**The New Latin American Studies Major and Concentration:**

**What Do the Changes Mean for You?**

As a Hispanic Studies major or Latin American / Latino Studies concentrator, you may have noticed that the program previously named Hispanic Studies is now called Latin American Studies. Aside from this name change, there are several changes related to requirements for the major and concentration. Please read on to find out how such changes may impact your program of study!

**Name of program, major, and concentration: “Latin American Studies” is for everyone!**

Regardless of class year, all current and future majors will now be listed as majors in Latin American Studies rather than Hispanic Studies. Likewise, all current and future concentrators will be listed as pursuing a concentration in Latin American Studies, rather than in Latin American / Latino Studies.

**Requirements: Vary by class year**

Students in the Class of 2014 and Class of 2015 can decide, in consultation with the director of Latin American Studies, which set of requirements (old or new) they will be under.

Students in the Class of 2016 and beyond will be under the new set of requirements.

**The following tables outline the differences between the old and new major and concentration. As always, the College Catalog is the ultimate authority on requirements (the 2013-2014 Catalog includes information on the new Latin American Studies major and concentration; the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 Catalogs offer information on the Hispanic Studies major and Latin American / Latino Studies concentration). For a list of approved courses offered in 2013-2014, please consult the Latin American Studies website (wp.stolaf.edu/latin-american-studies/).**

**Changes in requirements for the major**

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|  | **Hispanic Studies (old major)** | **Latin American Studies**  **(new major)** |
| **Overview** | The major requires students to study Spain and Latin America from a variety of disciplinary perspectives; it also allows the opportunity for students to complete coursework related to the Latino U.S. | No change |
| **Coursework in Spanish** | * Spanish 270 or 271 * Spanish 272 or 273, or 274 (please note that Spanish 250 is a pre-requisite for all 270-level Spanish courses) | * Spanish 250 (Gateway to the Spanish-Speaking World) (Spanish 250 is now a “transparent” requirement) * A 270-level “culture” course on Spain (Spanish 270, Spanish 271, or Spanish 274 if the course has a focus on Spain) * A 270-level “culture” course on Latin America (Spanish 272 or Spanish 274 (if the course has a focus on Latin America) |
| **Number of required courses** | The requirements for the completion of a Hispanic Studies major consist of  8 courses (+ Spanish 250 as a pre-requisite for 270-level Spanish courses = nine courses) | No change (9 courses) |
| **Capstone requirement** | Hispanic Studies 333: *Contemporary Issues in Latin America* | Latin American Studies 333: *Contemporary Issues in Latin America* |
| **Gateway requirement** | n/a | All students must take a foundational course: History 242 (*Modern Latin America*) or Political Science 264 (*Latin American Politics*) at some point before taking Latin American Studies 333, and ideally before taking other courses in the major. |
| **Departments in which students may take elective courses** | Five approved courses dealing with Latin America, Spain, or U.S. Latinos. These courses may be chosen from among history, economics, anthropology, sociology, political science, religion, and art, with no more than two courses in any one discipline. | Four approved courses dealing with Latin America, Spain, or U.S. Latinos from the departments listed at left. There are also approved courses in the English and Education departments. |
| **Limit on number of courses in any one department** | Students may count no more than two courses in any one discipline toward their major. | Students may count no more than two courses in any one discipline, *including the discipline of the foundational course*. |
| **Other stipulations for the major** | Students may count one independent research towards the major. | No change |
|  | Students may count up to three study-abroad courses taken in Latin America or Spain towards the major. | No change |
|  | With the approval of the Hispanic Studies (now Latin American Studies) director, students may have any course with substantial Hispanic content counted toward their major. | No change |
|  | Either Sociology 264 or ARMS 121 may be included in the major, but not both. | Either Sociology 264 or Race and Ethnic Studies 121 may be included in the major, but not both. |
|  | Hispanic Studies majors may not also obtain a concentration in Latin American/Latino studies. | Latin American Studies majors may not also obtain a concentration in Latin American Studies (no change). |
|  | n/a | A maximum of three courses that focus on Latinos in the United States may count toward the major. |

**Changes in requirements for the concentration**

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|  | **Latin American / Latino Studies (old concentration)** | **Latin American Studies**  **(new concentration)** |
| **Overview** | The concentration enables students to enhance their understanding of Latin America and the interconnectedness of Latin America and the United States   * Courses on Spain do not count toward the concentration * Concentrators may count courses with substantial content on Latinos in the United States | Same as old concentration, except that students may count a maximum of two courses that focus on Latinos in the United States toward the concentration. |
| **Coursework in Spanish** | Not required | Not required (no change) |
| **Capstone Requirement** | Hispanic Studies 333: *Contemporary Issues in Latin America* | Latin American Studies 333: *Contemporary Issues in Latin America* |
| **Gateway requirement** | n/a | All students must take a foundational course: History 242 (*Modern Latin America*) or Political Science 264 (*Latin American Politics*) at some point before taking Latin American Studies 333, and ideally before taking other courses in the major. |
| **Departments in which students may take elective courses** | Four approved courses dealing with Latin America or U.S. Latinos. These courses may be chosen from among history, economics, anthropology, sociology, political science, religion, and art, with no more than two courses in any one discipline. | Three approved courses dealing with Latin America or U.S. Latinos in the departments listed to the left; there are also approved courses in the Education, English, and Spanish departments that count toward the concentration. |
| **Limit on number of courses in any one department** | A maximum of two courses in a given department may be counted. | Students may count no more than two courses in any one discipline, *including the discipline of the foundational course*. |
| **Limit on number of courses related to U.S. Latinos** | n/a | A maximum of two courses that focus on Latinos in the United States may count toward the concentration. |
| **Interdisciplinary paper requirement** | Students must write an interdisciplinary paper focusing on a theme related to the concentration for one of the courses offered for the concentration. This paper will be developed in consultation with faculty advisors from two different disciplines. | n/a (there is no longer an interdisciplinary paper requirement) |
| **Other stipulations for the concentration** | Either Sociology 264 or ARMS 121 may be included in the concentration, but not both. | Either Sociology 264 or Race and Ethnic Studies 121 may be included in the concentration, but not both. |
|  | A maximum of two courses from off-campus programs may be counted. | No change |
|  | Hispanic studies majors may not also obtain a concentration in Latin American/Latino studies. | Latin American Studies majors may not also obtain a concentration in Latin American Studies (no change). |