

# LATIN AMERICAN, CARIBBEAN & LATINX STUDIES

**Phone:** (845) 257-3489 (Program Director) or (845) 257-3480 (Program Secretary)

**Location:** OM 303C (Program Director)

**Web Address:** [www.newpaltz.edu/las](http://www.newpaltz.edu/las)

Latin American, Caribbean Studies & Latinx Studies (LACLAS) offers students a broad, interdisciplinary perspective on the history, geography, economies, political systems, artistic and literary expressions, and activism of this vibrant region. Our programs – a major leading to Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Science (BS) degrees and an 18-credit minor – offer insights on both the common cultural formations and the different and unique cultures that give life to this region of the world. Following a Hemispheric approach, the LACLAS program focuses on the many relationships between Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States, enabling students to learn about Latinx experiences, memories and histories.

One of the unique qualities of our program is the student's role in designing a plan of study. Both the LACLAS major and minor require our foundational course LAM270 Introduction to Latin American Studies and allow students to select classes, by advisement, from a wide range of course offerings housed in more than ten departments.

LACLAS faculty are active scholars from a wide range of academic disciplines, including anthropology, Black studies, communication studies, economics, education, English, Francophone studies, geography, history, political science, sociology, Spanish, theatre arts, and women's, gender, and sexuality studies. The interdisciplinary character of the program and faculty ensures that students approach Latin America, the Caribbean and the Latinx experience from a wide variety of perspectives. Study abroad, internships, talks by prominent Latin American artists and scholars, and many extra-curricular social and cultural activities provide opportunities for students to relate directly to Latin America and the Caribbean.

Consistent with an interdisciplinary approach, students often combine LACLAS with other fields of study by declaring the minor or a double major. Majors in international business, communication, Spanish, and international relations find that a second major in LACLAS enhances their career options in the global market. Graduates with expertise in Latin America are sought by employers in many professions, including academia, business, education, government, law enforcement, medical and social services, international companies/organizations, and non-profits.

## Latin American, Caribbean & Latinx Studies (BA, BS) Program Learning Outcomes

- History: narrate the key periods of Latin American, Caribbean and Latinx history, including early settlers, conquest, colonization, independence, and 20th century to the present.
- Geography: identify and analyze the opportunities and challenges presented by the region's geography.

- Culture and literature: demonstrate an understanding of the region's diverse cultural landscape, ethnic composition, social ordering, gender relations, and religious practices.
- Current issues: examine issues facing contemporary democratization and popular movements.
- Politics: classify and evaluate the range of political systems, and dominant themes in contemporary democratization and popular movements.
- Economics: analyze domestic and regional political economy in a hemispheric and global context.
- Migration patterns: assess the patterns and effects of migration from the region.
- Latin America and the Caribbean in the U.S.: describe the Latinx experience in terms of current issues and the interconnectedness of Latinx and Caribbean communities.
- Language proficiency: demonstrate competence (Intermediate 2 level or above) in a language of the region.

• [Major in Latin American, Caribbean & Latinx Studies](#)

• [Minor in Latin American, Caribbean & Latinx Studies](#)

## LAM270. Introduction to Latin American Studies. 3 Credits.

Broad historical and geographic outlines of Latin America stressing cultural diversity, economic development, and revolution and militarism. Case studies of individual countries.

### Attributes:

- Critical Thinking Introductory
- Effective Expression/Written
- Information Mgmt Intrmd
- Liberal Arts
- GE5: World History Global Aw
- GE4: World Civilizations
- GE3: WRLD

### Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate

May not be repeated for credit

**LAM271. Latinx America. 3 Credits.**

An exploration of the role and position of Latinx communities within the United States and their relation with Latin America and the Caribbean; an exploration of Latinx history, cultural expressions, and representative voices.

**Attributes:**

- Diversity
- Liberal Arts
- GE3: USST
- GE4: United States Studies
- GE5: US History Civic Engmnt

**Restrictions:**

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate

May not be repeated for credit

**LAM293. Latin Am Select Topics. 3-12 Credits.**

Selected topics courses are regularly scheduled courses that focus on a particular topic of interest. Descriptions are printed in the Schedule of Classes each semester. Selected topics courses may be used as elective credit and may be repeated for credit, provided that the topic of the course changes.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate

May be repeated for credit

**LAM295. Indep Study Latin Amer & Carri. 1-12 Credits.**

May be repeated for credit

**LAM370. Guatemala Cultural Engagement. 4 Credits.**

Experimental Learning Course. Students will learn about indigenous and Guatemalan cultural history and tools to teach basic English to community members in San Marcos, Guatemala. Students will improve their Spanish skills.

**Attributes:**

- Service Learning
- Liberal Arts

**Prerequisites:**

- SPA301 Minimum Grade of D- or SPA315 Minimum Grade of D-

May not be repeated for credit

**LAM393. Latin Am Select Topics. 3-12 Credits.**

Selected topics courses are regularly scheduled courses that focus on a particular topic of interest. Descriptions are printed in the Schedule of Classes each semester. Selected topics courses may be used as elective credit and may be repeated for credit, provided that the topic of the course changes.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

**LAM399. Modular Course. 1 Credit.****Restrictions:**

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May be repeated for credit

**LAM493. Latin AM Selected Topics. 3-12 Credits.**

Selected topics courses are regularly scheduled courses that focus on a particular topic of interest. Descriptions are printed in the Schedule of Classes each semester. Selected topics courses may be used as elective credit and may be repeated for credit, provided that the topic of the course changes.

**Attributes:**

- Critical Thinking Advanced
- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May be repeated for credit

**LAM494. Latin American Fieldwork. 1-12 Credits.**

May be repeated for credit

**LAM495. Indep Study Latin Americ. 1-12 Credits.**

The required senior capstone course for Latin American Studies majors is a 3-credit independent study project, supervised by a member of the Latin American Studies faculty and completed during the student's final semester.

**Attributes:**

- Critical Thinking Advanced
- Information Mgmt Advanced

**Restrictions:**

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May be repeated for credit

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