

Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies Courses (LACX) - Fall 2026

Introductory Courses

Humanities

DANC171 Capoeira: Brazilian Art Movement, 2cr

AHST101 – Introduction to Art & Visual Culture*

SPAN159 Spanish for Heritage Speaker

Social Sciences

HIST194-01 Latin American History (Open Veins of Latin America?)*

BLST110 Introduction to Black Studies*

Mid- and Upper-Level Courses

Humanities

AHST 350 – Collecting Ancient Americas

BLST 273 Introduction to the Francophone Caribbean Novel

LTST 287 Studies in Translation

SPAN 203 Representing Identities in the Early Modern Hispanic World*

SPAN262 Spanish-American Crime Fiction

Social Sciences

ANTH 231 (Il)legal Anthropology*

ANTH 315 Advanced Topics: Borders and Boundaries*

BLST 258 Flights to Freedom: How Maroons Made the Americas*

GSWS206 Global Politics of Gender and Health

HIST222(W) The Cultural History of 20th Century Mexico

HIST250 Digital Paleography: Deciphering Early Modern Spanish

INTR255(W) Poverty and Development

Language Courses

Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies Courses (LACX) Fall 2026

The following courses have been identified for the Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies major and the Latin American Studies minor in Fall 2026. Courses marked with an asterisk (*) can be used to satisfy the LACX major or minor with a petition to the Curriculum Committee or LACX coordinator.

Language study is a key feature of LACX. Students completing the minor or major must complete SPAN152, PORT152 or SPAN200 before declaring. The language courses sections include the sections of introductory and intermediate Spanish and Portuguese being offered in Fall 2026. For the LACX major, language courses numbered below 200 are introductory humanities courses. Courses numbered 200 or above are mid-level courses.

Students may petition for courses to count toward the major if a significant portion of the research or community engagement is related to the major. This can include coursework in other disciplines, independent research, and immersive experiences, such as community-engaged courses, internships, and study abroad coursework. The major director, in collaboration with the LACX curriculum committee, will approve such petitions.

Introductory Courses

Humanities

DANC171 Capoeira: Brazilian Art Movement, 2cr

Prof. Todd Russell, MW 6:30-7:45pm

An art form of self-defense with aerobic and dance elements that brings together a harmony of forces. Through history, movement and culture, students gain self-confidence, power, flexibility, endurance, and tools towards self-discovery. Open to all, Capoeira balances the body, mind, and soul and enables one to break through limits, revitalizing oneself for everyday life.

AHST101 – Introduction to Art & Visual Culture*

Profs. Radlo-Dzur & Heuer, TR 12:30-1:45pm

This course overviews Western painting, sculpture, architecture, film, performance and installation and its dialogues with the wider world. We will examine various practices in

historical contexts, while paying particular attention to the narratives, sociabilities, and materials that bear upon them, such as the influence of the past, religion, gender, colonialism, race, ideology, technology, ecology, and politics. The course will attempt to familiarize students with the way some principal monuments of world art from about 400 BCE onward were made and understood, and to develop visual literacy, that is, the ability not only to identify, but also to discuss art works as central elements of culture. Museum, gallery, and archive field trips are key components of the course.

SPAN159 Spanish for Heritage Speaker

Rojas-Rimachi, MW 2-3:15pm, *Instructor permission is required for this course. Use the "Request Course Section Prerequisite Override" task found on your academics dashboard under the Planning & Registration section to request this permission.*

Students who have already taken SPAN200, but who would like to develop a project related to this topic should reach out to the instructor.

A Spanish heritage speaker has personal and familial, as well as community connections to an environment where Spanish is spoken. This course has been developed specifically for heritage speakers of Spanish with oral proficiency but little or no formal training in the language. The goal of this course is to develop oral, written, and readings skills in order to achieve an academic register in Spanish, starting with the language foundation students already possess, and building on the rich experiences and influences of bilingual and bicultural upbringing. We address the study of progressively complex grammatical structures in order to attain communicative competence, and to expose students to different forms of cultural production in the Spanish language. Limited to 12 students. Major, minor, and cluster credit.

Social Sciences

HIST194-01 Latin American History (Open Veins of Latin America?)*

Prof. Garza, MW 10:25-11:40; 12:30-1:45pm

This course will trace claims made by modern Latin American intellectuals about the colonial period's impact on modern Latin American society. Popular figures such as Eduardo Galeano, Frida Kahlo, and Che Guevara all attributed Latin America's colonial history as the reason why the region developed the way it has. This course will examine Latin America's colonial history to understand modern trends and characterizations of Latin America. After this course, students will be able to answer the following questions: Did colonial Spanish rule give Latin America a disadvantage compared to the United States? What role does The Black Legend play in shaping Latin America's relationship with its colonial and pre-colonial past? Should all Latin Americans claim an Indigenous heritage? How does the U.S.-Mexican border shape Latin American history? Students will gain an understanding of how colonial Latin American history

shapes modern Latin Americans' understanding of their place in the world, where beliefs originated, and how those beliefs are influenced by the U.S.-Mexican border.

BLST110 Introduction to Black Studies*

Prof. Frierson, MW 10:25-11:40am

This course invites you to learn about Black history, life, and experience through the field of Black Studies. During the 1960s, a wave of student activism — amid a period marked by broader social activism, Black freedom struggle, and decolonial movements — echoed across the United States. Legacies of chattel slavery, colonialism, and racial capitalism were being challenged in all edges of American society. Through sit-ins, strikes, and protests, activists along with community members and organizers sought to compel colleges and universities to recognize the importance of studying Black life, history, and culture. This grassroots movement laid the foundation which led to the formation of Black Studies as a field across campuses. This course will begin by first establishing a shared understanding of Black Studies, including its historical origins and key theories, concepts, methods, and debates. We then draw on insights that span the humanities and social sciences, including literature, popular culture, music *and* engagement with cultural studies, history, political theory, and ethnography. Ultimately, we will bridge the historical and contemporary, exploring how insights from Black Studies are essential for addressing present-day challenges and struggles for justice.

Mid- and Upper-Level Courses

Humanities

AHST 350 – Collecting Ancient Americas

Prof. Radlo-Dzur, TR 3:25 – 4:40pm

A history of the Americas in collections of objects. Topics discussed include the role and aesthetics of archaeological illustrations; the invocation of the past in the formation of national identities; contemporary artists responding to Indigenous history; the techniques used in the faking and restoration of ancient objects; the aesthetic, didactic, and ethical considerations of museum display and exhibition design; the reconstruction of ruined cities into tourist destinations; and the deployment of Indigenous cultures of the Americas in spiritualisms, conspiracy theories, and popular entertainments

BLST 273 Introduction to the Francophone Caribbean Novel

Prof. Kemedjio, MW 3:25-4:40pm

This course surveys Francophone Caribbean literature from its beginnings in the 1940s to the postcolonial age. Study includes major trends and texts that have shaped the emergence of the Francophone Caribbean literary tradition. Issues of cultural confrontations, exile, Pan-Africanism, diasporic migrations and interactions, race, class, and gender in African and Caribbean postcolonial societies are addressed through a close reading of texts. Movies are used as an integral part of this course and help in the understanding of the concept. Authors, among others, include Haitian Jacques Roumain and Jean Metellus, Martinican Frantz Fanon, Patrick Chamoiseau and Raphaël Confiant, Guadeloupean Maryse Condé and Gisèle Pineau.

LTST 287 Studies in Translation

Prof. O'Donnell, M 2-4:40pm

This course introduces students to the theoretical foundations, practical challenges, and creative possibilities of literary translation. We will examine how translators describe their work—what they believe they are doing and why it matters—through close readings of English translations from a range of source texts. Attention will be paid to the strategies translators employ and to the implications of those choices for understanding translation as a literary and political practice, including its intersections with gender and rhetoric. Students will also complete a translation project of their own, using this work to interrogate and practice feminist rhetoric in their writing. By the end of the semester, students will have developed a working knowledge of both the theory and craft of literary translation.

SPAN 203 Representing Identities in the Early Modern Hispanic World*

Prof. Prendergast, TR 12:30-1:45pm

This course explores the construction of various identities in the pre-18th century Hispanic World. Through the close reading of poetic, narrative, and dramatic texts alongside a selection of historical/archival documents, we will attempt to understand how and why characters (e.g., Don Juan) and historical figures (e.g., Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz) represent, challenge, and/or negotiate different subject positions. We will pay particular attention to how the discourses of class, gender, race, and religion influence both fictional texts and historical contexts. Other themes discussed will include: transvestism, prostitution, the body, courtly love, and love sickness. In Spanish. Pre-requisite SPAN 200.

SPAN262 Spanish-American Crime Fiction

Alfaro, MW 10:25-11:40am

Crime fiction—el género negro—encompasses a wide number of texts: detective stories, crime novels, and non-fictional true crime books. It has become one of the most popular literary forms in the last few decades and one of the favorite genres of readers. Because it is built around topics like crime and the law, the search for truth in post-dictatorships, and the unstable identity of the subject in societies defined by violence, it has become an ideal vehicle

for the expression of the anxieties and fears that dominate contemporary cultures. It has been used by many Latin American authors to express the social and political conflicts of the continent, manifested in the intersections between race, gender, class, sexuality, and language. The goal of this course is to offer a panoramic vision of contemporary crime fiction in Spanish America through the reading of a sample of classic and contemporary authors.

Social Sciences

ANTH 231 (Il)legal Anthropology*

Prof. Mondragon Celis Ochoa, TR 11:05am – 12:30pm

This course uses anthropological approaches to explore the sociopolitical construction of “the law” in the contemporary world. We will examine how the state’s power and regulatory practices constitute contingent domains of il/legality and how they shape people’s lives. We will also look at a range of illegal activities—including racketeering, piracy, drug trafficking, and political corruption—as well as how certain racialized and gendered bodies are subjected to criminalization. In so doing, we will look critically at the boundary between the illegal and the legal and its assumed alignment with dis/order and the im/moral at local, national, and global scales. We will examine case studies from Latin America, the Middle East, East Asia, the US, and elsewhere.

ANTH 315 Advanced Topics: Borders and Boundaries*

Prof. Reichman, W 2 – 4:40pm

Why do borders exist? How do they relate to other forms of social boundaries that pre-date the modern nation-state? Are borders likely to persist or disappear in the future? This class will investigate the anthropology of borders as a way to understand processes of social inclusion and exclusion in societies around the world.

BLST 258 Flights to Freedom: How Maroons Made the Americas*

Prof. Karma Frierson

GSWS206 Global Politics of Gender and Health

Prof. O’Donnell, MW 10:25-11:40am

This interdisciplinary course is an introduction to critical concepts and approaches used to investigate the intersections of gender, health, and illness, particularly in the context of individual lives both locally and transnationally. Special attention will be paid to the historical and contemporary development of medical knowledge and practice, including debates on the roles of health-care consumers and practitioners, as well as global linkages among the health industry, international trade, and health sector reform in the developing world. Emerging issues around the politics of global health include clinical research studies, bodily modification

practices, and reproductive justice movements. This is a writing-intensive course and may be counted toward the University of Rochester's Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies (GSW) major, minor, or cluster.

HIST222(W) The Cultural History of 20th Century Mexico

Prof. Flores, MW 10:25-11:40am

This course will consider Mexico's rich and vibrant cultural history beginning with the Mexican Revolution (1910-20) and ending with contemporary globalization (post-1994). Among the topics to be considered are Mexico's mid-century challenge to US power as it was expressed in art, literature, and film; the question of forming a national identity between 1930 and 1960; and the cultural expressions of discontent against the national state after 1968. We will pay close attention to the work of national figures who expressed Mexico's internal racial, class, and gender hierarchies, including Carlos Monsivís, Elena Poniatowska, and Fernando Bentez. And we will examine the current resurgence of Mexican literature and film on the world stage as Mexico's artists have responded to the inequalities, migrations, and violence of contemporary globalization.

HIST250 Digital Paleography: Deciphering Early Modern Spanish

Prof. Sierra, TR 11:05am-12:20pm

Learn how to read, analyze, and transcribe Spanish writing from the 1500s-1700s in this interactive two-credit course (class meets once a week). Paleography is an essential skill for deciphering primary sources whether they were produced in Mexico, Spain, Puerto Rico or the Philippines. This course prepares students for historical research in digital databases, physical archives and specialized libraries. We will collectively transcribe, analyze and annotate a group document to familiarize ourselves with ancient Spanish. For your final project you will analyze a digitized primary source of your own choice. Students should have a strong background in Spanish (or Portuguese). No HIST pre-requisites necessary.

INTR255(W) Poverty and Development

Prof. Frey, TR 11:05am-12:20pm

Why are some countries poor, while others enjoy a high standard of living? Why some enjoy stability and freedoms, while others suffer with corruption, repression and violence? Why countries stagnate or decline in their economic development. This course is designed to provide a broad theoretical framework for thinking about these problems, focusing on the political and institutional causes of differences in economic development across countries.

Language Courses

PORT101 Introductory Portuguese I

TR11:05am-12:20pm, F 10:25-11:15am

PORT151 Intermediate Portuguese I

TR12:30-1:45pm, W 11:50am-12:40pm

SPAN101 Introductory Spanish I

3 sections:

MWF 9-9:50am, T 9:40-10:30am

MWF 10:25-11:15am, T 2-2:50pm

MWF 2-2:50pm, T 11:05-11:55am

SPAN 102 Intermediate Spanish II

MWF 9-9:50am, T 9:40-10:30am

SPAN 151 Intermediate Spanish I

3 sections: MW 10:25-11:40am; TR 3:25-4:40pm; MW 12:30-1:45pm

SPAN 152 – Intermediate Spanish II

2 sections: MW 10:25-11:40am; TR 12:30-1:45pm

SPAN 200 – Advanced Spanish Composition

2 sections: TR 2-3:15pm; MW 2-3:15pm