

# AS.361 (LATIN AMERICAN, CARIBBEAN, AND LATINX STUDIES)

## Courses

### AS.361.100. Introduction to Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies. 3 Credits.

An interdisciplinary introduction to the ways of life of Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx peoples, their origins, historical legacies, and current cultural expressions. This course assumes no prior knowledge and incorporates the insights of several disciplines including anthropology, history, political science, economics, cultural studies, literary criticism, and ethnomusicology. The course seeks to comprehend the region from multiple perspectives and to provide a broad conceptual overview.

**Prerequisite(s):** Students who have taken AS.361.130 are not eligible to take AS.361.100.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

### AS.361.300. Documentary Cinema in Latin America: Memory, Politics, Poetics. 3 Credits.

How can films create and reframe historical narratives? How do films convey collective histories, such as the struggle to defend the rights of nature in the Amazon rainforest, the post-revolutionary racialization of Afro-Cuban farmworkers in the outskirts of La Habana, or the bloody 1973 coup d'état in Chile? How can experimental aesthetics settle with a population struggling with hunger in Brazil? This seminar delves into the documentary mode within Latin American cinema, exploring the intricate relationship between personal and collective memories, politics, and the poetics of filmmaking. Despite being broadly defined by a commitment to concepts like "fact" and "reality," documentaries blur the distinction between fictional and non-fictional narratives. Documentaries denounce, interpret, and construct the telling of historical events; they also investigate, reflect, and reenact autobiographical accounts. Our course takes a multidisciplinary approach, analyzing several films as both works of art and historical documents, that is, works that recount the region's social, aesthetic, political, and economic realities. We will examine various topics, including memory, identity, politics, ethics, aesthetics, nature, human and more-than-human rights, and social justice, by analyzing productions from countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, México, and more. We'll draw from various fields and disciplines, including film and media studies, performance studies, philosophy, anthropology, and memory studies. This course presents an exceptional opportunity to expand our knowledge and understanding of Latin America by analyzing some of the most thought-provoking films ever made.

## Cross-Listed Courses

### Anthropology

#### AS.070.132. Invitation to Anthropology. 3 Credits.

This introductory course will focus on the theme of "encounter," which has been central to anthropology's self-formation. We will focus on the encounter with the other, the colonial encounter and the encounter with the possibility of human extinction to explore how newness comes into the world and how it may be structured by prior violence.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Writing Intensive

#### AS.070.324. Latin America in a Fracturing World. 3 Credits.

This course examines the multiple and overlapping crises afflicting Latin America today through an ethnographic lens. Featuring conversations with authors of recent work on the region's most pressing issues, we will explore the contours of knowledge production itself under conditions of precarity and violence. Discussions will include the retrenchment of borders, migration crises, the state management of life and death, the resurgence of authoritarianism, food insecurity, and resource conflicts.  
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Writing Intensive

#### AS.070.336. Ethnographic Perspectives on Brazil. 3 Credits.

This seminar offers an examination of Brazilian culture and politics through close readings of classic and contemporary ethnography. The course will track how anthropologists have approached the complexities and contradictions of Brazilian society. And, conversely, we investigate how studies in Brazil have prompted challenges to and generated innovations in anthropological thought.  
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Writing Intensive

#### AS.070.602. Environmental Justice Workshop. 4 Credits.

This course will create a space for students to join in the collective struggle to build equitable and sustainable urban futures in Baltimore. The course is co-taught by community organizer Shashawnda Campbell (South Baltimore Community Land Trust) and anthropologist Anand Pandian (Johns Hopkins University). Students will gain first-hand exposure to environmental conditions, community needs, and organizing efforts in south Baltimore, working closely together with community members in developing collaborative and interdisciplinary projects for environmental justice. The course builds on the work of the Sustainable Design Practicum in the fall of 2022. Class sessions will take place each week in south Baltimore, and meeting times include transportation to/ from the Homewood campus. Restrictions: Admission by permission of instructor. Apply at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/ykjauf84>  
Area: Quantitative and Mathematical Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

## Center for Africana Studies

#### AS.362.318. Liberation in the African Diaspora. 3 Credits.

This course explores the historical, theoretical, and political question of liberation in the African diaspora from the period of enslavement up to the current era. We will consider three major themes: enslavement, marronage, and freedom; Pan-Africanism and anti-colonialism; Black Power and national liberation. We will examine how African peoples conceptualized freedom and liberation in each period, the major organizations and intellectuals who framed them, and how popular activity developed and informed all three (ideas, organizations, and intellectuals). Some of the questions taken up include: How did enslaved Africans conceptualize freedom? Did their ideas and activities merely extend western notions of liberty and freedom, or did they develop distinct conceptions of freedom, rights, and humanity? Why, in the early Twentieth Century, did African peoples around the world pursue pan-Africanism as a political philosophy? How do class, nationality, gender, and sexuality inform such movements? Did national liberation struggles from the 1950s through the 1970s in Africa and the Caribbean bring about fundamental changes to those societies or merely replicate colonial regimes? What connections existed between national liberation movements in Africa and the Caribbean, and Civil Rights and Black Power in the United States and England?

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Writing Intensive

## Earth & Planetary Sciences

### AS.271.306. Food, Energy, Water, and Power in the Global South: An Interdisciplinary Approach. 4 Credits.

Worldwide, there has been rapidly growing interest in research, education, and discourse around the Food-Energy-Water-Nexus (FEW-Nexus). This course will provide students with a framework to describe, analyze, and assist in addressing these complex interrelationships associated with coupled human-natural systems at local, regional, and global scales.

The course integrates physical and biological sciences, social and behavioral sciences, humanities, and engineering while covering broad frameworks such as ecosystem-based approaches, critical historical and ethnographic analysis, decision science, and relevant research methods. The course culminates in a funded field work experience at several sites in Brazil. Admission by permission of instructors.

## First Year Seminars

### AS.001.132. FYS: Exploring Economic Inequality. 3 Credits.

In this First-Year Seminar, we examine inequalities in income, wealth, and working conditions in the United States today. What do the historical trends look like and how do economists explain them? Is economic inequality a significant problem? If so, why? And what tools do we have in the policy arsenal to address it? We will draw on diverse sources, including economics readings, op-eds, podcasts, and short vignettes from literature to motivate our weekly discussions. Students will have the opportunity to present group research and lead class discussions drawing on the economic concepts developed in class. At the end of the semester, students will complete an individual research project exploring some aspect of current inequality, inspired by their own selection from literature, poetry, music, or film.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

### AS.001.144. FYS: Literary Multilingualism. 3 Credits.

What does it mean to live and to write in more than one language? This is a particularly charged question in today's globalized world. In this First-Year Seminar, we will explore texts and films produced by multilingual writers and directors, who reflect on the experiences of the multilingual subject; their concerns range from the turmoil of living between identities and cultures, to the playful experience of daily life and existence opened up through thinking and working in multiple languages. Main questions will include: In what ways do languages influence how writers write? How does the presence of multiple languages in a text structure a reading experience and for whom? How do texts by multilingual writers destabilize conceptions of national literature? While some texts we will read were originally composed in English, the majority were written by multilingual writers in other languages. Finally, therefore, we will address what it means to read translated into English texts that were, in some sense, already produced "in translation."

Area: Humanities

### AS.001.145. FYS: The Haitian Revolution. 3 Credits.

Long overshadowed by the American and French Revolutions, the Haitian Revolution (1791-1804) is now widely recognized as one of the most important events in modern history. The most radical of the Atlantic Revolutions, it began with a massive uprising of the enslaved against the institution of slavery and culminated in the independence of the nation of Haiti. This First-Year Seminar will examine the origins, course, and legacy of the Revolution, addressing such issues as colonialism, racism, slavery, emancipation, human rights, and national sovereignty – issues that continue to shape the contemporary world.

Area: Humanities

## History

### AS.100.115. Modern Latin America. 3 Credits.

A class combining Latin American history since independence and digital humanities (revised with 2021 student feedback). Students will build guided research projects while thinking about questions of republicanism, freedom and unfreedom, migration, and development.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

### AS.100.127. Transatlantic Histories of Illicit Pleasure. 3 Credits.

Through issues of illicit pleasure (sexuality, hallucination, play, etc.) in Black, Indigenous, queer, and women's history circa 1500-1850, we will investigate the politics of morality. Assessment will be based on "Un-Essay" projects instead of written exams.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

### AS.100.321. Political Thought and Social Transformation in the Haitian Revolution and Early Independent Mexico, c. 1789-1850. 3 Credits.

This course will examine both the Haitian Revolution and the early period of Mexican independence by engaging with the ideas of actors within these events in international contexts.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Writing Intensive

### AS.100.379. Brazil History and Cultures: A Glance from Baltimore. 3 Credits.

Using textual and visual documents (including books from Peabody Library), we will examine the contrasts of Brazilian history and culture, and its connections with 19th and 20th century Baltimore.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

### AS.100.394. Brazilian Paradoxes: Slavery, Race, and Inequality in Brazil (from a Portuguese Colony to the World's 8th Largest Economy). 3 Credits.

Place of contrasts, Brazil has a multi-ethnic cultural heritage challenged by social and racial inequalities. Its political life remains chaotic. We will examine these problems through Brazilian history and culture (literature, cinema).

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

### AS.100.396. The Gender Binary and American Empire. 3 Credits.

This seminar explores how the sex and gender binary was produced through US colonialism since the nineteenth century. Topics include domestic settler colonialism, as well as Hawaii, the Caribbean, and Asia.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Writing Intensive

### AS.100.450. History Research Lab. 3 Credits.

In this course, students participate in a research "laboratory," engaging in direct research on an area of faculty's research, leading to the development of a collective, digital humanities project.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Writing Intensive

## History of Art

### AS.010.205. Art of Mesoamerica. 3 Credits.

This course provides a basis for the study of Mesoamerican visual cultures and urban settings. We will explore the artistic production of the Olmec, Maya, and Aztec as well as works created by the artists of Teotihuacan, Monte Albán, and West Mexico. With a focus on aesthetics and cultural function, case studies range from stone sculpture, painted ceramics, and screenfold codices, to architectural complexes from Mexico and Central America. Themes to be discussed include: representations of humans and deities, monumentality and rulership, mutilation and destruction of monuments, and ritual and political significance of materials.

Area: Humanities

**AS.010.214. Ancient Americas in Motion. 3 Credits.**

This course critically examines the visual arts through the medium of documentary, historical, and Hollywood film. Coverage is mostly North America and Mesoamerica.

Area: Humanities

**AS.010.320. Art of Colonial Peru. 3 Credits.**

Viewed within the dynamic historical context of colonial society, we consider the pictorial, sculptural, and architectural programs that ensued in viceregal Peru (1532-1825). We examine the role of religious orders, art schools, artisan guilds and *cofradía*, and consider the social and political implications of art patronage.

Area: Humanities

**AS.010.325. Blood, Gold, and Souls: The Arts of the Spanish Empire. 3 Credits.**

From the sixteenth through the eighteenth centuries, visual forms and practices linked such far-flung places as Mexico City and Naples, Manila and Lima, Cuzco and Antwerp, Quito and Madrid: all cities in the Spanish Empire. This course is conceived as a voyage, moving city by city to explore objects that connected Spain's vast holdings. We will investigate how the Spanish Crown and the Catholic Church used visual strategies to consolidate political power and instill religious faith across the world; and, alternatively, we will consider how local conditions, concerns, and resistance reshaped those efforts. This course surveys a diverse range of artistic production: religious paintings and sculptures; maps used for imperial surveillance; luxury goods crafted from shimmering feathers, ceramics, ivory, and precious metals; urban design and architecture from the ports of Europe to the highland outposts of the Andes; ephemeral cityscapes for civic performances. In examining such materials, students will be introduced to the art historical methods and theoretical concerns used to study a wide diversity of objects within an imperial frame.

Area: Humanities

**AS.010.350. Body and Soul: Medicine in the Ancient Americas. 3 Credits.**

This course examines curative medicine in the Americas through its visual culture and oral histories. Philosophies about the body, health, and causes of illness are considered, as are representations of practitioners and their pharmacology. Case studies are drawn from across the Americas (Aztec, Moche, Aymara, Paracas, American SW). Collections study in museums, Special Collections.

Area: Humanities

**AS.010.365. Art of the Ancient Andes. 3 Credits.**

The visual arts of Andean South America and their respective cultural contexts form the basis of our study. Collections study in local and regional museums.

Area: Humanities

**AS.010.366. Native American Art. 3 Credits.**

Visual arts are examined and discussed in their respective social and historical contexts.

Area: Humanities

**AS.010.389. The Stone and the Thread. 3 Credits.**

Advanced inquiry into imperial Inka architecture and fiber arts.

Area: Humanities

Writing Intensive

**AS.010.398. Tombs for the Living. 3 Credits.**

Centering on the tomb as the unit of analysis, this course examines the cultural and material aspects of death and funerary ritual. Case studies are drawn from North America, Mesoamerica, and the Andes. Collections study in museums.

Area: Humanities

**AS.010.407. Ancient Americas Metallurgy. 3 Credits.**

This course addresses the technology, iconography and social significance of metals and draws on case studies from the Americas. Collections study in museums.

Area: Humanities

**AS.010.458. Visualizing Travel, Movement, and Interaction in the Ancient Americas. 3 Credits.**

In photographs and museum displays, the visual culture of the ancient Americas is made static. Pyramids stand vacant, sculptures appear frozen, and once portable objects remain stationary. But ancient American small-scale objects were designed to be set in motion for ritual and pilgrimage, free-standing stelae and altars were meant to be circumambulated and engaged with directly, and architecture (and spaces bound by architecture) influenced the shape of bodily movement. Notably absent from a twenty-first century vantage point are the ways that these spaces, and the spaces around art, were interacted with and how objects such as polychromed ceramics and carved pieces of precious stone were moved from place to place by the region's ancient Indigenous residents. Exploring a rich visual and material record and considering the movement of both people and objects, this course asks how works of art influenced the ways ancient peoples physically interacted with and moved throughout the three-dimensional world. By considering a series of case studies from the ancient Americas, this course seeks to better understand the full aesthetic dimensions of this visual culture in the context of its rich social use. Additionally, we will also engage with issues related to contemporary travel, tourism, and migration that crosses through these places and materials. No prior knowledge of the field is required.

Area: Humanities

Writing Intensive

**AS.010.469. Quarried, Sculpted, Carved: Lifecycles of Mesoamerican Sculpture. 3 Credits.**

Stelae, altars, colossal heads, thrones, figures, lintels. This course considers how artists created these stone monuments in Mesoamerica, the historical region that encompasses Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, and Honduras, and El Salvador. Sculptors meticulously carved stone blocks to shape and then scribes expertly incised their surfaces with hieroglyphic text or iconography. These stone monuments were then transported and moved into position, their physical placements structuring social hierarchy and mediating interactions with the divine. In reviewing recent literature within the fields of art history and material studies, we will explore the full cycle of production for monumental works of art.

Area: Humanities

Writing Intensive

**History of Science, Medicine, and Technology****AS.140.231. Health & Society in Latin America & the Caribbean. 3 Credits.**

Medical practice is complex in Latin America and the Caribbean. Most countries in the region have universal healthcare; yet, the quality of clinical services varies widely, and is influenced by degrees of incorporation into—or marginalization from—social power structures. Many people take their health into their own hands by supplementing biomedicine with plant based remedies as well as religious and spiritual services. This course will interrogate the history and contemporary relevance of healthcare in Latin America and the Caribbean, with particular interest in how medicine intersects with colonialism, slavery, capitalism, neo-colonialism, grassroots revolutionary movements, the Cold War, and neoliberalism. Drawing on films, visual and performance art, and music, students will consider the ways in which race, gender, indigeneity, ability, class, and nation have affected people's experiences with medical practice. Informed by postcolonial and decolonial scholarship, we will also examine why Latin America and the Caribbean have become “laboratories” for the production of medical knowledge, and importantly, how that knowledge was created by indigenous, enslaved, and migrant people as well as professionals. Finally, we seek to understand individual health problems in relation to the social and political determinants of health. As such, the course prompts students to reflect on why healthcare professionals—in the United States and abroad—would benefit from historically-informed communication with patients and their communities. This is a discussion-based seminar that requires active participation. There are no exams. The course does not assume any previous knowledge of the history of medicine or Latin American history.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Writing Intensive

**AS.140.685. Histories of Reproduction. 3 Credits.**

While there is a vast literature on reproduction in a global context, this course will focus on the arc of what we might call decolonial histories of reproduction—those that center issues of justice, freedom, intimacy, and agency, as well as cultural negotiation, conflict, and change. Students will write critical histories of reproduction, with attention to the ways in which reproductive politics interface with institutions that exert hegemonic, racialized, gendered, and ableist forms of state power and colonial power. We will also appreciate the ways in which reproduction interacts with other—non geographically-bound, non-institutionalized, and non-state mediated—forms of biopolitical power. We will analyze how the historiography has evolved over time and discuss future directions in the field.

**Interdepartmental****AS.360.420. Humanities Research Lab: Making Maps of Mexico. 3 Credits.**

Learn the basics of ArcGIS and data management as you help Prof. Lurtz publish an agricultural dataset and maps from 10 years before Mexico erupted in revolution. No experience necessary.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

**Modern Languages and Literatures****AS.210.177. Portuguese Elements I. 4 Credits.**

This one-year course introduces students to the basic skills in reading, writing, and speaking the language. Emphasis is placed on oral communication with extensive training in written and listening skills. Class participation is encouraged from the very beginning. All classes are conducted in Portuguese. Students must complete both semesters with passing grades to receive credit. May not be taken on a Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory basis. No previous knowledge of Portuguese is required.

**AS.210.277. Intermediate Portuguese I. 3 Credits.**

Intermediate Portuguese I is designed for students who have attained an advanced elementary level in the language. The course offers training in the skills of the language with emphasis on expanding grammatical knowledge and vocabulary, while developing ease and fluency in the language through the use of a multifaceted approach. Course materials immerse students in the cultures of Brazil, Portugal, and Portuguese-speaking Africa, and reflect the mix of cultures at work in the contemporary Lusophone world. Upon the successful completion of Intermediate Portuguese I, students may enroll in the next level, Intermediate Portuguese II – AS.210.278. May not be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. Prereq: AS.210.275 or placement test. THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.210.178 or AS.210.275 or equivalent score on placement test or instructor approval.

Area: Humanities

**AS.210.288. Portuguese: Conversation through Film & Music. 3 Credits.**

Improve your Portuguese conversational and speaking skills through colorful Brazilian media. This course is designed for highly motivated undergraduate and graduate students who want to SPEAK Portuguese. Conversation sessions provide intensive work on communication skills through discussion on issues raised in films, news media & music. Grammar will be reviewed as needed outside of class with tutors or TA, freeing class time for more communicative activities. May not be taken on a Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory basis. Prereq: one semester of Portuguese, two semesters of Spanish or Placement test.

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.210.275 OR AS.210.277 OR AS.210.278 OR AS.210.391 OR AS.210.392

Area: Humanities

**AS.210.313. Medical Spanish. 3 Credits.**

Medical Spanish is a comprehensive examination of vocabulary and grammar for students who either work or intend to work in medicine and health-related fields in Spanish-speaking environments. The student will be able to participate in conversations on topics such as contrasting health systems, body structures, disorders and conditions, consulting your doctor, physical and mental health, first-aid, hospitalization and surgery on completion of this course. In completing the course's final project students will apply, synthesize, and reflect on what has been learned in the class by creating a professional dossier individualized to their professional interests. There is no final exam. Not open to native speakers of Spanish. No new enrollments permitted after the third class session.

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.210.311 OR AS.210.312 or appropriate Spanish placement exam score.

Area: Humanities

Writing Intensive

**AS.210.314. Spanish for International Commerce. 3 Credits.**

Spanish for international business is an overview of business topics in an international Spanish-speaking context with an emphasis on deep review of grammar and vocabulary acquisition. On completion of this course the student will have developed the ability to read and critically discuss business and government relations in Latin America and will have examine entrepreneurship, finance, marketing, business ethics, human resources and commerce in the Spanish speaking world. In completing the course's final project students will apply, synthesize, and reflect on what has been covered in the class by creating a professional dossier individualized to their own professional interests. Concepts learned in this course will be directly applicable to careers linked to international relations and will apply to various careers in business. There is no final exam. May not be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory. Not open to native speakers of Spanish. No new enrollments permitted after the third class session. Language Program Director: Loreto Sanchez-Serrano

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.210.311 or or appropriate Spanish placement exam score.

Area: Humanities

**AS.210.316. Advanced Spanish Conversation. 3 Credits.**

Conversational Spanish surveys high-interest themes, discusses short films by contemporary Hispanic filmmakers and offers a thorough review of grammar. The student will be able to participate in conversations on topics such as personality traits, social media, political power, art and lifestyles on completion of this course. Conversational skills mastered during the course apply to all careers interconnected by Spanish. There is no final exam. Not open to native speakers of Spanish. No new enrollments permitted after the third class session.

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.210.311 or appropriate Spanish placement exam score.

Area: Humanities

**AS.210.317. Adv Spanish Composition. 3 Credits.**

This third-year course is a hands-on and process-oriented introduction to discussion and compositional analysis. On completion of this course, students will have improved their Spanish writing skills in various types of compositions they might be expected to write in academic settings and in real-life formats such as film reviews, letters to the editor, cover letters, etc. The course also focuses on refinement of grammar and vocabulary use. Not open to native speakers of Spanish. .

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.210.312 or appropriate Spanish placement exam score.

Area: Humanities

Writing Intensive

**AS.210.391. Advanced Portuguese I. 3 Credits.**

Designed to sharpen students' abilities in contemporary spoken and written Portuguese. This third-year course fosters the development of complex language skills that enhance fluency, accuracy and general proficiency in Portuguese and its appropriate use in professional and informal contexts. Students will briefly review previous grammar structures and concentrate on new complex grammar concepts. Using a variety of cultural items such as current news, short stories, plays, films, videos, newspaper articles, and popular music, students discuss diverse topics followed by intense writing and oral discussion with the aim of developing critical thinking and solid communication skills. Successful completion of Advanced Portuguese I will prepare students for the next level, Advanced Portuguese II, AS.210.392. May not be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. Prereq: AS.210.278 or placement test. THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM.

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.210.278 or equivalent score on placement test or instructor approval.

Area: Humanities

Writing Intensive

**AS.210.392. Advanced Portuguese II. 3 Credits.**

Advanced Portuguese II offers a systematic review of the Portuguese language focused on the development of students' communicative skills and their knowledge of the Lusophone culture. This course fosters the development of complex language skills that enhance fluency, accuracy and general proficiency in Portuguese and its appropriate use in professional and informal contexts. Students will concentrate on complex grammar concepts and the use of appropriate written and oral registers. Using a variety of cultural items such as current news, short stories, plays, films, videos, newspaper articles, and popular music, students discuss diverse topics followed by intense writing and oral discussion with the aim of developing critical thinking and solid communication skills. May not be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. Prereq: AS.210.391 or placement test.

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.210.391 or equivalent score on placement test or instructor approval.

Area: Humanities

Writing Intensive

**AS.210.394. Portuguese for the professions. 3 Credits.**

Enjoy lunchtime while preparing for your future career. Portuguese for the professions is a comprehensive examination of vocabulary and grammar for students who either work or intend to work in a Portuguese speaking environment. It focuses on the development of advanced communication skills according to students' individualized professional interests through conversations, readings, discussions, writings and media. The course also highlights cultural nuances of the professional Portuguese-speaking world. Grammar will be reviewed as needed in class, but most of it will be done outside of class with tutors or a TA, freeing class time for more communicative activities. May not be taken on a Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory basis.

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.210.277 and AS.210.278, or Placement test.

Area: Humanities

**AS.211.103. The missing "A" : STEM to STEAM for Hispanics. 3 Credits.**

Seminar participants immerse on stories and issues affecting Hispanics in the US, specifically questioning if social media and information created by artificial intelligence perpetuate subordination and miscommunication. By investigating platforms such as TikTok, Youtube and Twitter this course hones foundational critical thinking skills in the arts and humanities. Upon completion of this seminar, you will innovate and perfect research questions to continue studies in Hispanic and Latin American cultures. The course focusses on reading and analysis of distinct influencers such as #latinasinmedicine, @lin-manuel, @CDC, @johnshopkinssph, @WHO. Critical reading required.

Area: Humanities

**AS.211.231. Planet Amazonia: Culture, History, and the Environment. 3 Credits.**

Without Amazonia, global warming could reach levels that threaten life on the planet. Yet, in an era of deforestation and climate change, Amazonia itself might be on the verge of disappearance, with disastrous consequences for the world. This course proposes interdisciplinary perspectives on Amazonia through a range of works drawn from history, anthropology, archeology, environmental studies, literature, and the arts. We'll look at texts by European travelers and missionaries who contributed to the paradoxical image of Amazonia as a "virgin paradise" or a "green hell"; scientific studies and artists' depictions of the region's flora and fauna; the often-overlooked history of human occupation of the region; and projects to colonize, develop, or conserve the world's largest tropical forest. What importance does Amazonia hold for Latin American and global geopolitics? How do art and literature, including indigenous writings, create, reinforce, or deconstruct clichés about the region? What alternative futures for our planet can Amazonia help us to imagine?

Area: Humanities

**AS.211.316. Brazilian Cinema and Topics in Contemporary Brazilian Society. 3 Credits.**

Course is taught in ENGLISH. Did you know that one of the first Latin American actresses to conquer Hollywood was Brazilian? Did you know that cinema has existed in Brazil since 1895, just six months after the first screening in Paris? This course is an introduction to both the academic study of cinema as a communicative art and to Brazilian film. The films selected focus on the late 1950s to the present and highlight import episodes and challenges in the advancement of Brazilian society as well as its cinematic production. Film aesthetics are analyzed through a number of critical perspectives, including class, race, gender as well as ethnicity, nationalism or national identity, colonialism, social changes, and the politics of representation. In this sense, the films, and documentaries that we will be watching and studying encompass the period from the rise of New Cinema (Cinema Novo) up to films exploring the most recent trends, including movies launched up to 2022. Students wishing to do the course work in English for 3 credits should register for section 01. Those wishing to earn 4 credits by doing the course work in Portuguese should register for section 02. No Prereq.

Area: Humanities

Writing Intensive

**AS.211.342. Emerging Latin American Cinema. 3 Credits.**

This survey of emerging cinema in Latin America focuses on thematic clusters such as gender identity, violence against women, the struggle for indigenous rights and recognition of their history, the politics of ecological crises, and the plight of youth who don't see a viable future. We will focus on films from Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, and Colombia, among other cultures.

Area: Humanities

**AS.211.394. Brazilian Culture & Civilization. 3 Credits.**

Did you know that Brazil is very similar to the United States? This course is intended as an introduction to the culture and civilization of Brazil. It is designed to provide students with basic information about Brazilian history, politics, economy, art, literature, popular culture, theater, cinema, and music. The course will focus on how Indigenous, Asian, African, and European cultural influences have interacted to create the new and unique civilization that is Brazil today. The course is taught in English, but ONE extra credit will be given to students who wish to do the course work in Portuguese. Those wishing to do the course work in English for 3 credits should register for section 01. Those wishing to earn 4 credits by doing the course work in Portuguese should register for section 02. The sections will be taught simultaneously. Section 01: 3 credits Section 02: 4 credits (instructor's permission required). No Prereq. THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM.

Area: Humanities

Writing Intensive

**AS.215.231. Introduction to Literature in Spanish. 3 Credits.**

The main objective of this course is to examine and discuss specific authors and topics in literature in Spanish from the Middle Ages to the 20th century. The course is designed to cover a selection of Hispanic texts from Spain and Latin America. Literary genres to be studied will include narratives, poetry, and drama. The bulk of each class session will be dedicated to the discussion of the assigned readings. This course is taught in Spanish. This course is required for the major in Spanish.

Area: Humanities

**AS.215.309. An Interdisciplinary Introduction to the Study of Latin America. 3 Credits.**

The course is an interdisciplinary introduction to the study of Latin America. It brings together archeology, ethno-history, art history, literature and environmental studies.

Area: Humanities

Writing Intensive

**AS.215.380. Modern Latin American Culture. 3 Credits.**

Taught in Spanish. This course will explore the fundamental aspects of Latin- America culture from the formation of independent states through the present—in light of the social, political, and economic histories of the region. The course will offer a general survey of history of Latin-America, and will discuss texts, movies, songs, pictures, and paintings, in relation to their social, political, and cultural contexts. May not be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory.

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.210.312; Students may earn credit for AS.211.380 or AS.215.380, but not both.

Area: Humanities

**AS.215.406. Novelist Intellectuals. 3 Credits.**

What does a novelist's op-ed about economics have to do with her literary writing? In what ways does a fiction writer's essays on the environment inform how we read her novels? What happens when we find the political opinions of a writer objectionable? This undergraduate seminar will consider what the Spanish writer Francisco Ayala termed "novelist intellectuals," that is, literary writers who actively participate in a society's public sphere. Considering writers from Madrid to New York, from London to Buenos Aires, we will ask how one should hold a novelist's fictional and non-fictional writings in the balance and explore ways of reading that allow us to consider the public intellectual side and the aesthetic side of a novelist together.

Area: Humanities

**AS.215.407. Power And Gender In Hispanic American Novels And Films. 3 Credits.**

We will analyze and discuss four novels and three films impacted by gender violence and political idolatry under shattering stress. *Oficio de tinieblas* or *The Book of Lamentations* (1962) by Rosario Castellanos (Mexico). *Zama* (1956) by Antonio di Benedetto (Argentina). *Delirio* or *Delirium* (2004) by Laura Restrepo (Colombia). *El ruido de las cosas al caer* or *The Noise of Things Falling* (2011) by Juan Gabriel Vásquez (Colombia). In addition, we will examine in depth films by Lucrecia Martel (Argentina): the short *Rey muerto* (1995), *La ciénaga* (2001), and her own version of *Zama* (2017). Course taught in Spanish.

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.210.312

Area: Humanities

**AS.215.410. Topics in Modern Latin American Literature. 3 Credits.**

A survey and exploration of important works and themes in Latin American Literature of the modern period.

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.210.311

**AS.215.412. Populism. 3 Credits.**

What do Hugo Chávez, Marine Le Pen, and Donald Trump have in common? According to many from across the political spectrum, they are all populists. But what is populism, exactly, and how can it describe such disparate phenomena as left-wing social movements, xenophobic anti-immigrant policies, and economic redistribution? This advanced seminar will examine the history, culture, and political theory of populism. We will pay special attention to the resurgence of populism after the Great Recession and examine a number of cases from Latin America, Europe, and the United States.

**AS.215.414. Blood Cinema in films by Pedro Almodóvar, Julio Medem, and Alejandro Amenábar. 3 Credits.**

Films by three leading Spanish male directors from different generational backgrounds and sexual and political orientations. We will study their respective filming and mythmaking of kinship and regional passions in mixing love with hate, attraction with rejection. Our dialogue will revive and debate the polemical psycho-analytic theses in Marsha Kinder's *Blood Cinema: The Reconstruction of National Identity in Spain*.

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.210.311 OR AS.210.312

Area: Humanities

**AS.215.425. Colonial Latin American Literature. 3 Credits.**

A survey and exploration of important works and themes from the Colonial period in Latin American Literature.

**AS.215.442. Whose Caribbean and the Epic of Race. 3 Credits.**

We will study literary claims of epic colonial possession and aesthetic dispossession through close readings of five works in reverse chronological order: V.S. Naipaul's late historical novel, *A Way in the World* (1994); Derek Walcott's transoceanic poem, *Omeros* (1990); Alejo Carpentier's short anti-Enlightenment moral tale, *El reino de este mundo* (1949) and his short tale in celebration of Afro Cuban wizardry, *Viaje a la semilla* (1944); Aimé Césaire's prose poetry, mixed chronicle, *Cahier d'un retour au pays natal*, or *Notebook of a Return to the Native Land* (1939-1947). We will address questions of temporality and historicity (Heidegger) and a base-materialist political blocking of wild dreams as attainable through translation (Bataille). Such formal and epistemic problems will draw us into issues of race across the colonial spectrum of Caribbean histories.

Area: Humanities

**AS.215.460. Modern Mexico and the Culture of Death. 3 Credits.**

Drawing from sources in popular culture, literature, folk religion, and the media, we will explore the myths and daily practices of death-related representations of Mexico's survival against enemies, from within the state apparatus, and the insertion into it of drug traffickers, on both sides of the so-called Crystal Frontier with the US.

Area: Humanities

**AS.215.477. La Habana Miami: One World and Two Cities. 3 Credits.**

Havana and Miami make up the oldest US enclave city linked to a foreign one under US Embargo access. We will study a unique counterpoint Hispanic Exiled culture which considers itself protected by American Exceptionalism

Area: Humanities

**AS.215.604. To Die in Mexico. 3 Credits.**

The seminar adopts and translates recent ideological revisions of Mexico's alternate modernities; impacted by postcolonial, subaltern, and decolonial theories of Latin American exceptionality. The plural character of these combined exceptions and exemptions and refusals to reincorporate Mexicanness into modernizing Occidentalism will be foregrounded in two historical moments: modernismo-to-modernism, in convulsed Mexico (1900-1927) and criollista Nueva España "Baroque" hybridized and myth-invested ethics of nationhood (1604/1690): Bernardo de Balbuena's *Grandeza Mexicana* (1604)/Carlos Sigüenza y Góngora's *Infortunios de Alonso Ramírez* (1690). These materials will be framed in Europe's modernist, re-mythologized "Waste Land" (T.S. Eliot), as "brought home" to America in Hart Crane's *The Bridge* (a poem largely conceived and reborn in Cuba's Isla de Pinos).(Fluent reading knowledge of Spanish)

Area: Humanities

**AS.217.307. Cultura e Ditadura [Culture and Dictatorship]. 3 Credits.**

In the 20th century, the Lusophone world saw the rise and fall of such authoritarian governments as the *Estado Novo* in Portugal (1933–74) and the military dictatorship in Brazil (1964–85). During this period, a series of revolutionary political movements sprung up, as well as innovative cultural production. How does culture respond to censorship? How do art and politics comment on and ultimately transform each other? In this course we will discuss novels, poetry, film, songs, and artworks from Brazil, Portugal, and Lusophone Africa that engage critically with dictatorships and their aftermaths. Topics include violence, trauma and memory, colonialism, post-colonialism, and decoloniality, race and the legacies of slavery, counterculture, and popular cultures. Readings and discussion in Portuguese. Interested students who have not completed course prerequisites should contact the instructor for permission to enroll.

Area: Humanities

**AS.217.425. Latin American Ecocriticism. 3 Credits.**

Increased awareness of climate change has led to a shift in the way we address and intervene in environmental issues in the new millennium. Yet the interest in making sense of the environment has a long history in literature and the arts. How have Latin American writers and artists understood and depicted their environments and environmental questions? How do the form and content of texts and cultural artifacts influence our understanding of the non-human world? Can works of fiction shape ecological transformations? In this course we will discuss texts from the early colonial period to the present, including the literary works of Graciliano Ramos, Horacio Quiroga, and Clarice Lispector; political ecology; film; Ana Mendieta's earth-body art; contemporary experiments in bio-art; postcolonial theory; and the intersection of environmental justice with such topics as nationalism and human rights. Going beyond ecocriticism's original focus on the Anglo-American world, we will engage recent scholarship on Latin America that sheds light on the region's cultural and geopolitical importance to the global climate, with particular attention to Brazil. This course aims to introduce students to current debates in Latin American Ecocriticism and the Anthropocene and thus contribute to an incipient but expanding field.

Area: Humanities

**AS.217.427. Radical Women: Brazilian Literature, Art, and Culture. 3 Credits.**

The vast body of work produced women artists and writers in Brazil has been marginalized by canonical cultural narratives, which are now being contested by a spate of scholarly and artistic projects. This course spotlights the production of women from the early twentieth century to the present, including renowned and lesser-known works. We'll discuss art, literature, and film alongside feminist theory, exploring radicality as it relates to aesthetics and politics. How do women's art, literature, and thought engage with and transform Brazilian cultural production? What are their contributions to global discussions about gender and sexuality? How do these works respond to historical events? Among the topics addressed are the body, feminism, race, indigeneity, and politics. We'll study Clarice Lispector's acclaimed stories, the first Brazilian proletarian novel written by modernist icon Patrícia Galvão, known as Pagu, the diaries of Carolina Maria de Jesus, the emblematic paintings of Tarsila do Amaral, and Lygia Clark's artwork, as well as the booming scene of contemporary cinema and poetry. The course is taught in English, but those interested in doing the coursework in Portuguese (4 credits) should register for section 02.

Area: Humanities

**Music****AS.376.342. Caribbean Music. 3 Credits.**

This course will explore the many genres of traditional and popular music that have emerged among the peoples and cultures of the Caribbean region and its Diaspora. We will examine the social, political, and economic issues that have shaped the region's music and how that music may have intersected with migration, colonization, ethnicity, race and tourism. Using a "participant observation" approach, students will read about, listen to and research a variety of musical experiences within the relevant sociopolitical context. Students should expect to fully participate in discussions about the assigned readings and music, and should be prepared to conduct their own research and share their own or newly acquired knowledge of contemporary and "historical/traditional" musical themes, and local and regional artists. Our collective goal will be to enjoy as well as to think critically about music, culture and performance and within a more informed understanding of the complex, multi-varied and multi-vocal context—know as "The Caribbean".

Area: Humanities

**Political Science****AS.190.245. The Politics of Global Development. 3 Credits.**

Development is often assumed to be an economic issue. In this course we examine the politics of development on a global scale. We begin by looking at the colonial and Cold War histories of development. We then use these histories to contextualise contemporary development issues that directly affect international relations such as aid and debt, humanitarianism, food security, land "grabs", migration and indigenous rights. The course also seeks to understand the ways in which the issues underlying global development have always connected and continue to connect the peoples and polities of the Global North and Global South.

**AS.190.306. Latin American Politics and Society in Comparative and Historical Perspective. 3 Credits.**

The seminar will introduce students to the political and economic trajectories of Latin America as a whole and of individual countries, including Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, and Chile. Special attention will be paid to the long-term trajectory of the political regime (democracy versus dictatorship) and of economic development (variations in GDP per capita). Competing theories, from economic dependence to historical institutionalism, will be examined for their contribution to our understanding of Latin America's relative economic backwardness and low quality democracies.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive

**AS.190.382. Democracy and Development: Theory and Cases. 3 Credits.**

Most wealthy countries are democracies. But not all democracies are wealthy—India, Costa Rica, and Mongolia are prominent examples of poor countries with democratic regimes. The course will examine the relation between economic development and political democratization under three big questions. (a) Under what conditions, and through which mechanisms, does economic development promote democracy? (b) If economic development is not possible in the foreseeable future, how do countries achieve stable democratization? (c) Under what conditions, and through which mechanisms, does democracy foster economic development?

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive

**Sociology****AS.230.150. Issues in International Development. 3 Credits.**

Why do billions of people continue to live in poverty? What obstacles stand in the way of secure and dignified lives for all? Who is most likely to bring about change, what strategies should they follow, and what kinds of institutions should they put in place? This course will introduce the main theoretical perspectives, debates, and themes in the field of international development since the mid-20th century. It has three sections. The first section focuses on debates over the optimal conditions and strategies for generating economic growth and on the relationship between growth, human welfare, and inequality. The second section presents critical assessments of development interventions from various perspectives. The third section considers the role of social movements in shaping development and social change in the 21st century.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences



**AS.230.238. Beyond the Wall: The Political Economy of the US and Mexico. 3 Credits.**

Examining the exchange of culture, people, and commodities between the United States and Mexico since the 19th century, this course asks not just how US practices and policies have shaped Mexican society, but how, in turn, Mexico has shaped the United States. We will examine the social, political, and economic forces that have long pulled these two societies together – and pushed them apart.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

**AS.230.244. Race and Ethnicity in American Society. 3 Credits.**

Race and ethnicity have played a prominent role in American society and continue to do so, as demonstrated by interracial and interethnic gaps in economic and educational achievement, residence, political power, family structure, crime, and health. Using a sociological framework, we will explore the historical significance of race and its development as a social construction, assess the causes and consequences of intergroup inequalities and explore potential solutions.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

**AS.230.317. Sociology of Immigration. 3 Credits.**

This course surveys sociological theories and research on immigration to the U.S. Theoretical approaches include theories of international migration, economic sociology, immigration, and assimilation. Research topics include the impact of U.S. immigration laws and policies on immigrant inflows and stocks, self-selection of immigrants, the impact of immigration on the native-born population and the U.S. labor market and economy, and the adaptation of the first and second generations.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive

**AS.230.342. Resistance, Rebellion, and Revolution in Latin America. 3 Credits.**

This course will examine the dynamics of transformative social change in Latin America and the Caribbean through analyses of resistance, rebellion, and revolution. Because revolutionary change is at once the most transformative and the most rare, this course will cover the exemplary cases of the Haitian, Mexican, and Cuban revolutions, but then also ask how theorists have understood the dynamics of both open rebellion and of everyday resistance in societies deeply structured by racial, gender, and class power, situated within an unequal world system. Attending to both local and global dynamics, this course will ask how Latin American dynamics have both conformed to and challenged universalist theories of social change.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

**AS.230.345. Global Migration and Development. 3 Credits.**

Global migration is a hot topic in the news and in political campaigns today. It has reached an unprecedented size, and it has also fueled countless social protests around racial, ethnic, and class-based tensions. Indeed, the speed, size, and controversies around global migration are re-shaping our conventional understandings of the nation-state, citizenship, and welfare rights. But global migration is not new. Therefore contemporary migration raises important questions about what is and is not unique about the present moment. This course will begin by introducing students to the long history of global migration and capitalism. It will then examine the various aspects of contemporary migration—covering issues of gender, South-South migration, class and skill, sending and receiving countries' roles in controlling migration, migrants' protests, diaspora organizations, and the connections between immigration and emigration. Through in-depth reading and discussion, the course engages students in understanding and critiquing contentious perspectives on these issues. The course aims to provide students with a solid understanding of the theories, methodologies, research, and debates that shape contemporary discussions of international migration and development.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive

**AS.230.397. The Political Economy of Drugs and Drug Wars. 3 Credits.**

In the United States, we spend more than \$100 billion annually on illegal drugs—and the government spends more than \$50 billion a year to combat their sale and use. These statistics raise important and complicated social questions. This course will examine the production, sale, use, and control of illegal drugs from a historical and sociological perspective. We will have three objectives: to understand the social construction of drug use and illegality in the United States and other rich countries; to uncover the political and economic consequences of drug trafficking in those countries that produce drugs, particularly in Latin America; and to examine the political economy of drug control through the so-called War on Drugs, both domestically and internationally.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

**Study of Women, Gender, & Sexuality****AS.363.301. Feminist and Queer Theory. 3 Credits.**

This course will encourage encounters with a number of concepts from a critical gendered perspective, including: sameness/difference, identity politics, race/gender, loyalty, security, queer ethics, and queerness in media.

Writing Intensive