Latin American and Latino Studies Program

Contact Information:
Campus Location: 1525 University Hall (UH)
(312) 996-2445
lals.uic.edu

Administration:
Interim Director, Maria de los Angeles Torres, torresma@uic.edu
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Cristian Roa, roa@uic.edu

The program in Latin American Studies and Latino Studies seeks to provide students with an understanding of the history, cultures, and contemporary issues of Latin Americans and Latinos in the U.S. using interdisciplinary approaches. Courses for the major and minor cover Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America as well as urbanization and social and political processes among Latino groups in Chicago and throughout the United States. Comparative and diverse developmental perspectives illuminate linkages among the countries and peoples of the Americas. A major or minor in Latin American and Latino Studies can serve as a useful basis for careers in public service, business, professional, or academic life related to Latin America or U.S. Latinos.

Requirements are designed so that students acquire a general background in both Latin American and Latino studies in the lower-division courses. Students have the option to pursue a general curriculum by taking an equal amount of upper-division courses in Latin American and Latino Studies or to pursue an area of specialization in either Latin American or Latino Studies by taking more upper-division courses in one of the two areas. Students may also choose to take courses in a particular disciplinary area of the humanities (history and cultural studies) or the social sciences (anthropology, political science, sociology) or a combination of these areas. Students are strongly encouraged to take at least one course on Mexico.

Distinction
To be considered for distinction, students must obtain a 3.00/4.00 overall GPA, plus the following:

- 3.50/4.00 GPA in the major for Distinction;
- 3.75/4.00 GPA in the major for High Distinction;
- 3.75/4.00 GPA in the major, LALS 302, and completion of a senior thesis for Highest Distinction.

Degree Program
- BA with a Major in Latin American and Latino Studies (http://catalog.uic.edu/ucat/colleges-depts/liberal-arts-sciences/lals/ba)

Minor
- Minor in Latin American and Latino Studies (http://catalog.uic.edu/ucat/colleges-depts/liberal-arts-sciences/lals/minor)