Colby

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Director, *Professor Luis Millones*
Appointments in Latin American Studies: *Associate Professor Ben Fallaw*; *Faculty Fellow Ryan Jones*
Affiliated Faculty*: Professors Patrice Franko (Economics and Global Studies), Luis Millones (Spanish), and Jorge Olivares (Spanish); Associate Professor Betty Sasaki (Spanish); Assistant Professors Winifred Tate (Anthropology) and Emma García (Spanish); Visiting Instructors Livia Hinegardner (Anthropology) and Saul Sandoval Perea (Government)*

Requirements for the Major in Latin American Studies

A total of 11 courses, including Latin American Studies 173, 174, Spanish 135 and 231, two Latin American literature courses at the 200 level or above, three courses on Latin America at the 200 level or above in at least two disciplines in the social sciences, and either a fourth course in the social sciences of Latin America at the 200 level or above (no more than two in the same discipline total) or a Latino/a literature course at the 200 level or above, and one senior seminar or senior project.

Students must receive a grade of C or better for a course to count toward the major. No major requirements may be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory. The point scale for retention of the major applies to all courses taken to fulfill the major.

Majors are required to spend at least one semester in Latin America matriculated in a program that offers university-level courses (not in a language acquisition program); all course work abroad must be conducted in either Spanish or Portuguese. All study-abroad plans must be approved by the director of the Latin American Studies Program. Students may count up to four semester courses of foreign study credit toward the major if they study abroad for an entire year, but only up to two semester courses if they study abroad for just one semester. Students with transfer credits should be advised that four semester courses, combining study abroad and credits from other institutions, is the maximum total permitted to count toward the Latin American studies major. A minimum grade point average of 2.70 is required for permission to study abroad. Prerequisites for study abroad include the completion of Spanish 135 and Spanish 231 (may be taken concurrently) with a grade of C or better.

Note: Students wishing to fulfill the advanced grammar requirement in Portuguese must enroll, after securing the approval of the director of the Latin American Studies Program, in either a one-semester language program abroad (which will not replace the study-abroad requirement) or in an intensive summer language program that certifies advanced proficiency.

Honors in Latin American Studies

Students majoring in Latin American studies with a 3.7 major average or better and 3.3 overall at the end of their fifth semester (including course work done abroad) may apply for admission to the honors program by May 30 of their junior year. Permission of the program director and faculty sponsor is required. It involves a year-long independent research project that replaces the senior seminar requirement. Successful completion of the work of the honors thesis and of the major will enable the student to graduate “With Honors in Latin American Studies.”

Courses Approved for the Major in Latin American Studies

Anthropology
- 231 Caribbean Cultures (paper must be on Latin America)
- 235 Ethnographies of Latin America: Violence and Democracy in the Andes
- 236 Illegal Drugs, Law, and the State (paper must be on Latin America)

Economics
- 214 Economic Policy and Performance in Contemporary Latin America

Government
- 253 Latin American Politics
- 297A Politics of the U.S.-Mexican Border
- 335 United States-Latin American Relations

Latin American Studies
- 173 History of Latin America
- 174 Introduction to Latin American Studies
- 272 History of Law, Society, and Rebellion in Mexico
- 274 Race, Religion, and Frontiers in Iberian-American Colonization
- 275 Strongmen and Populism in Modern Spain and Latin America

- 277 History of the Maya from 200 B.C.
- 473 Seminar: Historical Roots of Violence in Modern Latin America

Spanish

- 231 Advanced Spanish
- 264 U.S. Latina/o Literature: "New" American Identities
- 265 The Short Novel in Spanish America
- 267 Transcultural Journeys: U.S. Latina/o Literature of Resilience
- 268 Latina/o Cultural Expressions in Literature and Film
- 273 Contemporary Spanish-American Short Story
- 276 U.S. Latina/Chicana Women Writers
- 354 Detectives and Spies: Popular Culture in Spanish-American Fiction
- 371 The Colonial Experience: European and Amerindian Responses
- 397B The Diasporic Imagination: Cubans Beyond Cuba
- 493B Seminar: The Latina Body

Course Offerings

LA173f History of Latin America To understand the historical roots of Latin America's enduring tensions and conflicts, students discuss and analyze sources (especially primary ones), write several short historical essays, and research and present a historical drama. Themes include the first American civilizations, the construction of colonial hierarchies, frustrated modernizations (religious, socioeconomic, political), liberalism and conservativism, nationalism, neocolonialism, and social revolutions. *Four credit hours.* **H, I** JONES

LA174s Introduction to Latin American Studies Cross-disciplinary, historically-grounded introduction to modern Latin America, including developing the capability to analyze and articulate the underlying forces behind the region's historical problems and its common geographical and environmental features (i.e. frontiers, regionalism), polities, cultural features, and recurring socioeconomic structures (i.e. plantations, favelas). Historical themes include the Gilded Age of export-oriented liberal modernization, the construction of supposedly timeless national cultures during the "critical decades" of the 1920s and 1930s, urban populism and economic nationalism, the Cuban Revolution, and Cold War dictatorships. *Four credit hours.* **H, I** JONES

[LA214] Economic Policy and Performance in Contemporary Latin America Listed as Economics 214. *Four credit hours.* **I**

[LA235] Ethnographies of Latin America: Violence and Democracy in the Andes Listed as Anthropology 235. *Four credit hours.*

[LA236] Illegal Drugs, Law, and the State Listed as Anthropology 236. *Four credit hours.*

[LA242] Anthropology of Latin America: City Life Listed as Anthropology 242. *Four credit hours.*

LA253f Latin American Politics Listed as Government 253. *Four credit hours.* **I** SANDOVAL PEREA

LA265s The Short Novel in Spanish America Listed as Spanish 265. *Four credit hours.* **L** OLIVARES

LA268s Latino/a Cultural Expressions in Literature and Film Listed as Spanish 268. *Four credit hours.* **L, U** GARCIA

[LA272] History of Law, Society, and Rebellion in Mexico We look beyond the clichéd image of the Mexican bandit to consider the complex economic, social, and political problems behind ruptures in the legal order from Aztec times to the present. Focusing on revolts, the social origins and political construction of crime, and state regulation of popular culture, we trace the outlines of the history of Mexico and consider how notions of legality vary across time and cultures. *Four credit hours.* **H, I**

[LA274] Race, Religion, and Frontiers in Iberian-American Colonization Topics include the medieval roots of Iberian expansion and the importance of religion and race in the Conquest; the institutional and social construction of colonial society, including Iberians' cultural baggage—notions of racial purity and piety and related ideas such as honor and hierarchy; decolonization, focusing on the struggle over abolition; and the persistence of Iberian notions of race and colonization in the Americas. *Four credit hours.* **H, I**

[LA275] Strongmen and Populism in Modern Spain and Latin America A cross-disciplinary study of the historical factors behind the creation of Trujillo's dictatorship in the Dominican Republic, the rise of Getulio Vargas's *Estado Novo* in Brazil, the role of Zapata as an agrarian warlord in the Mexican Revolution, the failure of the Spanish Republic and the emergence of Franco's regime, and the crises that have brought populist regimes and *caudillos*, or charismatic strong leaders to power. *Three credit hours.* **H, I**

[LA277] History of the Maya from 200 B.C. A multidisciplinary survey (archaeology, anthropology, sociology, literature, and history) of the trajectory of the Mayan peoples from the writing of the first known Maya glyphs (c. 200 B.C.) to the current conflicts in Chiapas and Guatemala. *Four credit hours.* **H, I**

LA297f Latin American Ethnographies Listed as Anthropology 297B. *Four credit hours.* **I** STONE

LA297Bf Mexican Politics Listed as Government 297. *Four credit hours.* SANDOVAL PEREA

LA298s History of the Southern Cone (Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay) Provides students with a survey of the histories of Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay, from colonization to the present, including comparisons with the historical processes in other regions of Latin America, particularly Brazil. Key topics include colonization/neocolonialism, race, populism, immigration, gender roles, "civilization and barbarism," nationalism, state violence, military dictatorship, cultural forms (tango, soccer, carnival), and politics. An emphasis on cultural and social histories, testimonial literature, film, and documentaries will offer students a richer perspective on the histories and experiences of the region. *Four credit hours.* **H, I** JONES

LA397f The Diasporic Imagination: Cubans Beyond Cuba Listed as Spanish 397B. *Four credit hours.* OLIVARES

LA398s Democratization in Latin America Listed as Government 398. *Four credit hours.* **I** SANDOVAL PEREA

[LA473] Historical Roots of Violence in Modern Latin America Why have Latin American nations experienced persistent violence? We examine historical roots of the violence from an interdisciplinary perspective. How do social, political, and cultural historians, as well as anthropologists, sociologists, political scientists, and psychologists, explain social and ethnic conflicts, domestic violence, torture, insurgencies, and counterinsurgencies, and dirty wars? Objectives include a response paper, in-class presentations, a critical book review, and a substantial (c.30 page) research paper, the first draft of which will be presented and critiqued in class. *Prerequisite:* A previous course on Latin America and permission of the instructor. *Four credit hours.* **H, I**

LA483f, 484s Senior Honors Thesis A year-long research project for senior majors resulting in a written thesis to be publicly presented and defended. Students may register either for two credits in the fall, January, and spring terms or for three credits in the fall and spring terms. *Prerequisite:* a 3.3 or higher major average at the end of the junior year and permission of the Latin American studies advisory committee. *One to four credit hours.* FACULTY

LA491f, 492s Independent Study An independent study project devoted to a topic chosen by the student with the approval of an advisor. Only independent studies taken with a Colby faculty member and approved by the director of the Latin American Studies Program may count toward fulfilling major requirements. *One to four credit hours.* FACULTY

LA493s Seminar: Andean Colonial World Listed as Spanish 493. *Four credit hours.* **L, U** MILLONES

LA497f Gender, Sexuality, and the Body in Latin American History This seminar provides advanced students with a theoretical and methodological overview of gender and sexuality theory and practice as it relates to Latin American history and an opportunity to put those theories and methods to use in their own work. A historically grounded view from 1500 to present that incorporates valuable perspectives from the social sciences. Goals include broadening students' understandings of women's histories, sex/gender norms, queer sexualities, racial categories, labor movements, expressive cultures, medicine, criminology, the body as a historical site, and the family. *Four credit hours.* **H, I** JONES