

UMBC UGC Program Changes & Other Request: Minor in Latin American Studies

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Specifics (see instructions):

The Spanish area of the Department of Modern Languages, Linguistics and Intercultural Communication proposes an 18-credit Undergraduate Minor concentration in Latin American Studies. To complete the minor students will complete six, 3-credit courses. Two required courses (6 credits) are in Spanish, two elective courses (6 credits) are in Spanish, and two elective courses (6 credits) are in English.

Required Courses (6 credits):

Two advanced language courses (6 credits): SPAN 301 or SPAN 304; SPAN 302 or SPAN 305

Elective Courses in Spanish (6 credits):

SPAN 308 (*Latinoamérica y sus culturas I*); SPAN 312 (*Latinoamérica y sus culturas II*); SPAN 421 (*Studies in Hispanic Literature – Latin America*); SPAN 472 (*Topics in Latin American Society*).

Elective Courses in English (6 credits):

AMST 345 (*Indigenous Heritage*); AMST 372 (*American Food*); AMST 403 (*Food Ethnography*); ART 424 (*Contemporary Non-Western Art – Latin America*); ECON 387 (*Economic Development of Latin America*); GES 302 (*Latin American Geographies*); GWST 343 (*Gender, Human Rights, and Political Violence in Latin America*); HIST 327 (*Modern Latin American History*); HIST 328 (*Colonial Latin America*); POLI 377 (*Latin American Politics*); MLL 218 (*Film and Society in Latin America*); MLL 280 (*Introduction to the Spanish Speaking World*)

Note: Consult with an LAS faculty advisor to determine how courses from other departments or programs may count toward the LAS minor.

All courses towards the minor must be completed with a grade of C or better.

Rationale (see instructions):

The Minor in Latin American Studies is an interdisciplinary program that aims to provide students with the opportunity to learn about Latin America from the perspective and methods of different fields, including art, history, literature, cultural studies, geography, and political science. This minor is a response to students' interest in Latin America as part of their language experience at UMBC, where Spanish is the most popular language among students. The growing number of Spanish-speakers has made it the second most spoken language in the United States, making the inclusion of two advanced language courses, and the opportunity to take content-based courses in Spanish an advantage for students interested in increasing their knowledge about Latin America. In Baltimore, Spanish is the most common language after English, and Latin America is the most common region of origin for immigrants, where students regularly pursue internships and careers locally in education, local government, and non-profits working with Latin American immigrants. This minor also offers an opportunity for students to engage with Latin Americanists at UMBC affiliated with different departments, a great opportunity for students interested in applying to graduate programs in Latin American Studies.