

Syllabus

for course at first level

Latin American Studies I
Latinamerikastudier I

**30.0 Higher Education
Credits**
30.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	LAS100
Valid from:	Autumn 2023
Date of approval:	2015-03-04
Changed:	2021-05-20
Department	Department of Romance Studies and Classics
Main field:	Latin America Studies
Specialisation:	G1N - First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Decision

This course plan is approved by the by the Board of the Department of Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies, 2007-04-19.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Swedish upper secondary school courses Swedish B/Swedish as Second Language B, and English B, or equivalent.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
100A	Early history of Latin America	7.5
100B	Development in Latin America from 1900	7.5
100C	Inequality, Gender and Power in Latin America	7.5
100D	Globalization and New Strategies for Economic Development	7.5

Course content

The course gives a basic orientation about the historical development of Latin America's development and society. It deals particularly with the origins and preservation of different structures of inequality, based on e.g. gender, sexuality, class, ethnicity and 'race'. Moreover, it covers the multifaceted character of the democratization processes, economic development in relation to the increasing impact of globalization, and the challenges facing contemporary Latin America

Module 1: Early History of Latin America, 7, 5 credits

Content

The module offers a survey of the historical development of Latin American until approximately the 1930s, from a regional as well as an international perspective. Areas covered are, for example, the nature, rise and fall of the dominant pre-Columbian civilizations, the economic, administrative, social and cultural characteristics of Spanish and Portuguese colonial rule, the struggle for independence and the civil wars in the 19th century, the nature of those oligarchic political regimes that emerged after the wars of independence, and the growth of an export economy until the 1930s

Module 2: Development in Latin America from 1900, 7,5 credits

Content

The module offers an introduction to the most important developments in Latin America from approximately the 1930s, from a regional as well as an international perspective. Areas covered are the depression of the 1930s, the political inclusion of the masses, industrialization, Latin America and the Cold War, the debt crisis, the democratization processes from the 1980s onwards, and contemporary challenges with regards to state reform and how to ensure sustainable social and economic development

Module 3: Inequality, Gender and Power in Latin America 7,5 credits

Content

The module offers an introduction to how various forms of inequality have emerged and been preserved in Latin America and the Caribbean. It traces continuities and change with regards to relationships based on gender, sexual orientation, class, ethnicity and 'race'. These power relations are studied against the historical backdrop of slavery and national development. The module also covers how distinct political movements in the region have approached issues of power, inequality and change, and also analyses contemporary challenges for the safeguarding of human rights.

Module 4: Globalization and New Strategies for Economic Development. 7,5 credits

Content

The module focuses on important economic and social questions in Latin America since the 1990s, onwards. It covers topics like neoliberalism and the insertion of this paradigm into phenomenon such as globalization, poverty, urbanization, inequality. It also discusses new challenges and possibilities for the continent in relation to globalization.

Learning outcomes

Module 1: Early History of Latin America, 7, 5 credits

In order to pass the student should be able to:

- account for major characteristics of culture and people in the region before the encounter between the original population and the Europeans,
- account for the initial preconditions for the inclusion of Latin America into the emerging capitalist world system, the trajectories of the Spanish and Portuguese conquest and the cyclical nature of the colonial structure and economy, and
- account for the economic, political and demographic development during the heydays of free trade and the export-oriented economy.

Module 2: Development in Latin America from 1900, 7,5 credits

In order to pass the student should be able to:

- account for the development of the inward oriented state-led development of growth, and its impact on the class structure and the expansion of the state apparatus in distinct countries,
- account for the basic elements of new development strategies such as keynesianism, import substitution industrialization (ISI) and the dependency school.
- account for new forms of nation-building and alternative ways employed to ensure the inclusion of the masses into the political systems,
- account for the consequences of the ISI economic doctrine and the reasons for its eventual collapse,
- account for the impact that the emergence of United States as a hegemonic regional power had on Latin America, including the insertion of the region into a Cold War logic and the adoption of the so-called national security doctrine,
- account for those democratization processes that have characterized Latin America in different parts of its modern history, and
- account for contemporary challenges for the political and economic development with regards to state reform and sustainable social and economic development, while relating these challenges to lessons from earlier periods in Latin American history.

Module 3: Inequality, Gender and Power in Latin America 7,5 credits

In order to pass the student should be able to:

- account for the historical background to present-day norms and conflicts around gender and sexual orientation in Latin America,
- critically account for contemporary norms, power relations (based on e.g. class, ethnicity and 'race) and imaginations of the nation, and
- account for how the political movements in Latin America have approached these issues.

Module 4: Globalization and New Strategies for Economic Development. 7,5 credits

In order to pass the student should be able to:

- identify, describe and evaluate the main characteristics and results of earlier development models and how they have changed in recent decades,
- identify, describe and evaluate the nature of the neoliberal paradigm and its impact on Latin America, particularly in relation to the changing role of the state and the impact on a sustainable urban and rural environment,
- account for how contemporary politics impacts on socio-economic phenomena and relationships such as poverty, the labor market, health and infrastructure, and
- account for contemporary Latin American debates on new challenges for ensuring economic and social development.

Education

Lectures and seminars. Presence is mandatory on some lectures/seminars during module 3 and 4 (for more detailed information, see the course description).

Forms of examination

a. Examination forms:

Moment 1, 2 and 3

Take home exam, group work, oral and written presentation.

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 norms for grading the complete course

The total grade is based on the average mark received on all the modules with due consideration to the points carried by each module.

Required reading