

Mission Statement

The mission of the (LALS) Program is to provide undergraduate students with a broad, interdisciplinary education to enable them to become scholars and researchers of Latin America and the Latino/a Diaspora in the United States. The goal is to train students to become critical thinkers, communicators, writers and academic investigators.

By utilizing concepts and methods employed by anthropology, history, political science, psychology, sociology and other disciplines in the social sciences and humanities, students acquire a detailed knowledge of the historical institutions, languages, politics, and cultures of Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Latino/a communities of the United States.

The LALS program is comprised of two interdisciplinary and multicultural components. One component focuses on the historical and cultural experiences of people living in Latin America and the Caribbean; the second component offers a perspective on the diaspora experience of Latinos/as in the United States, after receiving a basic grounding in Latin American history. Diaspora courses may focus on one national origin group or many, Latinos at the national or local level, or policy areas of special significance to Latinos. Courses are intended for students to achieve a fuller understanding of key institutions affecting Latinos in the U.S. such as the family, community, schools, government, economy, civic organizations, etc. The program encourages a global view of the Spanish-speaking world and supports self-reflective analysis through development of critical thinking in coursework.

In the Twenty-First Century, the United States has one of the largest and most diverse Spanish-speaking populations in the world; the same is true for New York City compared to other urban areas. The demographic, political, and cultural impact of rapid hemispheric changes are also playing themselves out on the CCNY campus and in surrounding neighborhoods. The LALS Program is in an ideal situation to: 1) support and educate a diverse, multicultural student body and 2) build bridges with the community.

Given that CCNY has one of the largest concentrations of faculty in CUNY specializing in Latin America and Latino/a issues, the Program's interdisciplinary nature offers students flexibility to

choose among a wide selection of course offerings. In sum, the LALS Program gives students the necessary skills to obtain employment or enter graduate school to pursue advanced degrees in: anthropology, economics, history, political science, sociology, psychology, law and international law, social work, bilingual education, health and other disciplines.

Learning Outcomes

Student with a B.A. in Latin America & Latino Studies will:

1. Differentiate contribution of different academic disciplines to understanding Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Latino/a Diaspora.
2. Discuss assigned reading materials and summarize in oral presentations to demonstrate comprehension and analytic capacity.
3. Compare, contrast, and critique the experiences of different Latino immigrant groups.
4. Construct papers that either: a) critically review a body of literature or b) present data in a research effort to support a hypothesis.

Learning Outcome Grid

(Outcomes are numbered from 1 to 4 as listed above)

Courses	Learning Outcomes								
	1	2	3	4					
101 Heritage	X								
102 Latin Amer.	X								
122 PR Hrtge		X							
123 Domin. Hrtge		X							
126 Hisp. Immigration U.S.			X						
131 Hisp. Urban Child		X	X						
132 Contemp. Hisp. Fmly		X	X						
238 Trujillo to present		X							
291 Culture & Health	X			X					
292 Hisp. Health Care	X			X					
310 Indep. Stdy thesis 3-4 credits				X					
311-20 Spcl Topics									
31301 PRs& Domins			X						
31311 PRs, Hawaii, Globl Soc		X		X					
Anth 243 Peoples of L.A.									
Arth 21043 Anc Art LA & Carib									
Arth 31030 Mod LAArt									
Arth 31032 Contmp LAArt									
BLST 316 Af-Latinos Hist&Cult									
Hist 281 L.A to 1825									
Hist 282 Mod-Contmp L.A.									
PSc 236 L.A. Pol		X		X					
PSc 245 Carib Pol		X		X					
Soc 31121 Domin Cmnty									
Span 283 Mstrwks L.A. Lit									
Span 436 SpanAmCol.Lit.									
Span 444 SpanAm Poetry-Thtr									

LALS GRADING RUBRICS 11/18/11

EXCEEDS STANDARDS

- 1-Makes a convincing argument
- 2-Develops a coherent theme
- 3-Makes thorough use of scholarly resources

MEETS STANDARDS

- 1-Attempts to make an argument
- 2-Adequately discusses a defined topic
- 3-Makes adequate use of scholarly resources

DOES NOT MEET STANDARDS

- 1-Barely makes an argument
- 2-Barely demonstrates knowledge of a topic
- 3-Makes little if any use of scholarly resources