students must register for HISP 0550.
LACA 0577B. The US – Mexico Border and Borderlands: A Bilingual English – Spanish Seminar
Interested students must register for HIST 0577B.
LACA 0580M. The Age of Revolutions, 1760-1824
Interested students must register for HIST 0580M.
LACA 0610. Mapping Portuguese-Speaking Cultures: Brazil
Interested students must register for POBS 0610.
LACA 0610E. Crisis and Identity in Mexico, 1519-1968
Interested students must register for COLT 0610E.
LACA 0630A. The Nature of Things: An Object-Oriented Approach to Lusophone Studies
Interested students must register for POBS 0630A.
LACA 0646. Brazilian Choro Ensemble
Interested students must register for MUSC 0646.
LACA 0670. Global Black Radicalism
Interested students must register for AFRI 0670.
LACA 0673A. Colonial Encounters in the Early Atlantic
Interested students must register for HIST 0673A.
LACA 0700E. Postcolonial Literature
Interested students must register for ENGL 0700E.
LACA 0701A. (En)Gendering the Text: Gender & Sexuality in Latin American Literature and Film
Interested students must register for GNSS 0710A.
LACA 0701B. Hispanic Culture Through Cinema
Interested students must register for HISP 0710B.
LACA 0701E. Introduction to Professional Translation and Interpretation
Interested students must register for HISP 0710E.
LACA 0710I. New Worlds: Reading Spaces and Places in Colonial Latin America
Interested students must register for COLT 0710I.
LACA 0710N. A Comparative Introduction to the Literatures of the Americas
Interested students must register for COLT 0710N.
LACA 0711. Brazilian Democracy in Literature and History
Interested students must register for POBS 0711.
LACA 0711G. The Realist Novel
Interested students must register for COLT 0711G.
LACA 0720. Ecological Imperialism
Interested student must register for ENVS 0720.
LACA 0730. Encounters: Latin American in its Literature and Culture
Interested students must register for HISP 0730.
LACA 0750B. The Latin American Diaspora in the US
Interested students must register for HISP 0750B.
LACA 0750E. Topics in Hispanic Culture and Civilization
Interested students must register for HISP 0750E.
LACA 0750G. Wildestyed Stories
Interested students must register for HISP 0750G.
LACA 0750Q. Health, Illness and Medicine in Spanish American Literature and Film
Interested students must register for HISP 0750Q.
LACA 0760. Transatlantic Crossings: Readings in Hispanic Literatures
Interested students must register for HISP 0760.
LACA 0760A. Rastafarianism
Interested students must register for AFRI 0760A.
LACA 0810. Belonging and Displacement: Cross-Cultural Identities
Interested students must register for POBS 0810.
LACA 0820U. Drug War Politics
Interested students must register for POLS 0820U.
LACA 0850. Comparative Approaches to the Literatures of Brazil and the United States
Interested students must register for POBS 0850.
LACA 0850A. Queerness in Caribbean Literature
Interested students must register for AFRI 0850.
LACA 0850D. The Afro-Luso-Brazilian Triangle
Interested students must register for MUSC 0850.
LACA 0851. New Worlds: Reading Spaces and Places in Colonial Latin America
Interested students must register for COLT 0851.
LACA 0901W. The Space Within: Contemporary Borderland Moving Image Practice
Interested students must register for MCM 0901W.
LACA 0990. Mapping Cross-Cultural Identities
Interested students must register for POBS 0990.
LACA 1020C. The Afro-Luso-Brazilian Triangle
Interested students must register for AFRI 1020C.
LACA 1030. Pre-Columbian Art and Architecture: A World That Matters
Interested students must register for ANTH 1030.
LACA 1030A. Comparative Education
Interested students must register for EDUC 1030.
LACA 1031. Classic Mayan Civilization
Interested students must register for ANTH 1031.
LACA 1050W. Transnational Hispaniola: Haiti and the Dominican Republic
Interested students must register for AFRI 1050W.
LACA 1070. The Burden of Disease in Developing Countries
Interested students must register for PHP 1070.
LACA 1071. On Both Sides of the Lens
Interested students must register for GNSS 1071.
LACA 1080. Performing Brazil: Theater, Language and Culture
Interested students must register for POBS 1080.
LACA 1120. Peoples and Cultures of the Americas
Interested students must register for ANTH 1120.
Interested students must register for HIST 1333.
LACA 1333. The Mexican Revolution (HIST 1333).

Interested students must register for HISP 1331M.
LACA 1331M. Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Hispanophone Caribbean Literature (HISP 1331M).

Interested students must register for HISP 1333.
LACA 1333. The Mexican Revolution (HIST 1333).
LACA 1501A. Exclusion, Gender and Respect: Understanding Youth Violence in Latin American Cities.
Urban crime and fear is perhaps the most important concern for Latin Americans in countries across the region such as Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, and Venezuela. In this course we will develop a thorough analysis of youth violence departing from the structural forces that drive youths to violent lifestyles. We will then pass through cultural dispositions associated with gender identities and the lived experience of violence, youth subjectivities and emotions expressed (such as the sense of hopelessness engendered by these experiences). Finally we will discuss the possibility of alternatives to violence for youths.

LACA 1501G. Remembering and Forgetting the Portuguese Colonial Empire (POBS 1501G).
Interested students must register for POBS 1501G.

This seminar studies recent literature and visual art through a strategic focus on the cities of Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro and Mexico City. Artistic inquiry and evolving issues in contemporary art are discussed. The very limits of literary forms are also explored, inviting questions on the intersections of images and words, or art and literature. Although the history of key artworks and movements in 20th-century Latin America will provide a foundation for our seminar, special attention will be paid to the present. We will examine recent experimentation, looking into the ideas that animate art practices today.

LACA 1503G. Music, Gender + Sexuality in the Americas.
This course studies popular music as a space in which gender and sexuality are performed, focusing on the ways in which popular music has both reflected and challenged gender constructs and norms. The course is structured as a series of case studies illustrating a range of popular music styles from throughout the Americas (Cuban, Mexican, and Puerto Rican bolero, Argentine tango and cumbia, and United States R&B, disco, and pop duets), and the performance of a rainbow of gender and sexual identities (including heterosexual femininity and masculinity, gay and lesbian identities, and queer subjectivities).

LACA 1503H. Sexuality, Human Rights and Health: Latin American Perspective and Brazilian Experiences.
This course is presented in 4 sections. Section 1. Provides an overview on how sexuality and health, both defined by biological paradigms, met social constructionism and human rights perspectives which flourished in Latin America. Section 2. Provides an overview of the human rights based health approach and provide Brazilian cases. Section 3. Provides an overview to the multicultural human rights based approach to sexuality education. Section 4. Expands the dialogical approach of this course by discussing sexuality research and human rights health based interventions in relation with students brought cases.

LACA 1503I. Fiction and Methods in Social Research: Debates on Inequality, Poverty, and Violence.
In this course, students will read, comment, and discuss renowned novels on inequality, exclusion, poverty, and (political, religious, racial, and gender) violence in cases as diverse as Nigeria, India, and Afghanistan. These novels will submerge students in some of the complexities and richness of the selected cases. By reading them, students will explore and discuss concepts, stories and historical context, political and socioeconomic processes, the roles of characters, and arguments.

LACA 1503J. Latin American Urban Interventions.
This seminar engages with narratives of modernization and their relation to time and space in Latin America through cultural artifacts that represent urban interventions designed to improve “the human condition.” Is there an informal Latin American mode of modernity? Are urban interventions condemned to reproduce social exclusion? We review literature on Latin American urban complexes and a case study on a massive residential and commercial complex built in downtown Caracas in the 1970s called Parque Central, including original brochures, shorts stories, poems, excerpts from novels, photos, artwork, films, plays, songs, and performances. Readings will be in English and Spanish and the course will be conducted in Spanish.

LACA 1503K. Mosquito: Performing Epidemics in Latin America and the Caribbean.
This course offers an anthropological overview of the Aedes aegypti mosquito and its epidemics in Latin America and the Caribbean. Yellow fever, dengue, Zika and chikungunya fever are the mosquito-borne diseases. For almost two centuries, they have been the focus of scientific controversies and state health department actions for the control, prevention or surveillance of humans, animals, artifacts, and environment. Moreover, this course examines how epidemics, biosurveillance and their health public policies have been performed from the global infrastructures of science, technology, and their international corporations involving local and ecological entanglements. Class is taught 80% in Portuguese and 20% in English.

LACA 1503L. History of Central America from the 16th Century to the Present.
This seminar examines the history and cultures, from the 16th century to the present, of Central America, a region ethnically diverse but with economic and political elements in common. We will center on the resistance, contradictions, and history of the region and its people. We begin with an overview of the appreciation of rich cultural diversity of Central America starting with the time before the Spanish Conquest, moving on to the impact of Spanish colonialism, the independence movements, and the obstacles of the twentieth century.

This seminar examines Indigenous People’s knowledge through community resistance and social movements to consider the multiple ways in which globalization impacts their lives. The objective of the course is to achieve an in-depth appreciation of Indigenous resistance through the experiences of specific countries of Latin America, and learning how those practices vary according to each region and circumstance. Across the semester, we will develop critical perspectives on diverse academic approaches. Students will read and analyze path breaking documents that marked several indigenous peoples’ histories and that at times come from voices historically marginalized.

LACA 1503N. Race, Racism, and Indigeneity in the Americas.
This upper division seminar focuses on the history and cultures of Latin America’s indigenous peoples, emphasizing the impact of colonial rule, capitalism, and twentieth- and twenty-first century transformations on indigenous communities. Students will trace the effects European conquest and colonization through Latin American history ending with the displacement and emigration of indigenous people from their communities as result of social upheaval and neoliberal policies. Students will frame the experiences of indigenous immigrants through a transnational lens, analyzing how indigenous peoples navigate racial and social institutions in both the U.S. and Latin America.

Networked Movements examines the characteristics of social movements emerging in Latin America since 2007. These movements combine the non-violent occupation of public spaces and the intensive use of digital technologies for autonomous political communication. The course starts with foundations of networked social movement theories. Topics will include: the social appropriation of technological innovations; the construction of collective identity and the movement’s aesthetics; collective action for the occupation of public space; counter-public or counter-hegemonic political action; dynamics of social capital combining strong and weak ties; small-world structure of the movement networks; and mobilizing ideas by information cascades and network contagion.
LACA 1503P. Consuming the Cold War in the Caribbean.
How was the Cold War experienced in the Caribbean? How did refrigerators, automobiles, washing machines, stereos, and blue jeans become proxies of the world superpowers and mechanisms of impersonal rule in the hands of local regimes? How were Caribbean populations transformed by modernizing and developmentalist policies, and how did they resist the marketed allure of empires? Consuming the Cold War in the Caribbean answers these questions, exploring the politics of modern material and visual regimes in Cuba and the region during the post WWII era, addressing such regimes as mechanisms of soft power, impersonal rule, political critique, and resistance.

LACA 1503Q. Politics of Indigeneity in Brazil.
This course examines the politics of indigeneity in Brazil. First, it examines the relationship between native peoples and settlers, especially the Jesuits, Portuguese colonists, and the Portuguese Crown. Our purpose is to understand images of savagery and innocence as part of colonial imaginary in Brazilian’s imaginary about natives. Next, we will explore how indigenous peoples were understand by scientists and naturalists, and how these discussions are important in understanding notions about race in Brazil. Finally, we examine the relationships between native peoples and the State during the Republic, with a focus on contemporary issues, such as development, the environment, and social movements.

LACA 1503R. Researching Social Movements in Latin America.
In this course students will learn about Latin American social movements while conducting research on them. As such, it is a creative course, as it combines social movement theory, Latin American social movements, and students’ creativity to design innovative research projects. We will begin the course reviewing the main social movement theories. Then, we will review basic concepts and research design methods. Third, we will survey the some of the most influential social movements in Latin America in the last 30 years to learn what issues, motivations, and political contexts have mobilized individuals to take up the streets, launch democratizing campaigns, and defend their rights contentiously.

LACA 1503S. Music and Sports in the Americas.
This course explores how music mediates sports experiences in the Americas. Examining case studies including Bob Marley’s relationship with sports, soccer fandom throughout the region, and Shakira and Jennifer Lopez’s Super Bowl Halftime performance, we will discuss how genres, sports, and fan cultures have conjointly shaped and have been shaped by varied sociocultural dynamics in Latin American and Caribbean countries and diasporas. Through readings, listenings, and viewings we will examine the musicality and athleticism of fans, artists, and sportspersons as well as the promises and dangers of sports and music as spaces for sociality, politics, and expression.

LACA 1503T. Caribbean Feminisms.
This course is a study of the emergence and reconfiguration of Caribbean feminisms through the region’s history of women’s and gendered oppressions, subversions and resistances, taking into consideration colonialism, indigeneity, slavery and indentureship, transnationality, and race, ethnicity, sexuality, and class. Attention is also paid to strategies for knowledge production that have been utilised for studying Caribbean gender and sexuality and to the types of research these have produced. Threaded through the course will be an ongoing focus on a recent InterGuyanas feminism initiative that spans the Dutch, English and French-speaking Guyanas. This course is intended for juniors and seniors, but others may be given special permission to register. Students should have some prior knowledge of the Caribbean and/or Gender Studies.

LACA 1503U. Caribbean Migrations: Circulations, Diasporization and Return.
The Caribbean is noted for the way in which migration has profoundly shaped the culture and identity of the region and how it continues to have significance for its peoples wherever they live today. The aim of this course is to examine the role of migration for the Caribbean through history into the present and to consider how human movements to, within, and from the Caribbean are tied to colonialism, globalization and nationalism. It also brings into view the complex reasons for human migration more generally. Attention is given throughout the course to the ways in which gender and race influence the migrations, and how national policies and borders configure the ‘desirable’ Caribbean migrant. A primary emphasis in the course is on the English-speaking Caribbean, although some attention is given to Spanish-, French- and Dutch-speaking territories.

LACA 1503V. Health of Hispaniola.
Two developing countries, Dominican Republic and Haiti, have widely differing health outcomes despite centuries of shared experience on the Caribbean Island of Hispaniola. This course will examine the history, politics, economics, culture, international relations, demography, and geography, as well as epidemiology and health services, to demonstrate that multiple factors, both recent and long-standing, determine the present health of these populations. Enrollment limited to 19 first year students. Instructor permission required.

LACA 1503W. Migration and Gender in Latin America: Crossing Borders and Bridging Disciplines.
In this course, students will be introduced to the field of international migration with a special focus on the Latin American context. They will explore the different migratory systems from the Latin American region and will engage in an effort to dismantle the dominant myths regarding the movement of people. Students will be introduced to transnational perspectives and scholarly literature on borders and gender studies, particularly the ethnographic and qualitative approach. The concept of intersectionality will be fundamental to the course, as it enables us to engage in a deeper discussion of gender, race, ethnicity/nationality, generation and social class relations when it comes to singular migrations. Language of instruction: Spanish. Readings will be assigned in both English and Spanish. Students may submit written assignments in English or Spanish.

LACA 1503X. Regulating Bodies: Migration, Race, and Colonial Legacies in Central America.
This course examines the colonial roots of forced migration and the contemporary immigration policy that affects the lives of Central Americans. We will begin by studying the ways that race and gender hierarchies emerge through colonialism and how these hierarchies connect to recent histories of state violence that determine who may move freely in the Americas. Then we will connect the recent armed conflicts in Central America to the forced migration we recognize today. Building on this foundation, we will trace colonial and conflict-time ideologies about race and gender to learn about contemporary immigration policies like Safe Third Country agreements, coordinated repression of migrant caravans, the Migrant Protection Protocols, and Zero Tolerance. The end of the course will look to the political futures of transnational immigration regulation through the lens of migrant justice activism.

LACA 1504A. Violence and Urban Poverty in Latin America: Ethnographic and Qualitative Perspectives.
Living in a barrio, favela, villa, or colonia means living in a state of emergency, caught in the middle of armed confrontations between state and non-state actors. This course has three main objectives: 1) to understand urban violence from the perspective of people living in poor and marginalized areas; 2) to analyze how ethnographic and interpretive research on urban violence in Latin America is presented; and 3) to consider the ethnographic narrative, the voice of the ethnographer and the challenges of conducting research in violent settings where the research itself is a social problem.
LACA 1504B. Indigenous Politics in Latin America.
Indigenous peoples began participating politically in Latin America in the early 1990s, and have dramatically changed the political dynamics of most countries in the region ever since. In the last two decades, Latin America has experienced mass indigenous mobilizations and the rise of ethnic parties. This course covers a wide range of issues related to ethnicity in Latin America, including indigenous movements and parties, ethnic development and environmental politics, ethnic radicalization and violence, transnational ethnic activism, and indigenous groups and gender politics, among others. This class introduces students to the main empirical and theoretical debates about indigenous politics in Latin America.

LACA 1504C. Representation and Governance in the Federations of Latin America.
This course analyzes the relationships between federalism and four large topics: political stability in plural societies, economic development, democratic representation, and equality. The discussion focuses on the evolution of Latin American federations. Students will learn where federations come from, what they do, and why it matters. They will be able to compare alternative approaches to federalism and to recognize the normative problems at stake in the organization of federations. The course is intended for advanced undergraduate students in political science or international relations. It could also be useful for students majoring in economics, sociology and history.

LACA 1504D. The Art of Revolution in Latin America.
This course considers the role of the arts—visual, literature, music, film, and performance—in Latin American social movements. We will study the work of artists and activists in the Mexican Revolution, Cuban Revolution, Nicaraguan Revolution, South American dictatorship resistances, and contemporary social movements such as the Chilean student movement and narco-trafficking. We will trace the use of the arts in organizing, social critique, collective action, and propaganda, and how they have shaped ideology and culture in Latin America and beyond. We will study a range of political art through comparative, interdisciplinary approaches including literary, cultural and performance studies, and art criticism.

LACA 1504E. Latinx Music in the U.S..
This course considers U.S. Latinx experiences by examining diverse musical genres associated with Latinx peoples, including salsa, corrido, rock, and reggaeton. We will take a critical lens to understanding the transformations of Latinx musics, investigating the processes by which they became central to Latinx identity. Over the course of the semester, we will explore the connections between music and cultural, social, and political forces including the entertainment industry, race, migration, and language. The course focuses on ethnographic and historical approaches as a context for understanding current trends. Prior coursework in music, Latin American studies, American studies, or cultural anthropology preferred.

LACA 1504F. Latin American Authors Encounter the Sciences.
This course offers a scientific and literary journey through diverse Latin American landscapes and societies. The readings are focused on the period 1830-1950. We will trace how natural, social, and medical sciences such as geography, psychiatric, ethnology, and archaeology, have discursively created territories and peoples as part of their own process of disciplinary characterization. We will then explore how writers embraced, discussed, and confronted these scientific discourses on topics such as nature, illness, progress, and indigenous people, among others.

LACA 1504G. Arts of the Environment in the Americas.
Latin America is one of the regions where the worldwide environmental crisis has manifested itself most forcefully over the past decades—with high levels of environmental toxicity, endangered species, and habitat loss. This course will introduce students to how artists, filmmakers, and writers are representing and raising awareness about key environmental issues in the region. The course is structured around five case studies: the desert, agriculture, oil extraction, water pollution, and waste management. Our focus on the environment will serve as a base for larger discussions about the representation of queer, Latinx, and indigenous communities, the aftermath of political violence in post-conflict societies, and the current immigration crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border.

LACA 1505. Vertical Civilization: South American Archaeology from Monte Verde to the Inkas (ANTH 1505).
Interested students must register for ANTH 1505.
LACA 1505A. Haunting Childhood and Social Justice in Latin America.
We will explore literature and cinema featuring child figures to study the central social, political and cultural debates shaping Latin American societies throughout the 20th and 21st centuries. By focusing on genres such as the supernatural, fantastic and horror, we will analyze stories of hauntings to problematize childhood as a state of innocence and violence, ignorance and insight, happiness and dread. We will approach childhood as an entryway into investigating debates surrounding transitional justice, armed conflict, migration, race, gender identity and illness to explore how child figures offer perspectives that challenge hegemonic discourses in Latin America. By examining the child’s relationship with the mysterious, frightening and inexplicable, we will explore childhood as an alternative mode of communication and a metaphorical state through which we can discuss recent political, social and literary histories. Taught in English, Spanish, and Spanglish.

LACA 1510B. Environment and Development in Latin America.
This seminar introduces a “developmental challenges approach” to thinking about resource-based development. The approach is critically used to survey the development of extractive industries and other environmental issues in Latin America.

LACA 1510C. Ethnicity and the Politics of Development in Latin America.
Over the past decades, the realities of ethnicity and the politics of development have repeatedly presented themselves for reflection in Latin America. This course seeks to identify the interfaces and interactions among the two. During the semester, we will examine four questions: First, why is ethnic inequality so persistent in the region? Second, why and how do ethnic boundaries became politicized in the region? Third, can national development and local and indigenous livelihoods coexist? Fourth, is ethnic and environmental contentious politics driving institutional transformation in Latin America?

LACA 1510D. Popular Music and Social Change in Latin America.
This course is designed to illuminate the many ways that popular musicians shape, and are shaped by, the broader social milieu within which they act. Focusing largely on twentieth-century case studies from Cuba, Brazil, and Peru, it illustrates how social dynamics particular to Latin America have constrained popular musicians’ efforts to communicate, circumscribed their artistic and political goals, and enabled them to intervene in sociocultural debates in specific ways. Issues to be considered include the sanctioning of musical styles as national symbols; the harnessing of music to project promoting racial diversity; its use as a medium of political protest as well as a vehicle for populist politics; the shifts in style wrought by industrialization, migration, and urbanization; the importance of media dissemination and commercialization, both in driving musical change and in determining its scope of influence; and the ambivalent role of the processes variously dubbed "westernization," "Americanization," and "globalization."

LACA 1510E. Race, Music and Literature in the Spanish Caribbean.
The course provides an interdisciplinary approach to racial representations in the Literature and Popular Music of the Spanish Caribbean. It explores the different definitions and representations of the Spanish Caribbean cultures and identities from a comparative view of the Anglo and French Caribbean writers.
LACA 1510F. Institutions of Justice and Democracy in Latin America. The course will examine the relationship between democracy building and the performance of Institutions of Justice in Latin America. We will address issues of human rights violations, globalization and its threats, and the Challenges that Latin American regimes faces to build democratic institutions and the rule of Law. The course will focus will be both on the normative and sociological and analysis of the institutions of Justice in Latin America.

LACA 1510G. Literature and Popular Culture in Latin America. Latin American cultures were built on the humanistic and intellectual perspectives exposed by José Enrique Rodó and José Martí, among many others, which propose the artistic aesthetic as a social ideal and the spreading of education as a sign of progress. But these cultural and national projects were developed in "the era of mechanical reproduction" and their literary project soon was menaced by the "cultural industry." This course explores the dialogues and tensions between what has been branded as the "lettered" and the "real city" in Latin American societies in a selection of literature, film, television, and popular music. This course will be given in Spanish.

LACA 1510H. Shaping the Brazilian Nation through Music. This course provides an introduction to the music of Brazil, with a particular emphasis on its role in creating and contesting visions of nationhood during the twentieth century. Focusing upon a limited number of musical practices, from different regions and periods, it is not intended to provide a comprehensive survey. Rather, using a small set of case studies, it highlights key dynamics that have shaped the relation between Brazilian music and Brazilian society more broadly. Topics range from traditional practices, such as candomblé and folias de reis; to samba, bossa nova, and Northeastern regional styles; to the work of composer Heitor Villa-Lobos; to the contemporary hip hop scene of São Paulo. There are no prerequisites, but it is recommended that students have either some knowledge of Latin American culture and/or history, or some musical background. Enrollment will be limited to twenty people, with preference given to those matching these criteria.

LACA 1510I. Urban Latin America. This course provides an introduction to the study of cities and urban life in modern Latin America. We will explore major themes in the past 200 years of Latin American urban life, with a particular focus on the perspectives of overlooked and subaltern actors. Some of the topics we will examine are urban slavery, informality, populism, migration and immigration, urban environments and ecology, queer/LGBTQ+ urban studies, urban planning and modernism, and social movements. By exploring cities during this broader historical period, we will trace the debates and shifting politics that have influenced urban research across multiple disciplines.

LACA 1510J. The Making of Modern Brazil. Will focus on the building of the Brazilian nation and the meanings of social phenomena involved in this process. Based on studies of contemporary Brazilian society, it will analyze different aspects of that country: urbanization, popular culture, revival of tradition, hybridization, imageries, symbolic aspects of money and consumption, popular music.

LACA 1510K. Human Rights in Twenty-First Century Latin America. Course offers a multidisciplinary introduction to the key advances in and challenges for the protection of human rights in contemporary Latin America. In contesting autocratic governments in the 1970's and 1980's, Latin America social movements and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) played a central role in the creation of the institutions and norms that constitute the international human rights system today. Enrollment limited to 20.

LACA 1510L. The Politics of Latin America: Dilemmas and Opportunities. A survey course on the politics of Latin America which aims at exploring the transformations experienced by the region in the last few decades. The course combines the discussion of themes (the emergent economic realities, the quality of democracy) with a more detailed look at countries of particular relevance because of their importance (Brazil, Mexico, Argentina) their unique trajectories (Chile, Cuba) and their relationship with the United States (Venezuela). Enrollment limited to 20.

LACA 1510M. New Latin American Populisms in Comparative Perspective: Bolivia, Argentina, Venezuela + Ecuador. Seminar: this course is based on the notion that there is more to populism and old dichotomies such as rational/irrational, rural/urban or modern/ traditional. It will discuss and identify a more precise definition of populism, characterize the "new Latin American populism" and compare it with the classic populisms of the Post War era and the "neo-populisms" of the nineties. It will discuss the commonalities and differences of these regimes in terms of their coalitions of support and their public policies. Limited to 25 juniors and seniors.

LACA 1510N. Political Systems and Political Parties in Latin America. This course will explore the seemingly contradictory reality of Latin American political systems and political parties. The goals of the course are to analyze the transformations of the political parties and the political party systems in Latin America from the year 2000 to the present day and to highlight the manner in which the party systems transformations had to do the transformations in the representative linkage between the political parties and the civil and political societies that they are rooted in.

LACA 1520. Latin American Horror (GNSS 1520). Interested students must register for GNSS 1520.

LACA 1560. Economic Development in Latin America (DEVL 1560). Interested students must register for DEVL 1560.

LACA 1570. The Economics of Latin Americans (ECON 1570). Interested students must register for ECON 1570.

LACA 1601A. Latin American Literature in an Era of Globalization. This course will explore the impact of globalization on contemporary Latin American Literature. We will analyze novels, short stories and critical discourses produced by Latin American writers in the past thirty years and shed light on how the awareness of the globalized world has transformed writing practices as well as the setting and the construction of narratives. The course will examine the trade-offs associated with the process of globalization, highlighting the beneficial aspects of hypermobility, fluidity, and transnationalism, as well as the dark sides of globalization linked to the rise in inequality and the intensification of narcotrafficking and illegal migration.

LACA 1620B. Latin America and the Caribbean: Challenges of the Global South. This course will explore contemporary political, cultural, and ethnic challenges that characterize Latin America and the Caribbean. It will be structured around five themes (1. Hunger and poverty, 2. Slums and environmental degradation, 3. Political regimes and human rights, 4. Race and indigeneity, 5 Global market and cultural subalternity). The course will adopt an interdisciplinary perspective, based on a variety of cultural productions and scholarly contributions. The languages of instruction will be Spanish and English. Students will be expected to conduct their readings in Spanish. During class discussion they will be permitted to use the language of their choice.

LACA 1621. Material Culture Practicum (ANTH 1621). Interested students must register for ANTH 1621.

LACA 1630. Engaged Humanities: Storytelling in the Americas. This course explores the role of storytelling in the transmission of cultural narratives across societies in Latin America, the Caribbean and Latinx diaspora. We will examine a wide variety of stories as well as mediums (e.g., podcasts, photos, art works, textiles, and music) that are exemplary of this cultural transmission, and we will be exposed to practitioners from the local and international community who will share with us their insights. Students will be engaged in the art of storytelling through collaborative workshops, and will create their original narratives inspired by social and cultural issues of Latin American and Caribbean countries.

LACA 1631. Authority, Identity, and Visual Culture in Colonial Latin America (HIAA 1631). Interested students must register for HIAA 1631.

LACA 1650. Ancient Maya Writing (ANTH 1650). Interested students must register for ANTH 1650.
Interested students must register for HIAA 1822.

LACA 1822. Dada and Surrealism: Anarchy, Exile, Alterity (HIAA 1822)

Interested students must register for INTL 1803S.

LACA 1803S. US-Mexico Borderlands (INTL 1803S)

Interested students must register for DEVL 1803R.

LACA 1803R. Colonial Encounters and the Creation of Latin America (HIST 1966Q)

Interested students must register for HIST 1967C.

LACA 1977I. Gender, Race, and Medicine in the Americas (HIST 1967L)

Interested students must register for HIST 1967C.

LACA 1967E. In the Shadow of Revolution: Mexico Since 1940 (HIST 1967E)

Interested students must register for HIST 1967E.

LACA 1958A. Archives of Desire: Non-Normative Genders and Sexualities in the Hispanic World (HIST 1958A)

Interested students must register for HIST 1958A.

LACA 1967C. Making Revolutionary Cuba (HIST 1967C)

Interested students must register for HIST 1967C.

LACA 1967F. The Maya in the Modern World (HIST 1967F)

Interested students must register for HIST 1967F.

LACA 1966Q. Colonial Encounters and the Creation of Latin America (HIST 1966Q)

Interested students must register for HIST 1966Q.

LACA 1966Q. Colonial Encounters and the Creation of Latin America (HIST 1966Q)

Interested students must register for HIST 1966Q.

LACA 1967F. The Maya in the Modern World (HIST 1967F)

Interested students must register for HIST 1967F.


Interested students must register for HIST 1967L.

LACA 1967T. History of the Incas from the Incas to Evo Morales (HIST 1967T)

Interested students must register for HIST 1967T.

LACA 1972C. Picturing Paradise: Art and Science in the Americas (HMAN 1972C)

Interested students must register for HMAN 1972C.

LACA 1976H. Environmental History of Latin America 1492-Present (HIST 1976H)

Interested students must register for HIST 1976H.

LACA 1977I. Gender, Race, and Medicine in the Americas (HIST 1977I)

Interested students must register for HIST 1977I.

LACA 1979E. Wise Latinas: Women, Gender, and Biography in Latinx History (HIST 1979E)

Interested students must register for HIST 1979E.

LACA 1979L. Urban History of Latin America (HIST 1979L)

Interested students must register for HIST 1979L.


This workshop is designed for junior and seniors in any concentration who are researching and writing about Latin America and the Caribbean. It will help students to enhance their research and organization skills, refine their research or creative projects, and develop or complete a Capstone Project (e.g. honors thesis, honors project, substantial research paper).

Fall LACA1900 S01 16878 W 3:00-5:30(10) (E. Durante)

LACA 1990L. Latina/o Cultural Theory (AMST 1900L)

Interested students must register for AMST 1900L.


Interested students must register for MUSC 1935.


Interested students must register for MUSC 1935.

LACA 1923. Music in the Andean Countries: From Cumbia to Carnavalito (MUSC 1923)

Interested students must register for MUSC 1923.


This workshop is designed for junior and seniors in any concentration who are researching and writing about Latin America and the Caribbean. It will help students to enhance their research and organization skills, refine their research or creative projects, and develop or complete a Capstone Project (e.g. honors thesis, honors project, substantial research paper).

Fall LACA1900 S01 16878 W 3:00-5:30(10) (E. Durante)

LACA 1900L. Latina/o Cultural Theory (AMST 1900L)

Interested students must register for AMST 1900L.

LACA 1923. Music in the Andean Countries: From Cumbia to Carnavalito (MUSC 1923)

Interested students must register for MUSC 1923.


Interested students must register for MUSC 1935.

LACA 1958A. Archives of Desire: Non-Normative Genders and Sexualities in the Hispanic World (HIST 1958A)

Interested students must register for HIST 1958A.

LACA 1961L. Postcolonial Horror: Political Specters in Non-Western Literature and Film (GNSS 1961L)

Interested students must register for GNSS 1961L.

LACA 1961S. Boom Towns: Finance and Literature in Latin America (GNSS 1961S)

Interested students must register for GNSS 1961S.

LACA 1966Q. Colonial Encounters and the Creation of Latin America (HIST 1966Q)

Interested students must register for HIST 1966Q.

LACA 1967C. Making Revolutionary Cuba (HIST 1967C)

Interested students must register for HIST 1967C.

LACA 1967E. In the Shadow of Revolution: Mexico Since 1940 (HIST 1967E)

Interested students must register for HIST 1967E.

LACA 1967F. The Maya in the Modern World (HIST 1967F)

Interested students must register for HIST 1967F.


Interested students must register for HIST 1967L.

LACA 1967T. History of the Incas from the Incas to Evo Morales (HIST 1967T)

Interested students must register for HIST 1967T.

LACA 1972C. Picturing Paradise: Art and Science in the Americas (HMAN 1972C)

Interested students must register for HMAN 1972C.

LACA 1976H. Environmental History of Latin America 1492-Present (HIST 1976H)

Interested students must register for HIST 1976H.

LACA 1977I. Gender, Race, and Medicine in the Americas (HIST 1977I)

Interested students must register for HIST 1977I.

LACA 1979E. Wise Latinas: Women, Gender, and Biography in Latinx History (HIST 1979E)

Interested students must register for HIST 1979E.

LACA 1979L. Urban History of Latin America (HIST 1979L)

Interested students must register for HIST 1979L.


This workshop is designed for junior and seniors in any concentration who are researching and writing about Latin America and the Caribbean. It will help students to enhance their research and organization skills, refine their research or creative projects, and develop or complete a Capstone Project (e.g. honors thesis, honors project, substantial research paper).

Fall LACA1900 S01 16878 W 3:00-5:30(10) (E. Durante)
This seminar serves as a capstone course for the Latin American and Caribbean Studies concentration. Its purpose is to enable students to synthesize the diverse material covered throughout their interdisciplinary coursework in the concentration and to reflect on overarching questions, issues, and concepts related to Latin America and the Caribbean. Open to senior Latin American Studies concentrators. Instructor permission required.

This seminar serves as a capstone course for the Latin American and Caribbean Studies concentration. Its purpose is to enable students to synthesize the diverse material covered throughout their interdisciplinary coursework in the concentration and to reflect on overarching questions, issues, and concepts related to Latin America and the Caribbean. Open to senior Latin American Studies concentrators. Instructor permission required.

For upper-division students interested in pursuing topics in Latin American and Caribbean Studies not currently taught in the Brown curriculum. Students must have significant prior coursework, language skills, and sufficient background knowledge to put together a comprehensive reading list and to produce a final paper that meets the research requirement in the LACA concentration. Course restricted to S/NC.

Class requirements include weekly meetings with the instructor, reading responses submitted before each meeting, and a self-assessment at the end of the semester by the student. The independent study will culminate in a research paper of sufficient depth and sophistication to meet the research requirement for the concentration in Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

Registration requires a comprehensive reading list developed by the student in consultation with the faculty member and a written agreement on course requirements. The concentration advisor’s approval is required if the course is to count toward the concentration.

No more than two (2) semesters of LACA 1994/1995 may be used toward concentration requirements in Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

For upper-division students interested in pursuing topics in Latin American and Caribbean Studies not currently taught in the Brown curriculum. Students must have significant prior coursework, language skills, and sufficient background knowledge to put together a comprehensive reading list and to produce a final paper that meets the research requirement in the LACA concentration.

Class requirements include weekly meetings with the instructor, reading responses submitted before each meeting, and a self-assessment at the end of the semester by the student. The independent study will culminate in a research paper of sufficient depth and sophistication to meet the research requirement for the concentration in Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

Registration requires a comprehensive reading list developed by the student in consultation with the faculty member and a written agreement on course requirements. The concentration advisor’s approval is required if the course is to count toward the concentration.

No more than two (2) semesters of LACA 1994/1995 may be used toward concentration requirements in Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

LACA 2080F. Latin in America (LATN 2080F).
Interested students must register for LATN 2080F.

LACA 2350H. The History of Wonder in Colonial Spanish American Lettres (HISP 2350H).
Interested students must register for HISP 2350H.

LACA 2520L. Latin American Existential Literature (HISP 2520L).
Interested students must register for HISP 2520L.

LACA 2600I. Modern and Contemporary Brazilian Poetry (POBS 2600I).
Interested students must register for POBS 2600I.

LACA 2620O. Authorship and Authoritarianism in Spain and Latin America (HISP 2620O).
Interested students must register for HISP 2620O.

LACA 2880. Race and Architecture (HIAA 2880).
Interested students must register for HIAA 2880.

LACA 2971E. Latin American Historiography (HIST 2971E).
Interested students must register for HIST 2971E.

LACA 2971T. Colonial Latin America (HIST 2971T).
Interested students must register for HIST 2971T.

LACA 2980. Graduate level independent study
This course is meant for graduate students completing a specially designed MA program in Development Studies, Latin American and Caribbean studies and related disciplines. Instructor permission is required for enrollment.