

HUMANITIES

Latin American and Latino/a Studies

This program is designed for students interested in the language, history, politics, and culture of Latin America and of Hispanics living in the US. Students are encouraged to develop a program that is both international and comparative in perspective and that takes into account the heterogeneous cultural experiences of people living in the vast territory encompassed by the term Latin America, as well as of those people living in the United States who identify themselves as Latino/a.

As noted in the degree chart (<https://catalog.mit.edu/degree-charts/humanities-course-21>), the program includes a minimum of eight subjects (96 units) beyond the introductory course (17.55[[Introduction to Latin American Studies), the pre-thesis tutorial (21.THT), and thesis (21.THU). The eight subjects must include two language subjects in Area I (or equivalent proficiency); the six remaining subjects must be selected from at least two of the three other disciplinary areas (Areas II-IV).

- Area I: Language
- Area II: Humanities and the Arts
- Area III: Social Sciences
- Area IV: Historical Studies

Up to six subjects (72 units) may be used for both the major and the GIRs, but the units from those subjects may not count toward the 180 units required beyond the GIRs. No more than one subject that counts toward the distribution component of the HASS Requirement may also be counted toward the requirements of the Latin American and Latino/a Studies program. In addition, at least eight of the subjects required for the program cannot count toward any other major or minor.

Subjects in Latin American and Latino Studies are also available from Harvard University and Wellesley College through cross-registration. Students must receive permission from the program advisor prior to registering for a class at another institution.

The list of restricted electives below is not exhaustive. Additional information may be obtained from the advisor for the program, Professor Eden Medina (eden@mit.edu), E51-180, 617-253-1943, or from the SHASS Dean's Office, 4-240, 617-253-3450.

Restricted Electives

Area I: Language ¹

Select two subjects in the same language from among the following:

21G.703	Spanish III
21G.704	Spanish IV

21G.710	Advanced Communication in Spanish: Topics in Language and Culture
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21G.711	Advanced Spanish Conversation and Composition: Perspectives on Technology and Culture
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21G.712	Spanish Conversation and Composition
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21G.713	Spanish through Film: Mexico, Chile, Argentina, and Spain
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21G.714	Spanish for Heritage Learners
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21G.715	Topics in Medicine and Public Health in the Hispanic World
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21G.803	Portuguese III
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21G.804	Portuguese IV
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Select seven subjects, including 17.55[[, from at least two of the following disciplinary areas: ²

Area II: Humanities and the Arts

Subjects taught in English

21G.070[[Latin America and the Global Sixties: Counterculture and Revolution
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21G.072[[The New Latin American Novel
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21L.019	Introduction to European and Latin American Fiction
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WGS.242	The Latina Experience in Literature, Film and Popular Culture
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Subjects taught in Spanish

21G.706	Spanish for Medicine and Health
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21G.707	Graphic Stories: Spanish and Latin American Comics
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21G.731[[Creation of a Continent: Media Representations of Hispanic America, 1492 to present
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21G.732	The Making of the Latin American City: Culture, Gender, and Citizenship
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21G.735	Advanced Topics in Hispanic Literature and Film
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21G.736[[The Short Form: Literature and New Media Cultures in the Hispanic World
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21L.636[[Introduction to Contemporary Hispanic Literature and Film
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21L.637[[Power and Culture: Utopias and Dystopias in Spain and Latin America
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21L.638[[Literature and Social Conflict: Perspectives on the Hispanic World
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21L.639[[Globalization and its Discontents: Spanish-speaking Nations
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21L.640[[The New Spain: 1977-Present
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Subjects taught in Portuguese

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21G.811	Conversational Portuguese
21G.820	Topics in Modern Portuguese Literature and Culture
21G.821	The Beat of Brazil: Portuguese Language and Brazilian Society Through its Music
21G.822	Portuguese Language through Brazilian Film

Area III: Social Studies

17.55[[]]	Introduction to Latin American Studies
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Additional options

3.982	The Ancient Andean World
3.983	Ancient Mesoamerican Civilization
21A.506	The Anthropology of Politics: Persuasion and Power

Area IV: Historical Studies

21H.172[[]]	Latin America Through Film
21H.273	From Coca to Cocaine: Drug Economies in Latin America

Appropriate subjects offered at Harvard or Wellesley

¹ Two language subjects beginning at Levels III and IV, either in Spanish or Portuguese, satisfy the Area I language requirement. MIT offers Levels III and IV of Spanish every semester and offers Level III of Portuguese every fall semester and Level IV every spring semester. Students who demonstrate competence beyond Level IV may either take two advanced language subjects (highly recommended) or two more subjects from Areas II, III, and IV.

² Students who are not required to take Area I subjects and opt not to take advanced language subjects (see footnote 1 above) must take all subjects from Areas II, III, and IV, with at least one subject from each area.