LACIS 440 Current Issues in LACIS Region
Fall 2025 - Tuesday 12 - 1:00 pm.
206 Ingraham Hall
1 – 2 Credit

Instructor
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Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description
The Latin American Caribbean and Iberian Lecture Series brings together undergraduate and graduate students with experienced scholars in the field. Its goal is to contribute actively to the professional development of Latin American scholars by giving them an opportunity to present and discuss their research in a constructive atmosphere. The Lecture Series will thus provide the opportunity to meet experts as well as fellow students and community members from different backgrounds working on related topics. Several lectures will be in Spanish.

Requisites
This is a one-credit (or two-credit) seminar, whose main requirements are attendance and participation. The Lecture Series will be based on work submitted by scholars and graduate students on various Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian topics. During the Lecture Series, students will be invited to ask questions, engage in discussions, and provide feedback to their peers and senior experts. There is no textbook assigned for the class, but materials will be available on Canvas.

Grading
A satisfactory grade is based on participation in class discussions and attendance. Students are required to upload at least four reaction essays to Canvas and a final overall reaction essay. Reaction essays may be submitted in English or Spanish.

Assignments:

For students taking the class for 1 credit, you will write 4 1–2-page reaction papers and 1 assessment of the semester reflection paper.

For students taking the class for 2 credits, you will write 4 3–4-page reaction papers and 1 assessment of the semester reflection paper.

Reaction Papers (80 points each paper):
In a 1-2 double-spaced paged docx. or pdf. that is submitted to Canvas digital assignments, respond to the following questions below about a specific speaker of your choosing. The presenter's name, title of the presentation, and date of the talk should be at the top of your paper.

What did you learn from the lecture?

Can you relate the presentation to your own experience?
What is the significance of the lecture to your understanding of Latin America?

If you take this class for 2 credits, your reflection papers should be 3-4 double-spaced pages guided by the same questions above. You can develop your reflection further by connecting the ideas presented to readings, theories, concepts, or methodologies that you've encountered in your research or in other coursework. Please cite any sources that you reference in making connections.

Due Dates: This class uses a rolling due date method, which means you can submit your work at any time in the semester, with the last final date for submission of all work being December 12, 2025, 11:59PM.

Semester Reflection paper (100 points):
To wrap up the Seminar, please upload a 1–2-page overall assessment of the Seminar highlighting the main lessons or conclusions you derived from the Lecture Series. This should be a space for you to reflect on major themes, key lessons and take aways that you leave the class with, and any other ideas that you'd like to share that connect to the presentations this semester. Due Date: December 12, 2025, 11:59PM.

Participation (80 points):
Active participation is a central component of this course. Students are expected to attend all lectures, whether in person and to engage meaningfully during the Q&A sessions. Participation includes asking questions, offering constructive comments, and contributing to discussion in ways that demonstrate thoughtful engagement with the material presented. Simply attending the lectures in silence will not be considered sufficient; students are encouraged to prepare in advance and to interact respectfully and critically with presenters and peers.

Grade Scale:

Percent Range	Grade
100-92	A
91-87	AB
86-82	B
81-78	BC
77-70	C
69-60	D
59-Below	F

Discussion Sessions Schedule –Tuesdays, 12:00-1:00 p.m.
We will offer live lectures in 206 Ingraham Hall as well as virtual lectures via Zoom this fall. We expect that you'll attend most of the sessions in person, but if for any exceptional reason you need to attend via zoom your attendance will also be recorded. If you miss a lecture, you can also view most of our lectures by accessing our LACIS YouTube Channel

For information and updates to information about our speakers go to:
https://lacis.wisc.edu/events-programming/fall-2025-lunchtime-lecture-series/

List:

SEPTEMBER 16

- Dr. Katherine Jensen, Assistant Professor of Sociology and International Studies, UW-Madison
  "The Color of Asylum: The Racial Politics of Safe Haven in Brazil"

SEPTEMBER 23

- Dr. Almita Miranda, Professor of Geography, UW-Madison
  "Familias Sin Fronteras: How Mixed-Status Families Navigate Laws, Borders, and Loss"
  (Co-sponsored by the Latine Cultural Center @ UW-Madison)

SEPTEMBER 30

- Lapiztola Collective from Oaxaca, Mexico

OCTOBER 7

- Dr. Keith Bechtol, Physics Department, UW-Madison

OCTOBER 14

- Dr. Flávia Piovesan, Professor of Constitutional Law and Human Rights, Catholic University of São Paulo, Brazil

OCTOBER 21

- Dr. Américo Mendoza-Mori, St. Olaf College
  "Ayni and the Public Humanities: Indigenous Knowledge Systems in the Andes and Beyond"

OCTOBER 28

- Brenda Navarro, Novelist

NOVEMBER 4

- Dr. Orlando DeAvila, Tinker Visiting Professor of History

NOVEMBER 11

- Dr. Mariana Pacheco, Professor of Bilingual Education Curriculum & Instruction, UW-Madison

NOVEMBER 18

- Dr. Jeff Hartman, PT, DPT, MPH, UW-Madison

NOVEMBER 25

- Tinker-Nave Field Research Panel #1

DECEMBER 2

- Tinker-Nave Field Research Panel #2

DECEMBER 9

- Dr. Ruth Goldstein, Assistant Professor of Gender and Women's Studies, UW-Madison