Introduction

Welcome to the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program (LACS) at the College of Charleston. Housed in the School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs, the LACS Program promotes cultural exchange and interdisciplinary research in a key region of today's globalized communities and economies. The program offers the students the opportunity to immerse themselves in the study of the languages, literature, history, politics, art, and cultures of this region. The program provides our Majors with full linguistic and cultural immersion by requiring them to spend a semester or a summer abroad as well as to complete three years of foreign language study or the equivalent. The LACS Program is also committed to assisting its Majors with their post-graduation job searches by tailoring an internship opportunity according to their areas of interest and needs.

The LACS Program will prepare you to actively engage in a region of growing importance to our state and country, culturally, economically and politically.
**LACS and your Career**

LACS graduates from the College of Charleston may pursue a variety of careers in the non-profit sector, education, major corporations, national government, international agencies, or many other related occupations.

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**Related Occupations**

- Admissions Counselor
- Archivist
- Attorney
- Business Manager
- Conflict Resolution Specialist
- Cultural Affairs Officer
- Editor/Writer
- FBI/CIA Agent
- Foreign Service Officer
- Government Agency Admin
- International Banker
- International Consultant
- International diplomat
- International Relations Specialist
- Librarian
- Politician
- Non-Profit Administrator
- Researcher
- Teacher
- Translator
- Photojournalist/Filmmaker
**Special Opportunities in LACS**

**Internships for Academic Credit**

The LACS program is committed to assisting its students with their post-graduation job searches by tailoring an internship opportunity according to each student’s area of interest and needs. An internship will enable you to achieve one of the primary goals of our curriculum—the ability to apply what has been learned at the College of Charleston. An internship will help reinforce theories and concepts with concrete experiences and apply perspectives of the discipline in a work setting. Internships are experience and applied knowledge blended with course and research work. Additionally, internships can help you in both the job market and with graduate school admission. Internships are available through LACS and the individual departments contributing to LACS.

**Other Internships**

Any LACS student that would like the opportunity of participating in non-credit internships or volunteer work are encouraged to contact the College of Charleston’s Career Services. Career Services has a large number of internship listings, both national and local. It is possible to have non-credit internships listed on your transcript.

**Independent Study and Research**

All LACS students are encouraged to complete a portion of their studies through independent course or research work. The student must identify an area of interest, develop a plan for the project, and find a faculty member willing to supervise the project. All require individual enrollment, the permission of the sponsoring faculty, and the permission of the program or department chair.

Students planning to undertake independent research are encouraged to consult with their faculty supervisor about applying for competitive research grants set aside for undergraduates. There are three grants that may be applied for: Academic Year Research Award (AYRA), Summer Undergraduate Research with Faculty grants (SURF), and Research Travel Grants (RTG). Please consult the Undergraduate Research web page for more information.

**Departmental Honors**

Students who complete at least 12 hours of independent work, for example: an Internship, Tutorial, an Independent Study, or a Bachelor’s Essay and have at a minimum GPA of 3.5 in the major and do “exceptionally fine work” are eligible to be considered for Departmental Honors at graduation.

**Bachelor’s Essay**

Students may do an interdisciplinary Bachelor’s Essay in LACS or may get credit for one that is specifically on Latin America or the Caribbean within a discipline. This is usually a year long project.
Study Abroad Opportunities

Summer Study Abroad

Summer in Brazil (not offered every summer—Check with the Center for International Education)

The intensive two and a half week program will examine the way in which Brazil’s historical background has contributed to the rich regional diversity of Brazilian people and society. Guided study tours to museums, cultural centers, historical sites and natural parks will be part of the two courses. Among other places, students may travel to the marvelous city of Rio de Janeiro, Capoeira City of Salvador, and to ecological paradises.

Summer in Peru (not offered every summer—Check with the Center for International Education)

Over four weeks the program will travel the length and breadth of Peru exploring her unique geography, history, culture and arts. Visits will be made to important archaeological sites of pre-Columbian civilizations, to cities and areas rich in Spanish colonial heritage, and to locations of unparalleled physical beauty. Through direct encounters with places and people, participants will experience the unique synthesis of pre-Columbian, Spanish colonial, and modern cultures that characterize the Andean regions of South America.

Semester Study Abroad

Walter Fuentes Fall Semester Program in Chile

This program will offer the opportunity to study one semester in Santiago, Chile, and earn 12-15 hours of credit through the College of Charleston. The rich cultural heritage, the magnificent features of its geography, the dynamic urban setting of Santiago, the well known hospitality of its inhabitants, and the stability and safety of the country, make Chile a natural choice for students looking for a first-hand experience with the people, language, culture and contemporary issues of the Spanish American world. Students will take classes at the Universidad de Santiago de Chile and live with Chilean families, who are carefully selected to provide an enriching cultural and family environment.

The semester will coincide with the spring months in the southern hemisphere, an ideal season to do traveling, and to enjoy a period of intense cultural activity. The program includes several days of excursions through the coast of Chile and southern Peru. As classes will be conducted from Monday through Thursdays, students will have additional travel opportunities during the long weekends. Traveling to neighboring South American countries will be possible either during or after the semester.
Spring Semester Program in Argentina

This program will offer the opportunity to study one semester in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and earn 12-15 hours of credit through the College of Charleston. Buenos Aires is well known as the “Paris” of Latin America. Known as a dynamic urban cosmopolitan center of culture, business and modern life, Buenos Aires is the perfect setting for students desiring to hone their language skills and at the same time immerse themselves in the business and political culture of South America. Argentina has one of the most diverse geographies in Latin America – from the pampas of Buenos Aires Province, to the high Andes, and the desert of Patagonia. Students will live with Argentine families, who are carefully selected to provide an enriching cultural and family environment.

The semester will coincide with the summer and fall months in the southern hemisphere, an ideal season to do traveling, and to enjoy a period of intense cultural activity. The program includes several days of excursions through the Western Argentina and sometimes Brazil. As classes will be conducted from Monday through Thursdays, students will have additional travel opportunities during the long weekends. Traveling to neighboring South American countries will be possible either during or after the semester.

Classes will be held at the Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina’s finest institution of higher learning, and taught by faculty of the College of Charleston and the Universidad de Buenos Aires.

Spring Semester Program in Cuba

A unique opportunity to study on-site in Cuba, one of our nearest, most significant and exotic neighbors. Cuba blends the experience of cultures -- African, European, American --which creates a unique environment that students will be able to experience by enrolling in courses taught by College of Charleston faculty as well as Cuban scholars. This program will offer one semester in Havana, Cuba where students can earn 12-15 hours of credit through the College of Charleston. Students will be exposed to an array of cultural activities and study trips designed to encourage direct interaction with the Cuban people. The program is designed to allow students to further their Spanish language skills as well as learn about the rich heritage of Cuba as reflected in its, culture, economy, political and social history, art, music, literature and rich natural environment. Classes will be held in Miramar as well as at the Instituto de Filosofia. Several study-visits and day trips, including a longer excursion to other parts of the large Island, with cultural activities and lectures will be an integral part of the student experience while in Cuba. Classes will be taught by College of Charleston faculty, faculty of the Universidad de La Habana, and researchers from the Instituto de Filosofía.
Bilateral Programs

Brazil

Universidade Federal do Sul de Santa Catarina
Students pay College of Charleston tuition and fees and study for a semester or the academic year.

Advising

All LACS majors and minors must choose an advisor from among the LACS faculty or one will be assigned to you. It is important for you to see your advisor at least once every semester to make sure you are on track for graduation. Advisors can also help in directing you to internship and study abroad opportunities.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies MAJOR

The curriculum in Latin American and Caribbean Studies is divided into two sequences. Sequence A: History - Politics - Society and Sequence B: Literature - Culture. To ensure depth and breadth, students must take 15 credit hours in each sequence with no more than 12 hours in any one discipline (except LACS); and no more than 15 hours at the 200 level or below (except LACS). All students must take the LACS 101 Introduction to Latin American and Caribbean Studies, the one hour INTL Comparative Methodology course, and the LACS 495 Latin American and Caribbean Studies Capstone.

All students are required to take an additional year of foreign language beyond the College two year language requirement. Students must fulfill their language requirement in Spanish, Portuguese or French. The language requirement may be fulfilled by 6 semesters (or the equivalent) in one language or four semesters in one language and two semesters in another.

All majors are required to spend one semester or summer in a study or internship abroad program and earn a minimum of 6 credit hours (which may be part of the 37 hour major). Abroad programs must be arranged with the Director of the Program. There is provision for an alternative or exemption on the basis of special circumstances.

The courses listed below may be supplemented by Special Topics, Tutorials, Independent Studies, Internships and Bachelor’s Essays that focus on Latin America and/or the Caribbean in the various disciplines as well as study abroad courses not taken in College of Charleston programs.

Latin American and Caribbean Studies majors can choose to double major or minor in other fields. Double majors and minors gain extra skills and knowledge.
PORTFOLIO GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

Students will assemble and complete an academic student portfolio. This portfolio will contain hard copies of graded written work from courses in the major. Every portfolio must have at least one example of graded written work from a course at the introductory 100 level, at least one example of graded written work at the intermediate 200 level, at least one example of graded written work at the advanced 300 level, and a clean hard copy of the completed research paper or other major project from the capstone course, LACS 495.

During the final semester of their undergraduate career students must write a 1500-2000 word ungraded “Reflective Essay” which assesses their academic development from the beginning to the end of their major as well as their assessment of the program. Students must turn in this completed student portfolio in hard copy to the LACS Office (with hard copies of at least 4 examples of graded written work) in order to graduate. The “Reflective Essay” will be submitted in hard copy to the instructor of record in their LACS 495 capstone course.

Required Introductory Course 3 cr.

LACS 101 Introduction to Latin American and Caribbean Studies

A: History - Politics - Civilization 15 cr.

History
HIST 262 Colonial Latin America
HIST 263 Modern Latin America
HIST 364 Sugar and Slaves in Colonial Brazil
HIST 365 Modern Brazil
HIST 366 Comparative Slavery in the Americas

Politics
POLI 245 Cuban Revolution
POLI 266 Model Organization of American States
POLI 340 Politics of Latin America
POLI 347 International Development
POLI 351 The Politics of Modern Brazil

Sociology/Anthropology
ANTH 325 Peoples & Cultures of Latin America
ANTH 327 Peoples & Cultures of the Caribbean
ANTH 328 Aztecs, Maya and their Ancestors
SOCY 362 Social and Cultural Change
Spanish
SPAN 333 Topics in Hispanic Culture

French
FREN 326 A Survey of Francophone Civilization

B: Literature - Art - Culture 15 cr.

Art History
ARTH 205 Pre-Columbian Art and Culture
ARTH 255 Latin American Colonial Art

English
ENGL 233 Survey of Non-Western 20th Century Literature
ENGL 234 Survey of Third World Masterpieces
ENGL 358 Colonial and Post Colonial British Literature

Portuguese Literature In Translation
LTPO 150 Portuguese Literature in Translation
LTPO 250 Portuguese Literature in Translation: A Foreign Literature

LTPO 270 Studies in Brazilian Film
LTPO 280 Studies in Brazilian Civilization & Culture
LTPO 350 Portuguese Literature in Translation: A Foreign Author
LTPO 450 Portuguese Literature in Translation: Comparative Literature

Spanish Literature In Translation
LTSP 150 Spanish Literature in Translation
LTSP 250 Spanish Literature in Translation: A Foreign Literature
LTSP 252 Contemporary Latin American Literature in Translation

LTSP 254 Society, History & Culture in Spanish American Literature
LTSP 256 Magic & The Real in Latin American Literature & Film
LTSP 350 Spanish Literature in Translation: A Foreign Author
LTSP 450 Spanish Literature in Translation: Comparative Literature

Portuguese
PORT 291 Portuguese for Spanish Speakers

Spanish
SPAN 315 Special Assignment Abroad
SPAN 328 Spanish Language Study Abroad
SPAN 366 Select Readings in Spanish America
SPAN 447 Spanish Dialectology
SPAN 490 Seminar: Special Topics in Hispanic Literature
SPAN 494 Seminar in Spanish American Literature
French
FREN 320 A Survey of Francophone Literature

LACS courses may count for Category A or B

Latin American & Caribbean Studies
LACS 103 Introduction to Contemporary Cuba
LACS 104 Introduction to Contemporary Chile
LACS 105 Introduction to Contemporary Brazil
LACS 106 Introduction to Contemporary Argentina
LACS 200 ST: in Latin American & Caribbean Studies
LACS 300 ST: in Latin American & Caribbean Studies
LACS 332 Latin American Politics and Society in Film
LACS 400 Independent Study in Latin American & Caribbean Studies
LACS 401 Latin American and Caribbean Studies Internship
LACS 499 Bachelor’s Essay

*LACS 101, 103, 104, 105 and 106 may be used to fulfill the Humanities or Social Science General Education Requirement.

Required Methodology 1 cr. Students should take INTL 300 after completing 15 hours of the major
INTL 300 Comparative Methodology for International Studies

Required Capstone 3 cr. Students should take the LACS 495 after completing 30 hours of the major
LACS 495 Latin American and Caribbean Studies Capstone

*Departmental Special Topics, Tutorials, Independent Studies, Internships, and Bachelor’s Essays as Appropriate.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies MINOR

REQUIREMENTS: A minor in Latin American and Caribbean Area Studies will consist of 18 hours in Latin American and Caribbean Area Studies courses with not more than 9 hours in any one discipline (excluding LACS). Students are encouraged to fulfill their language requirement in Spanish or Portuguese. Students are encouraged to spend one semester in a study abroad program in Latin America or the Caribbean.

REQUIRED:
*LACS 101 Introduction to Latin American and Caribbean Studies*

CORE COURSES: Take two (2) of the following core courses

- ANTH 325 Peoples and Cultures of Latin America
- ANTH 327 Peoples and Cultures of the Caribbean
- ARTH 205 Pre-Columbian Art and Culture
- HIST 262 Colonial Latin America
- HIST 263 Modern Latin America
- HIST 364 Sugar and Slaves in Colonial Brazil
- HIST 365 Modern Brazil
- LACS 103 Introduction to Contemporary Cuba
- LACS 104 Introduction to Contemporary Chile
- LACS 105 Introduction to Contemporary Brazil
- LACS 106 Introduction to Contemporary Argentina
- LTPO 150 Portuguese Literature in Translation
- LTPO 250 Portuguese Literature in Translation: A Foreign Literature
- LTPO 270 Studies in Brazilian Film
- LTPO 280 Studies in Brazilian Civilization and Culture
- LTPO 350 Portuguese Literature in Translation: A Foreign Author
- LTPO 450 Portuguese Literature in Translation: Comparative Literature
- LTSP 252 Contemporary Latin American Literature in Translation
- LTSP 254 Society, History & Culture in Spanish American Literature
- LTSP 256 The Magic & The Real in Latin American Literature & Film
- POLI 340 Politics of Latin America
- POLI 351 The Politics of Modern Brazil
- SPAN 333 Topics in Hispanic Culture

*LACS 101, 103, 104, 105 and 106 may be used to fulfill the Humanities or Social Science General Education Requirement.*
ELECTIVES: Includes Core courses above not taken

ANTH 328 Aztecs, Maya and their Ancestors
ANTH 362 Social and Cultural Change
ARTH 255 Latin American Colonial Art
ENGL 233 Survey of Non-Western Twentieth Century Literature
ENGL 234 Survey of Third World Masterpieces
ENGL 358 Colonial and Post Colonial British Literature
FREN 320 A Survey of Francophone Literature
FREN 326 A Survey of Francophone Civilization
HIST 261 ST: in Modern Asia, Africa, and Latin America
HIST 361 ST: in Modern Asia, Africa, and Latin America
HIST 366 Comparative Slavery in the Americas
HIST 461 RS: in Modern Asia, Africa, and Latin America
LACS 200 ST: in Latin American & Caribbean Studies
LACS 300 ST: in Latin American & Caribbean Studies
LACS 332 Latin American Politics and Society in Film
LACS 400 Independent Study in Latin American & Caribbean Studies
POLI 245 Cuban Revolution
POLI 266 Model Organization of American States
POLI 347 International Development
SOCY 362 Social and Cultural Change
SPAN 315 Special Assignment Abroad
SPAN 328 Spanish Language Study Abroad
SPAN 333 Topics in Hispanic Culture
SPAN 366 Select Readings in Spanish America
SPAN 490 Seminar: Special Topics in Hispanic Literature
SPAN 494 Seminar in Spanish American Literature

*Departmental Special Topics, Tutorials, Independent Studies, and Internships as Appropriate.
LACS Faculty

Lola Colomina-Garrigos, Director
*Latin American & Caribbean Studies*
Department of Hispanic Studies
(843)953-7128 colominagarrigosm@cofc.edu

Nadia Avendaño
Department of Hispanic Studies
(843)953-7619 avendanon@cofc.edu

Hilary Barnes
Department of Hispanic Studies and Linguistics
(843)953-5718 barnesah@cofc.edu

Barbara Borg
Department of Sociology/Anthropology
(843)953-5408 borgb@cofc.edu

Raúl Carrillo-Arciniega
Department of Hispanic Studies
(843) 953-7628 carrilloarciniegar@cofc.edu

Lisa Covert
Department of History
(843) 953-3033 covertlp@cofc.edu

Edward Chauca
Department of Hispanic Studies
(843)953-1862 chaucaem@cofc.edu

Hollis France
Department of Political Science
(843)953-6324 franceh@cofc.edu

Douglas S. Friedman
Department of International Studies
(843)953-5701 friedmand@cofc.edu
Luis Linares-Ocanto  
Department of Hispanic Studies  
(843)953-7783  linaresl@cofc.edu

Maria Luci DeBiaji Moreira  
Department of Hispanic Studies  
(843)953-6753  moreiral@cofc.edu

Simon Lewis  
English Department  
(843)953-1920  lewiss@cofc.edu

Beatriz Maldonado  
International Studies  
(843) 953-1028  maldonadobirdba@cofc.

Elizabeth Martinez-Gibson  
Department of Hispanic Studies and Linguistics  
(843)953-8066  martineze@cofc.edu

Kameika Murphy  
Department of History  
(843)953-2283  murphyks@cofc.edu

Michael O’Brien  
Department of Music  
(843)953-0431  obrienms@cofc.edu

Sarah E. Owens  
Department of Hispanic Studies  
(843)953-7186  owenss@cofc.edu

Lisa Samuel  
International Studies  
(843)953-3389  samuell@cofc.edu

Robert Sapp  
Department of French  
(843)953-6744  sappra@cofc.edu
Andrew Sobiesuo, Associate Provost and Director  
Center for International Education and Programs  
Department of Hispanic Studies  
(843)953-5537 sobiesuoa@cofc.edu  

Antonio Tillis, Dean  
School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs  
(843)953-5770 tillisad@cofc.edu  

Félix Vásquez  
Department of Hispanic Studies  
(843)953-7606 vasquezf@cofc.edu  

Marianne Verlinden  
Department of Hispanic Studies  
(843)953-7857 verlindemn@cofc.edu  

Ricard Vinas de Puig  
Department of Hispanic Studies  
(843)953-0263 vinasdepuiigr@cofc.edu  

Joseph L. Weyers  
Department of Hispanic Studies  
(843)953-6782 weyersj@cofc.edu  

Carl Wise  
Department of Hispanic Studies  
(843)953-7301 wiseca@cofc.edu  

Sarah Wuigk  
Department of International Studies  
(843)953-4884 wuigks@cofc.edu
For Further Information or to Declare a Major or Minor

Contact: LACS@cofc.edu

Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program
9 Liberty Street, Room 140
(843) 953-7128

Website: LACS.cofc.edu

or

School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs
(843) 953-4884