The Program in Latin American Studies (PLAS) at Princeton University is dedicated to fostering knowledge of and experience in Latin America and the Caribbean via interdisciplinary teaching, research, and internships. Founded in 1966 as one of the nation’s first programs dedicated to Latin American area studies, PLAS seeks to advance an understanding of Latin America and the Caribbean through the study of regional culture, history, socioeconomic conditions, politics, and society.

In addition to offering undergraduate and graduate certificates in Latin American studies, PLAS supports undergraduate, graduate, and faculty field research throughout the region, together with undergraduate internships.

Along with courses offered by PLAS, students may select from undergraduate and graduate courses and seminars in many departments and programs in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. The PLAS visiting fellows program brings prominent scholars from the region to teach and undertake research at Princeton. PLAS also presents a range of intellectual and cultural programming that is open to the campus community and the public.

**HISTORY**

In the 1930s, Professor Dana Munro began laying the foundation of Latin American studies at Princeton. For 30 years, Munro, an American diplomat to Latin America and a professor of history, brought scholarship and dedication to his teaching in the Department of History; organized topical undergraduate conferences in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs; and secured judicious grants, financed by the Doherty Charitable Foundation, for undergraduates who required field experience to gather material for senior theses.

Munro, Dean of the Faculty J. Douglas Brown, and Cyril Black (a scholar of Russian history, and then-director of the Council on Regional Studies) approached the Doherty Foundation to secure the original PLAS endowment in 1966.

In 1967, Stanley Stein, now the Walter Samuel Carpenter III Professor in Spanish Civilization and Culture, Emeritus, and professor of history, emeritus, was appointed as the first PLAS director, and served through 1971–72. As Stein wrote then (in the Princeton Alumni Weekly, October 17, 1967), “Since 1963 a Latin American Studies Committee has met regularly...Our guiding principle, as members of this community of scholars, is to achieve understanding of the area we are dedicated to study. We must have no parti pris, no axe to grind, except the search for profound understanding of the past and present of Latin America. Perhaps this lays a heavy burden upon us, but one we cannot in all candor shirk. We must try to see Latin America from the inside, not from the outside, not as rich cousins charitable toward improvident relations, but as colleagues humbly engaged in the great struggle for human decency and fulfillment everywhere.”

Today, Stein continues to publish; his latest book, co-authored with his late wife, Barbara Hadley Stein, is Edge of Crisis: War and Trade in the Spanish Atlantic, 1789–1808 (2009).

A seminal figure in the development of Firestone Library’s world-class Latin American collections, Barbara Hadley Stein became the University’s first bibliographer for Latin America, Spain, and Portugal in 1966, serving until 1977. Her appointment and the remarkable quality of her acquisitions policy contributed immensely to PLAS’s development as the intellectual center for Latin American area studies, at the University and beyond.
PLAS offers two tracks of study: Latin American studies and Brazilian studies.

Combined with a departmental concentration, the undergraduate certificate program allows students to explore the diversity of culture, history, socioeconomic conditions, politics, and society in Latin America and the Caribbean. Senior thesis work is supervised by a faculty adviser and is combined with a departmental concentration. Students may select from undergraduate and graduate courses and seminars in Architecture, African American Studies, American Studies, Anthropology, Art and Archaeology, Comparative Literature, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Economics, English, French and Italian (appropriate French courses only), history, Latin American studies, Latino studies, music, politics, religion, sociology, Spanish and Portuguese, and the Woodrow Wilson School.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION**

Students typically enter the program in their sophomore year, but an earlier start is encouraged. Admission requirements are:

- Satisfactory completion of the requirements for admission to a department.
- Satisfactory completion of SPA 107, POR 109, or FRE 107 (for students focusing on the French-speaking Caribbean).

**CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS**

Students must meet the following requirements to receive a certificate of proficiency in Latin American studies.

**Department**

Completion of the requirements of your departmental concentration.

**Language**

Satisfactory completion of the language requirement in Spanish, Portuguese, or French (for students focusing on the Caribbean).

**Courses**

For students pursuing the Latin American Studies track:

Satisfactory completion of four courses in Latin American subjects sponsored or cross-listed by the program. At least one of these courses must be in Spanish American or Brazilian literature, and be a LA designated course that fulfills the literature and the arts distribution requirement. Additionally, one must be in one of the following fields: anthropology, economics, history, politics, or sociology. The remaining two courses may be selected from any field. At least one of the qualifying courses must be an advanced undergraduate seminar in Latin American studies that examines significant problems of the region in an interdisciplinary fashion.

Additional courses that may be used to satisfy program course requirements are:

- ANT 335 Medical Anthropology*
- ECO 351 Economics of Development
- SPO 346 Modern Latin American Fiction in Translation

*Written course work for ANT 335 and ECO 351 must be on a Latin American topic.
With the program director’s permission, a maximum of two courses not listed above or from study abroad may, if they are relevant to the student’s area of research, be designated as “cognates” and counted toward satisfaction of the course requirement.

No course may be taken pass/D/fail or audit for program credit.

For students pursuing the Brazilian Studies track:
Satisfactory completion of three courses in Latin American subjects sponsored or cross-listed by the Program in Latin American Studies. At least one of these courses must be in Brazilian literature and culture, and at least one must be designated as a cognate, and will then count toward satisfaction of the course requirement. Ordinarily, at least half of the thesis content will deal with Brazil, and a substantial portion of the research for the thesis should be conducted in a language -- other than English -- spoken in Brazil.

With the program director’s permission, one of the three courses may be taken abroad, being designated as a “cognate,” and will then count toward satisfaction of the course requirement.

No course may be taken pass/D/fail or audit for program credit.

Thesis Requirement
For students pursuing the Latin American Studies Track:
Completion of a senior thesis on a Latin American subject. Normally it should be written under the supervision of a faculty member associated with the program. If this is not the case, a faculty member associated with the program should be consulted early in the senior year concerning available sources. The thesis should also demonstrate an ability to use primary source materials in the original language. If the senior thesis is not devoted exclusively to a Latin American topic, the director and relevant program faculty will determine its acceptability. Ordinarily, at least half of the thesis content will deal with Latin America, and a substantial portion of the research for the thesis should be conducted in a language -- other than English -- spoken in Latin America.

For students pursuing the Brazilian Studies Track:
Completion of a senior thesis on a Brazilian subject. Normally, it should be written under the supervision of a faculty member associated with the program. If this is not the case, a faculty member associated with the program should be consulted early in the senior year concerning available sources. The thesis should also demonstrate an ability to use primary source materials in Portuguese. If the senior thesis is not devoted exclusively to a Brazilian topic, the director and relevant program faculty will determine its acceptability. Ordinarily, at least half of the thesis content will deal with Brazil, and a substantial portion of the research for the thesis should be conducted in Portuguese.

Students majoring in science or engineering but whose thesis cannot be devoted to a Latin American or Brazilian topic may complete the program requirements by writing a research paper of sufficient complexity and length to substitute for the thesis requirement. The topic should be determined in consultation with the director and relevant program faculty.

Please contact PLAS at plas@princeton.edu to receive more information and to set up an appointment in order to enroll in the certificate program.
SUPPORT FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH, TRAVEL, & INTERNSHIPS

Undergraduate Opportunities
PLAS is committed to promoting student research, experience, and personal and professional growth in Latin America and the Caribbean. Through a series of annual competitions, PLAS supports undergraduates in a variety of disciplines as they pursue summer field research and internships throughout the region.

Paul E. Sigmund Scholars Award
The Paul E. Sigmund Scholars Award is named in honor of the late professor of politics, Sigmund (1929–2014), who joined Princeton in 1963, and taught political theory and Latin American politics. Sigmund served several terms as PLAS director, and his research took him frequently to Latin America, particularly to Chile. He edited five volumes, wrote seven books, translated and edited two classical texts on political thought, and was the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Fulbright Scholars Program. The award funds exceptionally qualified and committed undergraduates pursuing a certificate in Latin American studies who seek to undertake innovative projects in Latin America and the Caribbean. Students may pursue research, nonprofit work, travel, or other activities that are likely to increase their commitment to, and knowledge of, the region. The award is intended primarily to support freshman and sophomore summer projects and research-related travel.

Recent Sigmund Scholars have included:

**Summer 2016**
Luis Carchi ’19, Wilson College - Ecuador
Alexander Fish ’18, Neuroscience - Argentina

**Summer 2015**
Kyle Berlin ’18, Comparative Literature - Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay
Sofia Hiltner ’17, History - Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Peru

Travel Support
PLAS offers seniors thesis research funding to juniors to enable them to carry out summer field work and to seniors to enable them to conduct research during winter break. PLAS also provides funding support for numerous summer internships in the region sponsored by the International Internship Program.

Postgraduate Opportunities
Graduating seniors seeking postgraduate support may wish to consider the Martin A. Dale ‘53 Fellowship or the Henry Richardson Labouisse ‘26 Prize. The Office of the Dean of the College publishes a complete list of postgraduate fellowship opportunities.

Seniors may also wish to consider a postgraduate internship through Princeton in Latin America (PiLA).

SENIOR THESIS PRIZES

Stanley J. Stein Senior Thesis Prize
The Stein Prize is awarded annually for the best work on a Latin American or Caribbean topic. The most recent prizes were awarded to:

*Helena Michelle Hengelbrok, Anthropology
*Water Belongs To Those Who Are Thirsty: An Ethnography of Water, Political Belonging, and Health in Urubamba, Peru

**Melody Zhang Qui, Woodrow Wilson School
*To Push or to Cut? Decision-Making in Childbirth Amid the Brazilian Cesarean Epidemic

**Abdiel Santiago, Politics
*In the Shadow of the Stars and Stripes an Experimental Analysis on the Manufacturing of Support for Puerto Rican Statehood

**Jamie Lee Shenk, History

Kenneth Maxwell Senior Thesis Prize in Brazilian and Portuguese Studies
On behalf of Firestone Library, the Maxwell Prize is awarded annually to the best thesis on a Brazilian topic. The Class of 2015 co-winners were:

**Seth Merkin Morokoff, Economics
*The Impact of Brazil’s Bolsa Familia on Child Labor Supply Effects by Age and Employment Sector

**Melody Zhang Qui, Woodrow Wilson School
*To Push or to Cut? Decision-Making in Childbirth Amid the Brazilian Cesarean Epidemic

**Zachary Willhelm Wall, History
*Islands of Insanity U.S. Intervention in Brazil and the Dominican Republic, 1964-1966

EXAMPLES OF RECENT SENIOR THeses

“Playing by the Rules: Examining the Interactions of Rules, Built Form, and Social Behavior in American Residential Communities”
MISHA SEMENOV, ‘16, SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

“Recontextualizing Las Maras: Policing Failures and the Evolution of Gang Violence in Central America”
LOGAN COLEMAN ’15, POLITICS

“Masked Exoticism: Fabricating Authentic Experiences in Mexican Beach Resorts”
ALEJANDRO ARROYO YAMIN ‘14, ARCHITECTURE

*Winners. **Honorable mention.
GRADUATE STUDENTS

Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies

Introduced in 2012, the Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies is open to all Princeton University graduate students currently enrolled in any Ph.D. program in the humanities, social sciences, or natural sciences. Students enrolled in the Masters in Public Administration at the Woodrow Wilson School may also enroll in the certificate program if they write a research paper on a Latin American topic in consultation with the program director.

The graduate certificate is designed to allow students who are taking seminars in the program, working closely with our faculty, and writing dissertations on a Latin American topic to receive a formal credential in the field. Many such students prepare a generals field in Latin America, but it is not a requirement for the certificate. Upon fulfilling all of the requirements, a student will receive a certificate from the Program in Latin American Studies and is entitled to list the credential on his or her curriculum vitae. The certificate does not appear on a student’s official transcript. The director of the Program in Latin American Studies oversees the graduate certificate program.

CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

- Fluency in Spanish, Portuguese, or French (for students working on the Caribbean). Students can satisfy this requirement by completing a course taught in Spanish, Portuguese, or French.
- Four full-term approved graduate courses on a Latin American topic or substitutes approved by the program director. At least one course should be outside the student’s home department. For a list of the approved courses, please see the PLAS website. In addition, the program director may approve other graduate courses, on a case-by-case basis, for which the student has written a final paper focusing on a Latin American topic.
- Participation in the graduate colloquium at least once during a student’s course of study. The colloquium consists of informal, weekly meetings – usually over lunch – during which advanced graduate students present their research to an audience of faculty and graduate students.
- Students are expected to either: (a) write a dissertation on a Latin American topic; or (b) write a dissertation that includes significant research on Latin America. Ideally the dissertation should be directed by a faculty member affiliated with the Program. Students enrolled in the Masters in Public Affairs at the Woodrow Wilson School will be required to write a research paper on a topic approved by the program director.

Graduate Grants

PLAS offers a limited number of grants to graduate students for pre-dissertation and dissertation research in Latin America and the Caribbean. Students must be able to work in the major local language of the region they propose to visit. PLAS does not offer grants for language training, except in the case of a student who, in order to carry out his or her dissertation research, must study an indigenous language of Latin America not taught at Princeton.

For more information about the common application process, please visit the Graduate School website at http://gradschool.princeton.edu.

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Program in Latin American Studies Visiting Fellowship Program aims to attract top scholars who have teaching experience and will provide Princeton students with a unique opportunity to study topics that are not regularly offered at Princeton. Fellows are appointed for either one or two semesters and are expected to pursue independent research at Princeton, teach one course per semester, and participate in PLAS-related events on campus. For 2017-2018, PLAS is particularly interested in having fellows who are working in the fields of Environmental Studies and Latin American politics.

Recent fellows and visiting scholars have included:

Marcos Cueto, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia and Instituto de Estudios Peruanos, Peru
Patricio del Real, Architect/Scholar
Álvaro Enríquez, Writer
James Green, Brown University
Serge Gruzninski, École de Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris
Alma Guillermoprieto, Independent Journalist
Maria Helena Lavinias de Morais, Institute of Economics, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro
Ricardo Luna, Kluge Center of the Library of Congress and Former Peruvian Ambassador to the United States, the United Kingdom, and the United Nations
Giancarlo Mazzanti, Architect
Joaquín Medina Warmburg, International Architect/Urban Planning Scholar
John Mraz, Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, Mexico
Antonio J. Ponte, Cuban Writer
Julia Preston, The New York Times
José Manuel Prieto, Cuban writer, New York
Marcos de Almeida Rangel, University of São Paulo, Brazil
Eduardo Luis Rodríguez, Cuban Architectural Scholar
Reina Maria Rodríguez, Independent Cuban Poet/Writer
Rafael Rojas, Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas
Lilia Moritz Schwarz, University of São Paulo, Brazil
Mario Vargas Llosa, 2010 Nobel Laureate, Peruvian Writer
Juan Villoro, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain
Jorge Volpi, Writer
Ignacio Walker, Corporación de Estudios para Latinoamérica (CIEPLAN), Chile

For a complete list of current and past PLAS Fellows please visit our website.
ASSOCIATED FACULTY

Director
Maria Gabriela Nouzeilles

Executive Committee
João G. Biehl, Anthropology
Eduardo L. Cadava, English
Bruno Carvalho, Spanish and Portuguese
Beatriz Colomina, School of Architecture
Robert A. Karl, History
Douglas S. Massey, Woodrow Wilson School, Sociology
Maria Gabriela Nouzeilles, Spanish and Portuguese
Rachel L. Price, Spanish and Portuguese
Deborah J. Yashar, Woodrow Wilson School, Politics

Associated Faculty
Jeremy I. Adelman, History
Vera S. Candiani, History
Miguel A. Centeno, Woodrow Wilson School, Sociology
Fernando Coda Santos Cavalcanti Marques, Mathematics
Esther da Costa Meyer, Art and Archaeology
Jessica Delgado, Religion
Susana Draper, Comparative Literature
Thomas Fujiwara, Economics
Rubén Gallo, Spanish and Portuguese
Mario I. Gandelsonas, Architecture
Maria E. Garlock, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Javier E. Guerrero, Spanish and Portuguese
Thomas D. Kaufmann, Art and Archaeology
John B. Londregan, Woodrow Wilson School, Politics
Pedro Meira Monteiro, Spanish and Portuguese
F. Nick Nesbitt, French and Italian
Stephen W. Pacala, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Grigore Pop-Eleches, Woodrow Wilson School, Politics
Esteban A. Rossi-Hansberg, Woodrow Wilson School, Economics
Irene V. Small, Art and Archaeology
Marta Tienda, Woodrow Wilson School, Sociology
Tom S. Vogl, Woodrow Wilson School, Economics

Sits with Committee
Fernando Acosta-Rodríguez, Library
Patricia Fernández-Kelly, Sociology
Bryan R. Just, Art Museum
Stanley N. Katz, Woodrow Wilson School
Magaly Sanchez-R, Office of Population Research

Please see www.princeton.edu/plas for a current list.

page 9