Latin American and Caribbean Studies

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 Latino/a 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/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 Latino/a societies. For more information, contact the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Jeremy Mumford (jeremy_mumford@brown.edu?subject=LACA concentration). Beginning summer 2018, the DUS will be Professor Erica Durante (http://mailto://erica_durante@brown.edu).

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 one of these courses can be a language learning class. 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. A diverse list of courses offered on the region is posted on the department’s website each semester (see examples below); please contact the concentration advisor to ask whether specific courses not listed on the website may be used to meet requirements.

Sample courses which may be used to fulfill concentration requirements

- **LACA 0100**: Introduction to Latin America
- **LACA 1503I**: Fiction and Methods in Social Research: Debates on Inequality, Poverty, and Violence
- **LACA 1503J**: Latin American Urban Interventions
- **LACA 1504D**: The Art of Revolution in Latin America
- **LACA 1900**: Honors and Capstone Project on Latin American and Caribbean Topics
- **AFRI 2502**: Race and Nation in the Spanish Caribbean
- **ANTH 1030**: Pre-Columbian Art and Architecture: A World That Matters
- **ETHN 1200D**: Latinx Literature
- **HISP 0750B**: The Latin American Diaspora in the US
- **HISP 0760**: Transatlantic Crossings: Readings in Hispanic Literatures
- **HISP 2350M**: Poetics of the Avant-Garde in Latin America
- **HIST 1967E**: In the Shadow of Revolution: Mexico Since 1940
- **HIST 1967T**: History of the Andes from the Incas to Evo Morales
- **HIST 1978C**: Reform and Revolution in Latin America
- **INTL 1803S**: U.S.-Mexico Borderlands
- **POBS 1800E**: The Brazilian Puzzle: Confronting the Post-Colonial Legacy
- **PHP 0030**: Health of Hispaniola

2. Competence on a Latin American and/or Caribbean language. Competence in Spanish (HISP 0100 - HISP 0200 or HISP 0110), Portuguese (POBS 0100 - POBS 0200, or POBS 0110), French (FREN 0100 - FREN 0200), 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. A substantial research project. This may be a LACA thesis; a creative project such as fiction, visual art, or performance; or a substantial research paper for a seminar that focuses on a Latin American, Caribbean, and/or Latino/a theme. The project may be completed for honors if the student is eligible (see Honors, below).

Students undertaking a supervised research project may enroll in a year-long independent study (LACA 1990, LACA 1991) with their thesis/project advisor. Options for the research project include:

- **a) Senior Thesis**
  - The senior thesis is a 40-80 page paper based on original research.
  - The thesis is supervised by a primary advisor and a secondary reader. Both must be Brown professors, chosen by the student and approved by the concentration advisor. The primary thesis advisor takes an active role in the paper, regularly meeting with the student throughout the year. The secondary reader reviews and provides feedback on one draft of the paper and the final product.
  - The thesis may qualify a student to graduate with honors, if the student meets the additional requirements and follows the timeline listed here, and receives the unanimous recommendation of their primary advisor and secondary reader, as well as approval from the concentration advisor.

- **b) Research Project**
  - The research project involves a presentation of a film, museum exhibition, concert, art show, or other appropriate project based on original research or creative scholarship, together with a paper that clearly identifies the academic relevance of the project.
  - The research project is supervised by one faculty advisor, who is a Brown professor, chosen by the student and approved by the concentration advisor.

  The research project may qualify a student to graduate with honors, if the student meets the additional requirements and follows the timeline listed here, and receives the unanimous recommendation of their primary advisor and secondary reader, as well as approval from the concentration advisor.

- **c) Research Paper**
  - The research paper is written in an advanced (1000-level) undergraduate seminar on Latin America and the Caribbean.
  - The paper is typically 20-30 pages in length.
  - The concentration advisor must approve the seminar and paper topic by the end of the seventh semester.
  - Submitting a research paper cannot qualify the student for honors.

4. 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 submit a brief summary report to the concentration advisor linking their experience to their scholarship, accompanied by a short letter from a supervisor confirming the completion of the work.

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 a 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.
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:

- **By end of sixth semester:** Students submit a one page proposal to the concentration advisor, including their thesis or project title and short description. The thesis proposal must be signed by a primary advisor and a secondary reader. The project proposal must be signed by a primary advisor.

- **By October 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 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.
  - Students will make a short presentation on their research at an end-of-year event at the Watson Institute.
Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Helvetica was used instead of Arial.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.