

# Syllabus

for course at first level

**Latin American Studies - Bachelor's Course**  
**Latinamerikastudier - kandidatkurs**

**30.0 Higher Education  
Credits**  
**30.0 ECTS credits**

<b>Course code:</b>	LA3300
<b>Valid from:</b>	Autumn 2017
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2012-04-04
<b>Changed:</b>	2017-03-15
<b>Department</b>	Department of Romance Studies and Classics
<b>Main field:</b>	Latin America Studies
<b>Specialisation:</b>	G2E - First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements, contains degree project for BA/BSc

## Decision

This course plan is approved by the board of the Department of Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies. 2007-04-19  
Revised 2010-06-03

## Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Latin American Studies II, 30 ECTS.

## Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
LA31	Method of social science	7.5
LA32	Group of themes and Geography	7.5
DEL3	Graduation Paper	15

## Course content

The course comprises an independent project for the Bachelor's Degree and two modules; one with a focus on cross discipline theory and method, one with a focus on a thematic and regional specialization connected to the independent project. The project is carried out as a limited research project the end result of which is a scientific paper. In the initial stages of the project students acquire a deeper knowledge in the design of a scientific research paper.

### *Module 1*

Social Science Methods, 7,5 credits

### Contents

The course deepens the knowledge which was acquired at the level of the intermediate course and surveys the interdisciplinary perspective and its methods as well as gives an more profound understanding of Latin American social theory.

The course deals with among other things the following areas:

-the interdisciplinary perspective and its method

- Different social science foci and their application to Latin America; e.g. ethnographic method, source critique, feminist and post-colonial thought.
- Method that in the first instance is research strategy, that is to say principles and approach to formulation and solution of research tasks.

### *Module 2*

Thematic and Geographical Specialization, 7.5 ECTS

#### Contents

The aim of the module is to analyse Latin America from the perspective of human geography. It discusses on how nation-states have been formed in relation to their territories. Particular attention is paid to how geographical conditions have affected processes of urbanization, state structures, societal structures, cultural characteristics and demographical change. These themes are analyzed from regional (Latin America) and sub-regional (e.g. Central America) perspectives, also considering historical processes. It also highlights geographical macro perspectives, with an orientation towards how broad geographical structures have been integrated or ended up in conflict with national and sub-national units. Apart from Human Geography, the module also include perspectives taken from disciplines such as political science, economic history and anthropology.

### *Module 3*

Independent project, 15 ECTS

#### Contents

The course comprises an independent project for the Degree of Bachelor. The project is carried out as a limited research the end result of which is a scientific paper. In the initial stages of the examination project students acquire a deeper knowledge in the design of a scientific research.

The course deals with among other things:

- the approach for formulating and solving the research problem,
- placing the work in a theoretical context,
- choosing an appropriate method (design and more specific method) in relation to the problem formulation,
- logic (red thread/logical connection from problem via purpose, research questions, method, result to conclusion,
- readability (structure, typographical design, and language use)

The course shall provide training to increase the ability to carry out a limited research task with a certain degree of independence.

#### **Learning outcomes**

*In order to pass the module 1, the student should be able to:*

- to describe, compare and evaluate prominent scientific theories and research methods and its application within Latin American Research, and
- account for and critically relate to some of the concepts and models within the interdisciplinary perspective and different social science branches (political science, social anthropology, gender and critical theories).

*In order to pass the module 2, the student should be able to:*

- Understand how regional and geographic insertion have affected the social, economic and political characteristics of the Latin American nation-states,
- describe and analyse obstacles and possibilities that regional geographical conditions place on nation-states' past and current development, and
- identify how the relationship between local thematic and broader geographical circumstances have been analysed within different social science disciplines.

*In order to pass the module 3, the student should be able to:*

- seek, gather and critically interpret information that is relevant to a specific problem within the major field of study,
- independently identify, formulate and, based on knowledge of applicable methods in the field, to solve problems and to submit a degree project within the specified time limit,
- orally and in writing account for the aims and results of the independent project,
- demonstrate such competence as is required to work independently within the intended area of education,
- observe the appropriate principles of research ethics.

## **Education**

Lectures , seminars, group work and individual tutoring

## **Forms of examination**

a. Examination's form

Module 1

Oral presentation, written papers

Module 2

Short papers, oral presentation

Module 3

Essay

b. Grades are given according to a criterion referenced seven-point scale:

A = Excellent

B= Very Good

C = Good

D = Satisfactory

E = Adequate

Fx = Insufficient

F = Fail

c. The grading criteria for this course are to be distributed at the beginning of the course.

d. A grade of at least E on all modules is required in order to obtain a grade for the whole course. A student, who has received a grade of E or higher, may not take the test again in order to get a higher grade.

e. In order to obtain at least a grade of E, a student who has received an F or Fx has the right to an additional four tests provided the course is still offered.

A student who has received the grade of Fx or F twice on a given test and by the same examiner can, on application, be granted a new examiner, unless there are specific reasons against it. The application should be addressed to the board of the department.

The total grade is calculated on the basis of the average received on each module with due consideration given to the number of points carried by the module. If the average lies between two grades, the final grade given is adjusted upwards or downwards (a half point) depending on whether the grade received for Module 3 essay is above or below the average.

## **Required reading**