



LACIS Courses:

LACIS 260: Latin America: An Introduction (Cross-listed with several other departments)

3-4 Credits/Elementary Level

Latin American culture and society from an interdisciplinary perspective; historical developments from pre-Columbian times to the present; political movements; economic problems; social change; ecology in tropical Latin America; legal systems; literature and the arts; cultural contrasts involving the US and Latin America; land reform; labor movements; capitalism, socialism, imperialism; mass media.

LACIS 361/ANTHRO 361: Elementary Quechua

4 Credits/Elementary Level

Phonology and morphology; concentration on the acquisition of conversational skills; reading of texts of graded difficulty; three hours classroom and one hour lab.

LACIS 362/ANTHRO 362: Elementary Quechua

4 Credits/Elementary Level

Prerequisite: Completion of LACIS/ANTHRO 361

Continuation of LACIS 361.

LACIS 363/ANTHRO 363: Intermediate Quechua

4 Credits/Intermediate Level

Prerequisite: LACIS/ANTHRO 362 or Instructors Consent

Advanced morphology and syntax; advanced conversation and composition; cultural background of Quechua speaking peoples through reading of myths, legends and folktales.

LACIS 364/ANTHRO 364: Advanced Quechua

4 Credits/Intermediate Level

Prerequisite: LACIS/ANTHRO 363 or Instructors Consent.

Continuation of advanced conversation and composition; cultural background of Quechua-speaking peoples through reading of myths, legends, folktales; problems in dialectology.

LACIS 376/ANTHRO 376: First Semester Yucatec Maya

4 Credits/Elementary Level

Prerequisite: Open to Fr

Introduction to Yucatec Maya language. Focus on acquiring vocabulary and grammar for basic conversational proficiency. Taught through in-class oral and aural exercises, language tapes, and primary texts. Students also learn about Maya culture, history, folklore, and language politics.

LACIS 377/ANTHRO 377: Second Semester Yucatec Maya

4 Credits/Intermediate Level

Prerequisite: LACIS/ANTHRO 376

Continued introduction to Yucatec Maya language. Focus on acquiring vocabulary and grammar for basic conversational proficiency. Taught through in-class oral and aural exercises, language tapes, and primary texts. Students also learn about Maya culture, history, folklore, and language politics.

LACIS 440: Topics in Latin American, Caribbean & Iberian Studies

1-4 Credits/Intermediate Level

Prerequisite: Jr st or cons inst

An examination of specific topics related to the Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian region. Topics vary each semester, but may include specific themes in history, literature, media, political science, sociology, culture, politics, social work, and agriculture.

LACIS 440: US & Latin America from Colonial Era to Present

3 Credits/Intermediate

Prerequisite: Jr st or cons inst

This seminar provides a critical examination of US-Latin American relations from the colonial era to the present, tracing the emergence and evolution of the United States as a hemispheric and global power and its political and economic impact on Latin America. It analyses the place of the Western Hemisphere and the rise of US hegemony in the context of the long-term global competition for power that predates the conquest of the New World by European imperial powers. The seminar proceeds chronologically, highlighting major episodes in the evolving relationship between the United States and the Western Hemisphere, weaving in a discussion of developments at the global level as well as internal to the US. These episodes include the imperial scramble for the New World leading up to independence, the westward and southern expansion of the US following independence, the emergence of the US as a regional and world power in the late nineteenth century, its rise to global dominance by the mid-twentieth century, the Cold War era, and the post-Cold War era through the present. During the latter period, particular attention will be devoted to such issues as the ascendancy of neoliberalism, migration, and the drug trade. Throughout, primary attention will be focused on US relations with Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, but other Latin American countries will figure prominently during certain episodes.

LACIS 440: Labor in the Americas: U.S. & Mexico in Comparative and Historical Perspective

3 Credits/Intermediate Level

Prerequisite: Jr st or cons inst

This seminar provides a critical examination of the history of labor and working people in the Americas, from the colonial era to the present. It focuses on the experience of the United States and Mexico, offering a comparative perspective on their distinct but also shared (and increasingly linked) histories. The seminar proceeds chronologically, highlighting major episodes in the evolution of labor systems in the two countries, beginning with the colonial labor systems implemented by the Spanish and British empires following the European conquest of the Western Hemisphere. Indeed, an important feature of the common history of labor and working people in the US and Mexico is their origins in European expansion and conquest and their integration into a larger Atlantic and global economy. The entire region has also been shaped profoundly by the emergence of the United States as a regional and global power, and its influence on economic development, flows of trade and migration, and inter-American relations more generally. Among other topics, we will examine the pivotal role of slavery and other forms of forced labor, the impact of the industrial revolution, the emergence and expansion of corporate capitalism and the labor unrest it provoked in the post-civil war U.S., the role of labor in the Mexican Revolution and its aftermath, the impact of the Great Depression and labor incorporation on the post-WWII social and political order of both countries, the breakdown of that order and the move to neo-liberalism in the 1970s and 1980s, and the emergence of an increasingly integrated North American production system and its consequences for labor and working people on both sides of the US-Mexico border.

LACIS 681: Senior Honors Thesis

3 Credits/Advanced

Honors Only

Individual study and research for majors writing theses for honors degree.

LACIS 682: Senior Honors Thesis

3 Credits/Advanced

Honors Only

Prerequisite: LACIS 681

Individual study and research for majors writing theses for honors degree.

LACIS 698/699: Directed Study

1-6 Credits/Advanced

Prerequisite: Jr or Sr st & cons inst

An independent studies course to allow students at an advanced level to pursue individual projects.

LACIS 982: Interdepartmental Seminar in the Latin American Area

3 Credits

Prerequisite: Grad st or cons inst