Frequently Asked Questions
M.A. in the Study of the Americas

What is the Study of the Americas?

The Study of the Americas is a new and growing area of scholarship. The program seeks to address new questions and concepts about the Americas as it focuses on topics such as: racial and ethnic identities, migration and immigration, popular culture, politics, gender relations, and human rights. Our chief organizing questions move beyond a focus on identity politics to examine the historical, political economic and socio-cultural formations of the Americas. Examining fields of power, and the themes and issues that emerge from this inquiry guide our program.

Who is this program for?

This program is intended to provide students with a meaningful graduate-level program. Our program is also intended to accommodate the busy schedules of professional students. The majority of our courses are taught in the evenings. The liberal arts program focuses on students interested in international and global studies or interdisciplinary studies. It is also a strong fit for professionals in the corporate and non-profit sector who work with diverse populations in the United States or who do business across the Americas. Secondary education teachers in search of certificate programs in a content area or in need of graduate credits will also benefit from this program. While the M.A. in the Americas does not lead to certification, it can be used by those with provisional certification to fulfill the NYS requirements for obtaining permanent certification or certification in an additional area.

How many credits does the program require?

The M.A. in the Study of the Americas is a 30-credit graduate program.

Are courses offered on a part-time as well as full time basis? What about summer sessions?

Students can take courses on a full or part-time basis. Currently, courses are not offered in the summer. However, with approval from the director of graduate studies and college approval, students may take up to nine graduate credits outside of the department during their course of study.

What makes this program unique?

As with all of The City College's curricula, our program is extremely rigorous, preparing students to be the best, while at the same time accommodating their professional lives. One of the historical missions of The City College of New York has been to serve the educational needs of the working people of the city. The college's Division of Interdisciplinary Studies represents the heart of this mission, and our MA program enhances our ability to serve working students
more fully and successfully. While nationally there are a few Master's programs explicitly designed for the adult learner, few engage a reconceptualization of the Americas that can go beyond more traditional area studies approaches. This is our program's strength and will position students well who wish to pursue further degrees, enter professional schools or continue advancing their careers in the non-profit or corporate sector.

How will I be able to use this degree?

Recent data shows that a liberal arts education prepares students well for successful careers. Today, employers tend to focus on finding graduates and employees with the right skills rather than the right major. Given an increasingly competitive job market, many employers now require a graduate degree. Our M.A in the Study of the Americas is intended to produce graduates with expansive and agile minds, able to make connections and communicate these effectively across culturally diverse spheres. This knowledge is imperative in today's business environment, as career paths are increasingly defined by shifts and flexibility rather than specialized skill sets. In addition, the importance of interdisciplinary education in all professional environments is of primary importance in an increasingly cosmopolitan world.

What is the program like and what are the course offerings?

As of Fall 2012, the M.A. in The Study of the Americas program consists of the following two options:

1. Thesis/Project Option consisting of two required foundation courses, seven electives, and a thesis project.

2. Non-Thesis Option consisting of two required foundation courses, seven electives, and a capstone course.

Students will need to meet a foreign language reading proficiency requirement in one of the following: French, Haitian Kreyòl, Spanish, or Portuguese. This requirement may be fulfilled by: either passing an exam, or completing a language proficiency course with the passing grade of C or above. For students apprehensive about foreign-language acquisition, please do not be discouraged. We have a very supportive faculty.

For students entering the program as of Fall 2012, the two required foundation 3-credit courses are:

1. Inventing the Americas

2. Research Methodologies
Sample Elective 3-credit courses:

"Comparative Slaveries of the Americas

"Race and Gender in the Americas

"Religion in the Americas

"Geopolitics and Diplomacy in the Americas

"The Global Citizen

"Weimar in America

"Crossing Borders in the 21st Century

"Childhood in the Americas

"Music in the Americas

"Women's Revolutionary Fiction of the Americas

"Labor Movements in the Americas

"Literature of the British West Indies

"Latin American Writers in Translation (to English)

"Special Topics Capstone Course