

# Syllabus

for course at first level

**Latin American Studies II**  
**Latinamerikastudier II**

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

<b>Course code:</b>	LAS200
<b>Valid from:</b>	Spring 2018
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2015-03-04
<b>Changed:</b>	2017-09-12
<b>Department</b>	Department of Romance Studies and Classics
<b>Main field:</b>	Latin America Studies
<b>Specialisation:</b>	G1F - First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

## Decision

This syllabus is approved by the by the Board of the Department of Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies, 2010-02-25.

## Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Latin America Studies I, 30 ECTS credits or equivalent.

## Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
DEL1	Latin America and the world	7.5
DEL3	Essay	7.5
DEL4	Democratization and Human Rights in Latin America	7.5
DEL2	Sustainable Development in an unequal region	7.5

## Course content

The course casts light on a Latin American in the process of change and focuses on the current social and cultural conditions and the environmental, political and juridical aspects. The course starts with an introduction on Latin America in relation to world development in general. The course ends with an essay.

### *Module 1, Latin America in the world, 7,5 credits*

Module 1 aims to analyse how Latin America's economy, culture and politics have affected and been affected by other regions/countries within the global system, for example through the silver trade with Europe and Asia, the slave trade with Africa, and the international breakthrough of Latin American development perspectives through structuralism and dependency theory. A particular focus is given to the role played by Latin America within current global structures. Discussions will concern international waves of migration from, to and within Latin America; Latin America's contemporary relations to Europe, United States, Africa and Asia; and international treaties within various domains.

### *Module 2, Sustainable Development in an unequal region*

Module 2 In the 21 century, Latin America has strengthened its position as an important supplier of primary

products within the international division of labour. Some claim that this has severe negative impacts on sustainable development, arguing that increasing extractivism in forms of mining and agrarian mono-cultivation puts humans and nature under pressure. They identify an evermore displaced peasant economy, great demographical and migratory changes, and vast areas of devastated rain forest as only some of the consequences produced by globalisation and an intensified competition for natural resources. Others look upon this development as an opportunity for economic growth, stronger international competitiveness and more resources for social reform. Module 2 highlights these contradictory views as well as the argument upon which they are based. It offers a critical analysis on the forces and actors - within state and civil society - who act within the context of sustainable development. Module 2 asks questions on whether sustainable development is necessarily linked to democratization and social justice. By necessity, such a discussion requires a deeper analysis on how different definitions and understandings of "development" are affected by politics and public debates in contemporary Latin American politics.

#### *Module 3, Essay, 7,5 credits*

Module 3 includes the crafting of an academic essay with an eye on: definitions of problems and aims, formulation of research questions, the ability to follow an argument, literature review, awareness of research ethics, the handling of references, and their ability to make thematic and geographical demarcations. Besides writing an essay, module 3 offers an introduction to social science methods and theories.

#### *Module 4, Democratization and Human Rights in Latin America, 7,5 credits*

Module 4 consists of two thematical parts. The first draws on political science and focuses on the democratic system and its institutions. The second draws on sociology and focuses on the impact of social movements on the political and judicial development. Module 4 offers an introduction to central discussion on democratization in Latin America, with emphasis on the political development since the 1980s. In the module, democratization is primarily look upon as an institutional and societal process of change. However, cultural and economic aspects of democratization are also taken into consideration.

### **Learning outcomes**

#### *Moment 1, Latin America in the world, 7,5 credits*

In order to pass, students are expected to be able to:

- describe and critically analyse the Latin American continent's integration into the world market;
- describe the various mechanisms – and the underlying development theories and strategies – through which Latin America has tried to adapt to the current global system.

#### *Module 2, Sustainable Development in an unequal region, 7.5 credits*

In order to pass, students are expected to be able to:

- account for the main arguments put forward within different schools of "development";
- account for how different camps relate "development" with democratization and social justice;
- account for the societal and environmental consequences (negative and positive) caused by an increasing dependency on raw material export.

#### *Module 3, Essay, 7,5 credits*

In order to pass, students are expected to be able to:

- account for and critically discuss the specific theme of the essay;
- know and apply relevant scientific methods
- Write, present and defend an essay within the area of Latin American studies.

#### *Module 4, Democratization and Human Rights in Latin America, 7,5 credits*

In order to pass, students are expected to be able to:

- account for and critically discuss the Latin America democratic tradition's historical development and nature;
- account for factors which according to the literature have benefited or obstructed democracy in Latin America;
- describe, compare and evaluate dominant theories on Latin American democracy and democratization;
- identify different ways in which globalization has promoted or obstructed the development of democracy in Latin America;
- analyze different perspectives on the relation between the rights-based struggle of social movements and the democratic nature of formal political institutions.

### **Education**

Seminars and lectures

### **Forms of examination**

#### **a) Forms of examination**

Module 1: Take-home exam and oral presentations

Module 2: Take-home exam, written assignments and oral presentations

Module 3: Essay

Module 4: Take-home exam and oral presentations

Examinations are done English, if not other languages are permitted by the examiner.

For more detailed information, see syllabus

#### **b) Grading**

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) Grading criteria**

The course's grading criteria is distributed at the start of the course. Announced referenced grading criteria are binding.

#### **d) Final grade**

In order to pass the whole course it is required that the grade of E be earned in all course modules, as well as completed presence on all obligatory seminars. For more detailed information, see syllabus.

#### **e) Fail**

Students who have received the lowest grade of E may not be re-examined in order to improve his/her grade. For each module, two opportunities for re-examination shall be offered within the course of the semester. At least one opportunity for re-examination shall be offered during the semester in which the module is not offered. If the student has failed the examination twice with a grade of Fx or F by the same examiner, the student has the right to be examined by another examiner selected for determining the grade to be assigned on the examination provided that there are no arguments against it. A petition regarding this shall be made to the board of the department.

#### **f) Complementation**

There is an opportunity to upgrade an Fx to an approved grade. This may be admitted if the student is close to being approved on module 1, 2 and 4. The complementary task should be submitted within a week following the examiner has pointed out the need for complementation. In case of approval after complementation, the student may receive the grades C-E.

Complementation of Fx to an approved grade in relation to module 3 - essay - may be admitted if the student is close to being approved. The complementary task should be handed in within two weeks from the date when the examiner has announced the need for revision. The E-grade is given when an approved complementation concerns weaknesses in terms of understanding - minor misunderstandings, minor errors, or a weak argument in some part of the essay. The grades C-E are used when an approved complementation concerns minor errors in formalities.

#### **g) Supervision**

A student who begins writing the essay is entitled to five hours of contact with the supervisor. This time may be in the form of individual tutoring or in a small group

#### **h) Criteria for evaluation**

When grading the essay, the following criteria will be used: an understanding of the given task, the conduct of the investigation, knowledge of the theoretical background, interpretation and analysis of the results, autonomy, ability to review and discuss the essays of others

#### **i) Replacing supervisor and examiner**

Under special circumstances, the supervisor may be replaced. A request for such a replacement, together with a motivation, shall be directed to the board of the department (*Institutionsstyrelsen*). A replacement of

the examiner can only be done when the essay has received a grade of non-approval. For more information, see e) above

**j) Consequences** A student who during module 3 starts writing an essay without being finishing it in time do not have the right to additional supervision. However, the student always has the right to have its essay evaluated at a forthcoming opportunity.

### **Required reading**