

UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO
College of Arts and Sciences

Latin American Studies — Program Assessment Plan

Program Goals

Students who complete the B.A. in Latin American Studies will be able to:

1. Integrate perspectives from multiple disciplines to understand the diversity of the Latin American region and its peoples.
2. Understand and critically analyze the major economic, social, and political processes that have shaped the lives of Latin Americans using a variety of research tools and methodologies.
3. Communicate effectively in Spanish and/or Portuguese and demonstrate familiarity with the region's cultural and literary production.
4. Be socially responsible citizens of the Americas

Learning Outcomes:

Goal 1

- Students can describe and contrast patterns of geographic and sociocultural diversity in the region. (Goal 1)

Goal 2

- Students can identify, classify and analyze the main historical periods of Latin American development.
- Students can define, differentiate and assess the central economic and political models that have been used in the region, including their impact on the social relations of power.
- Students can describe and analyze the complex relationships between the United States and Latin America, including how Latin Americans and Latin@s have influenced different aspects of American society and culture.

Goal 3

- Student can read advanced texts; write about daily activities; and communicate with native speakers about everyday topics and personal opinions.
- Students can describe and appraise major literary and other cultural works from the region, including how they reflect their historical period and illuminate systemic inequalities.

Goal 4

- Students can craft a well-organized and clearly written multi-page essay.
- Students can express themselves coherently and thoughtfully in discussions and presentations.
- Students can demonstrate the research skills necessary to make original contributions to the study of Latin America.

Goal 5

- Students can summarize and evaluate current social, political, and economic issues in the region.
- Students can express and evaluate their academic and extra-curricular experiences in Latin America.
- Students can promote understanding of Latin America in educational, service, social, or employment contexts

Assessment Method(s):

To be determined after consultation with department; possibilities include:

- 1a. Review of final exams/selected papers from THRS 301/322; HIST 370-378
- 2a. Review of final exams for HIST 370-378
- 2b. Review of final exams from POLS 331, 345, 450; selected HIST courses
- 2c. Review of final exams/selected paper from THRS 322; selected HIST courses
- 3a. Grades from Spanish 4; Spanish language placement exam scores
- 3b. Review of final papers, projects, exams from SPAN 303/4; MUS 210; PASJ 305; LAS 317
- 4a. Review of final papers from SPAN 303/4; SOC 233; POLS 331; THRS 322; HIST 430
- 4b. Observations from LAS 311; SPAN 303/4; HIST 430; others
- 4c. Review of final papers from SPAN 303/4; SOC 233; POLS 331; THRS 322; HIST 430
- 5a. Observations from LAS 311; POLS 331
- 5b. Observations at “report-backs” from LAS 311, interviews with reentry study abroad students; review of final papers from LAS 311
- 5c. Interviews/surveys/focus groups with graduating seniors and graduates

Time Frame:

To be determined after consultation with department.

Who Will Do the Assessment?

The current chair of LAS in conjunction with the professors whose classes are being used for assessment.

How data will be used to improve program or revise curricula

The department will meet to discuss findings and will recommend to the Chair methods of improving curricula.