PROGRAM IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
FALL 2024 COURSES

MEET OUR LECTURERS

DAVID MARES (Ph.D., Harvard University) is Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of California, San Diego. His current research project analyzes the variations in how Latin American countries are confronting the transition to a low carbon energy future.

ISABELLA VERGARA CALDERON (Ph.D., University of California, Irvine) is a scholar, writer, and teacher originally from Bogotá, Colombia, with a background in Latin American literature and culture.

MAURO LAZAROVICH (Ph.D., Harvard University) is a scholar of twentieth-century and contemporary Latin American literature and culture with a focus on migration, refugee studies, and human rights.

GRAZZIA GRIMALDI (Ph.D., University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) is a scholar whose research focuses on carceral states, gang criminalization, family and intimacy, post-conflict and democratization studies, affect theory, feminist theories and methods within Central America, with a focus on El Salvador.

LAS 312/ POL 459/ ENV 313 THE POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY TRANSITIONS IN LATIN AMERICA
In this seminar we will examine the variety of responses adopted in Latin America to the need for an energy transition. We begin with an overview of climate change on a global scale and its impact on Latin America. We follow with a general discussion of important sectoral issues that arise in any energy transition and different policy responses that seem to be available, examining their pros and cons/costs and benefits. The final two weeks consider various ‘ideal’ policy options for an energy transition suited to national situations.
David Mares S01 1:30 pm-4:20 W | Learn more about LAS 312

LAS 328/ SPA 367 UNDOCUMENTED: MIGRANTS, REFUGEES, AND RIGHTS IN LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE
How can we grasp and conceptualize the experience of being displaced from home, stranded in a refugee camp, or living undocumented in a foreign country? This interdisciplinary course explores this question by interpreting literature, cultural and political theory, international law, film, and art on forced displacement by twentieth-century and contemporary Latin American authors and artists. Its goal is to provide students with a sophisticated critical vocabulary and a sound historical perspective to grapple with the cultural, ethical, historical, and political implications of today’s global migratory and refugee crises. Course taught in Spanish.
Mauro Lazarovich S01 3:00 pm-4:20 TTh | Learn more about LAS 328

LAS 352/ SPA 369/ GSS 467 ON WOMEN AND WITCHES: LATIN AMERICAN WRITERS, ARTISTS, ACTIVISTS
This course explores the relationship between gender and power through an analysis of "practices of craftsmanship" of so-called rebellious Latin American women who were seen as witches, traitors, even monsters, but also as enchanters, healers, and creators. We will examine women’s skills, artistry, and agency, often dismissed as “malos saberes” (bad knowledge) in literature, performance, songs, and the visual arts. Starting with an exploration of witches in colonial times, our journey includes mythic, literary and cultural figures such as La Malinche, Frida Kahlo, Gabriela Mistral, and Doña Bárbara. Course taught in Spanish.
Isabella Vergara Calderon S01 1:30 pm-2:50 MW | Learn more about LAS 352

LAS 384/ ANT 284 CARCERAL POLITICS AND INTIMACIES ACROSS CENTRAL AMERICA
Central America resurfaced with El Salvador’s war on gangs, arresting over 75,000 people in the past two years. This course will examine the history and politics of carceral logics around crime and race in Central America through an intersectional and ethnographic perspective. Starting with a historical excavation, we will focus on Central America’s war on gangs from a transnational perspective, including the role of the U.S. in the making of a “gang crisis,” and we will examine the policing of black and indigenous populations. Throughout the course, we will discuss how carceral politics shape forms of intimacy, especially in the family realm.
Grazzia Grimaldi S01 11:00 am-12:20 MW | Learn more about LAS 384

For a full list of PLAS course offerings, visit: plas.princeton.edu/courses