

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES, BA

Banner Code: LA-BA-LAS

Email: las@gmu.edu

Website: las.gmu.edu/programs/LA-BA-LAS

The BA in Latin American studies looks at contemporary Latin America and its progress through a long and turbulent history of conquest, resistance, and cultural mixing. The result is a rich and unique blend of African, indigenous, and European cultures. Majors develop a broad expertise in the region while also pursuing an individualized program of study that suits their interests. Students improve their language skills and take courses in many disciplines, including anthropology, dance, economics, folklore, geography, government, history, and literature. All students have opportunities for research, global engagement, public service, and career preparation.

Admissions & Policies

Policies

Students pursuing this degree must complete 33 credits within the major, with a minimum GPA of 2.00.

For policies governing all undergraduate degrees, see AP.5 Undergraduate Policies.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: minimum 120

Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.

Core Courses in the Major

Required Introductory Course

LAS 300	Latin American Studies: Interdisciplinary Perspectives	3
Total Credits		3

Required Courses in History

HIST 271	Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core)	3
HIST 272	Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core)	3
Total Credits		6

Social Science Courses Related to Latin America

Select two courses from the following:		
ANTH 302	Peoples and Cultures of Latin America (Mason Core)	6
ECON 361	Economic Development of Latin America (Mason Core)	
GGG 316	Geography of Latin America	

GOVT 331	Government and Politics of Latin America	
Total Credits		6

Humanities Course Related to Latin America

Select one course from the following:		
ENGH 315	Folklore and Folklife	3
SPAN 322	Introduction to Latin American Culture (Mason Core)	
SPAN 325	Major Hispanic Writers (Mason Core)	
Total Credits		3

Seminar Course

LAS 499	Research Seminar in Latin American Studies (Mason Core)	3
Total Credits		3

Language Requirement

All Latin American studies majors must demonstrate reading, speaking, or writing knowledge of Spanish or Portuguese by exam or achieving a minimum grade of 2.00 in a 300-level course in the language selected. Upper-level Latin American literature or culture courses taught in Spanish or Portuguese may be used to satisfy the electives requirement.

Electives in Latin American Studies

Select four electives in Latin American studies ¹		12
Total Credits		12

¹ Students may satisfy the electives requirement with any course that contains a significant emphasis on Latin America or the culture, politics, sociology, or history of Latinos living in the United States. In addition, students are strongly encouraged to use an internship (LAS 490 Internship) or a study-abroad program to fulfill some of these credits. The electives must be approved by the director of the program. Upper-level Latin American literature or culture courses taught in Spanish or Portuguese may be used to satisfy the electives requirement.

Writing-Intensive Requirement

The university requires all students to complete at least one course designated "writing intensive" in their major at the 300 level or above. Students majoring in Latin American studies should consult with the director for a course to fulfill this requirement.

Upper Level Requirement

Students seeking a bachelor's degree must apply at least 45 credits of upper-level courses (numbered 300 or above) toward graduation requirements.

College Level Requirements for the BA Degree

In addition to the Mason Core program, students pursuing a BA degree must complete the coursework below. Except where expressly prohibited, a course used to fulfill a college level requirement may also be used simultaneously to satisfy other requirements (Mason Core requirements or requirements for the major).

Philosophy or Religious Studies

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits from the following:		
PHIL ¹		3
RELI		

¹ Note that the following courses may not be used to fulfill this requirement:

- PHIL 323 Classical Western Political Theory
- PHIL 324 Modern Western Political Theory
- PHIL 327 Contemporary Western Political Theory
- PHIL 393 Humanities College to Career
- PHIL 460 Senior Seminar in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

Additionally, PHIL 253 Philosophy and Literature (Mason Core) and RELI 235 Religion and Literature (Mason Core) cannot be used to fulfill both the philosophy/religious studies requirement and the Mason Core literature requirement.

Social and Behavioral Sciences

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits of social and behavioral sciences from the following (additional to the Mason Core social and behavioral sciences requirement) ¹		

ANTH		
CRIM		
ECON		
GOVT		
HIST ²		
LING		
PSYC		
SOCI		
Or choose from the following GGS courses:		
GGS 101	Major World Regions (Mason Core)	
GGS 103	Human Geography (Mason Core)	
GGS 110	Introduction to Geoinformation Technologies	
GGS 301	Political Geography	
GGS 303	Geography of Resource Conservation (Mason Core)	
GGS 304	Population Geography (Mason Core)	
GGS 305	Economic Geography	
GGS 306	Urban Geography	
GGS 315	Geography of the United States	
GGS 316	Geography of Latin America	
GGS 320	Geography of Europe	
GGS 325	Geography of North Africa and the Middle East	
GGS 330	Geography of the Soviet Succession States	
GGS 357	Structures in Urban Governance and Planning	
GGS 380	Geography of Virginia	

¹ The two courses used to fulfill the combined college and Mason Core requirements must be from different disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences.

² HIST 100 History of Western Civilization (Mason Core) and HIST 125 Introduction to World History (Mason Core) may not be used to fulfill this requirement.

Foreign Language

Code	Title	Credits
Intermediate-level proficiency in one foreign language, fulfilled by: ¹		
Completing a course in a foreign language numbered 202, 209, or 210 (or higher level courses taught in the language)		
Or achieving a satisfactory score on an approved proficiency test		
Or completing the following ASL three course sequence:		
EDSE 115	American Sign Language (ASL) I	
EDSE 116	American Sign Language (ASL) II	
EDSE 219	American Sign Language (ASL) III	

¹ Students who are already proficient in a second language may be eligible for a waiver of this requirement. Additional information on waivers can be found at the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (<http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu>).

Non-Western Culture

Select 3 credits of an approved course in the study of a non-Western culture (additional to the Mason Core requirement in global understanding)

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits (additional to Mason Core Global Understanding requirement) ¹		
ANTH 114	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 300	Civilizations	3
ANTH 301	Native North Americans	3
ANTH 302	Peoples and Cultures of Latin America (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 303	Peoples and Cultures of the Andes	3
ANTH 306	Peoples and Cultures of Island Asia (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 307	Ancient Mesoamerica (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 308	Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 309	Peoples and Cultures of India (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 313	Myth, Magic, and Mind (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 314	Zombies	3
ANTH 316	Peoples and Cultures of the Caribbean (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 323	Digging and Dealing in the Dead: Ethics in Archaeology	3
ANTH 330	Peoples and Cultures of Selected Regions: Non-Western	3
ANTH 332	Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Globalization (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 381	Medical Anthropology	3
ANTH 383	Cities of the Global South	3
ANTH 396	Issues in Anthropology: Social Sciences (Mason Core)	3

ARAB 360	Topics in Arabic Cultural Production	3	HIST 271	Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core)	3
ARAB 420	Survey of Arabic Literature	3	HIST 272	Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core)	3
ARAB 440	Topics in Arabic Religious Thought and Texts (Mason Core)	3	HIST 281	Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 203	Survey of Asian Art (Mason Core)	3	HIST 282	Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 204	Survey of Latin American Art (Mason Core)	3	HIST 326	Stalinism	3
ARTH 206	Survey of African Art (Mason Core)	3	HIST 327	The Soviet Union and Russia Since World War II	3
ARTH 318	Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt	3	HIST 328	Rise of Russia (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 319	Art and Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (Mason Core)	3	HIST 329	Modern Russia and the Soviet Union (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 320	Art of the Islamic World (Mason Core)	3	HIST 353	History of Traditional China	3
ARTH 382	Arts of India (Mason Core)	3	HIST 354	Modern China	3
ARTH 383	Arts of Southeast Asia (Mason Core)	3	HIST 356	Modern Japan (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 384	Arts of China (Mason Core)	3	HIST 357	Postwar Japan (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 385	Arts of Japan (Mason Core)	3	HIST 358	Post-1949 China (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 386	The Silk Road (Mason Core)	3	HIST 360	History of South Africa (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 482	RS: Advanced Studies in Asian Art	3	HIST 364	Revolution and Radical Politics in Latin America (Mason Core)	3
CHIN 318	Introduction to Classical Chinese (Mason Core)	3	HIST 365	Conquest and Colonization in Latin America (Mason Core)	3
CHIN 320	Contemporary Chinese Film	3	HIST 366	Comparative Slavery	3
CHIN 325	Major Chinese Writers (Mason Core)	3	HIST 367	History, Fiction, and Film in Latin America	3
DANC 118	World Dance (Mason Core)	3	HIST 387	Topics in Global History (Mason Core)	3-6
ECON 361	Economic Development of Latin America (Mason Core)	3	HIST 426	The Russian Revolution	3
ECON 362	African Economic Development (Mason Core)	3	HIST 460	Modern Iran (Mason Core)	3
FREN 451	Topics in Sub-Saharan Francophone Literature and Culture	3	HIST 461	Arab-Israeli Conflict	3
FREN 454	Topics in Caribbean Francophone Literature and Culture	3	HIST 462	Women in Islamic Society (Mason Core)	3
GGG 101	Major World Regions (Mason Core)	3	HIST 465	The Middle East in the 20th Century	3
GGG 316	Geography of Latin America	3	JAPA 310	Japanese Culture in a Global World (Mason Core)	3
GGG 325	Geography of North Africa and the Middle East	3	JAPA 340	Topics in Japanese Literature (Mason Core)	3
GGG 330	Geography of the Soviet Succession States	3	KORE 320	Korean Popular Culture in a Global World	3
GGG 399	Select Topics in GGS	3	MUSI 103	Musics of the World (Mason Core)	3
GOVT 328	Non-Western Political Theory	3	RELI 211	Religions of the West (Mason Core)	3
GOVT 332	Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa	3	RELI 212	Religions of Asia (Mason Core)	3
GOVT 333	Government and Politics of Asia	3	RELI 240	Death and the Afterlife in World Religions	3
GOVT 340	Central Asian Politics	3	RELI 272	Islam	3
GOVT 341	Chinese Foreign Policy	3	RELI 313	Hinduism (Mason Core)	3
GOVT 345	Islam and Politics	3	RELI 314	Chinese Philosophies and Religious Traditions	3
GOVT 432	Political Change and Social Development in Sub-Saharan Africa	3	RELI 315	Buddhism (Mason Core)	3
GOVT 433	Political Economy of East Asia	3	RELI 337	Mysticism: East and West	3
HIST 251	Survey of East Asian History (Mason Core)	3	RELI 365	Muhammad: Life and Legacy	3
HIST 252	Survey of East Asian History (Mason Core)	3	RELI 374	Islamic Thought (Mason Core)	3
HIST 261	Survey of African History (Mason Core)	3	RELI 375	Qur'an and Hadith	3
HIST 262	Survey of African History (Mason Core)	3	RELI 379	Islamic Law, Society, and Ethics	3
			RELI 387	Islam, Democracy, and Human Rights	3
			RELI 490	Comparative Study of Religions (Mason Core)	3

RUSS 353	Russian Civilization (Mason Core)	3
RUSS 354	Contemporary Post-Soviet Life (Mason Core)	3

successive semesters. In this sequence, students complete an advanced research project under the guidance of a faculty member. To graduate with honors in the major, students must earn a minimum GPA of 3.50 in the honors courses.

¹ A course used to fulfill the Mason Core global understanding requirement may not be simultaneously used to satisfy this college-level requirement. A course used to fulfill this requirement may be used simultaneously to fulfill any other requirements (Mason Core requirements, college-level requirements, or requirements for the major). Additional information on waivers can be found at the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (<http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu>).

Mason Core

Note: Some Mason Core requirements may already be fulfilled by the major requirements listed above. Students are strongly encouraged to consult their advisors to ensure they fulfill all remaining Mason Core requirements.

Code	Title	Credits
Foundation Requirements		
	Written Communication	6
	Oral Communication	3
	Quantitative Reasoning	3
	Information Technology	3-7
Core Requirements		
	Arts	3
	Global Understanding	3
	Literature	3
	Natural Science	7
	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
	Western Civilization/World History	3
Synthesis/Capstone Requirement ¹		
	Synthesis/Capstone	3
Total Credits		40

¹ minimum 3 credits

Additional Electives

Any remaining credits may be completed with electives to bring the degree total to 120

Honors

Honors in the Major

Latin American studies majors who have completed 75 credits (a minimum of 15 in Latin American studies, 6 of which must have been taken at Mason) with an overall minimum GPA of 3.50 and a minimum GPA of 3.50 in the major may apply to pursue advanced work leading to graduation with honors in the major. The application consists of a transcript, a recommendation from one member of the LAS faculty, and a brief description of a proposed research project.

Once accepted into the program, students pursuing honors in the major complete a two-course sequence LAS 491 Directed Reading for Honors in Latin American Studies and LAS 499 Research Seminar in Latin American Studies (Mason Core) (an honors section), which must be taken in