

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Latin American Studies - Master's Course
Latinamerikastudier - masterkurs

**30.0 Higher Education
Credits**
30.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	LA4414
Valid from:	Spring 2015
Date of approval:	2015-01-28
Department	Department of Romance Studies and Classics
Main field:	Latin America Studies
Specialisation:	A2E - Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

Decision

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
LA41	Graduation Paper	30

Course content

The course aims at developing skills in conducting an independent scientific research project, to be presented as a written master thesis (approximately 40 pages). The thesis should be based on theoretical insights and methodological approaches as well as in-depth studies on a specific regional and thematic area. Key components in the thesis include the formulation of a research problem, the selection of method and theory, and the management of the investigation. During the course, the student will also be educated in scientific and collegial evaluation procedures, including publicly defending the thesis and conducting a thorough examination of another student's thesis.

Learning outcomes

In order to pass the course, the student should be able to:

- independently organize and conduct a scientific research project in accordance with prevailing social science praxis.
- Formulate aim and key research questions in relation to a relevant scientific problem within the framework of Latin American Studies.
- Identify and delimit relevant sources in relation to the research problem.
- Identify relevant academic literature related to the current state of the art within the particular field of research.
- Critically evaluate and interpret sources and previous research in order to be able to answer the research question/s and fulfill the aim.

- Independently associate the research task with relevant theoretical perspectives, contexts and interpretations.
- Write a well-structured and linguistically correct account of the scientific investigation.
- In a clear way be able to present the central findings of the investigation.
- Defend the thesis and be able to critically evaluate another student's thesis.
- Explain and analyze the ways in which the investigation contributes to expanding academic knowledge.

Education

The education contains supervision and seminars. For more information, see the course description.

Forms of examination

a. Examination: The course is examined by means of a written thesis, defense of the thesis and opposition on another student's thesis. The examiner cannot be the same person as the supervisor. For more information, see the course description.

b. Grading Grades are given according to a referred seven-point scale:

A = Excellent
 B = Very Good
 C = Good
 D = Satisfactory
 E = Adequate
 Fx = Insufficient
 F = Fail

c. Written grading criteria The written grading criteria are announced when the course starts

d. Minimum requirement The grade of a minimum E is required in order to obtain a pass mark for the course.

e. Re-exam For each course, two opportunities for examination will be offered. Moreover, at least one opportunity for examination will be offered such a year when the course is not given. Students who have received at least the grade E cannot do a re-exam in order to improve the grade. Students who have received a grade Fx or a grade F twice on a given test by the same examiner can - on application - be granted a new examiner at the subsequent exam, provided certain circumstances do not speak against it. The application should be addressed to the Board of the Department **institutionsstyrelsen**.

f. Complementation Opportunity to complementation from Fx to an E may be done if the thesis is considered to be close to being approved. In this case, the complementary task should be handed in within a week after the examiner having announced the need for complementation.

g. A student who has initiated working with the independent project (the master thesis) is entitled to at least 11 hours of supervisory sessions, either on an individual basis or in the form of collective tutoring in a smaller group.

h. When grading the thesis, the following criteria will be included: comprehending the task at hand, conducting an investigation, relevant theoretical knowledge, interpretation and analysis of the results, independence, ability to work in accordance with a time plan.

i. Replacement of supervisor may be accepted under specific circumstances. The application - with a justification - shall be done to the Board of the Department **institutionsstyrelsen**.

j. A student who does not finish the thesis within the time frame of the course, may apply for extra tutorial time at the Board of the Department **institutionsstyrelsen**.

Required reading

Selected together in consultation with the supervisor