



## Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Academic Concentration Requirements

The Concentration Program requires: 30 credits at the 300-level or above, beyond the language requirement, are necessary to complete the concentration program. Among the 30 credits students must choose at least one course from each of the disciplines of Anthropology, History, Literature, and Political Science, as well as the thesis. The thesis is written during the senior year, while enrolled in Latin American and Caribbean Studies 399, the Thesis-Writer's Seminar, for 3 credits. (Permission of the instructor is required for enrollment in 399.) There is no prerequisite in the Program.

### Language Requirement

Competence in Spanish or Portuguese (equivalent to Spanish 275 or the intensive Spanish program at the Residential College, or Portuguese 232) should be achieved as early as possible in the program. Students are encouraged to go beyond this, either with further work in the language chosen or by achieving competence in the other major language.

### Required Courses

In choosing the 30 hours of upper-level courses, students must include at least one course from each of the following areas:

**Anthropology:** 319 (Introduction to Latin American Society and Culture), 414 (Introduction to Caribbean Societies and Cultures), or another upper-level Anthropology course on Latin America.

**History:** 347 (Latin America: The Colonial Period), or 348 (Latin America: The National Period), or another upper-level History course on Latin America.

**Literature:** Spanish 381, Spanish 382 (Introduction to Latin American Literature, I and II), Portuguese 473 (Introduction to Brazilian Literature), or another upper-level course in Latin American literature.

**Political Science:** 347 (Government and Politics of Latin America), or another upper-level course in Latin American politics.

### Elective Courses

The remainder of the 30 credits may be drawn from upper-level courses, from any department, that deal with Latin America and the Caribbean. These change from year to year. The Program will normally make available during pre-registration a list of courses relating to Latin America and the Caribbean offered the following term. Students should consult with their individual faculty advisor and with the Undergraduate Advisor concerning appropriate courses for their program. It is particularly important for students to enroll during their sophomore and junior years in courses that will provide the necessary background for their subsequent thesis research.

### Honors Thesis

For students admitted to the LACS Honors Concentration Program, the Honors Thesis is a project intended to deepen the student's understanding of a specific issue or problem in the field, while drawing together his or her work in separate disciplines. The student writing the thesis receives three credits toward the concentration through enrollment in Latin American and Caribbean Studies 399. The honors thesis is a major commitment, but previous LACS concentrators report that it was one of the highlights of their undergraduate career. In particular, they have enjoyed the opportunity the thesis provides for working closely with an individual faculty member and to explore in depth issues that arise in the course

work and research.

**Advising**

Prospective concentrators should consult the Director or the Undergraduate Advisor for guidance on courses. Normally, a concentration plan should reflect the multidisciplinary nature of the program and the themes that a student wishes to develop. Students should file a tentative concentration plan with the Program in their junior year, and update it prior to graduation.