



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Latin American Studies

Sara Skinner '07

Latin American studies



Q: Why did you major in Hispanic studies?

A: When I entered Connecticut College, I knew that I wanted to continue learning about

Latin American cultures and mastering the Spanish language. I chose to major in Latin American studies after I took Professor Garofalo's history course, 'Rebellions and Revolutions in Latin America.' He demanded incredibly high-quality work, but he balanced that with interesting group projects and engaging speakers.

Q: What were your favorite classes?

A: I was fascinated by Professor Graziano's course on religion and violence in Latin America, which I took after spending time in Central America. We read sections of his then-unpublished manuscript, *Cultures of Devotion: Folk Saints of Spanish America*. When the book was published it was wonderful to know that our class helped to shape it.

Q: Did you study abroad?

A: In the summer of 2005, I traveled with the late Professor Harold Juli to central Mexico. I worked as his ethnographic assistant, studying the archaeological history of a village where the inhabitants were once peons in a nearby hacienda. I interviewed the villagers and taught English in the village school.

Q: Where are you working now?

A: In February of my senior year, Teach for America accepted me to teach secondary Spanish in the Philadelphia school system. I'm excited to show my students there is more to Latin America than the Day of the Dead and rice and beans.

Overview

This interdisciplinary major offers a rigorous, challenging curriculum that will prepare you for an increasingly interdependent world. You'll achieve proficiency in Spanish and a solid understanding of the economics, politics, history and cultures of Latin America. You will come to know and understand many global communities and multicultural communities. You will receive a great deal of individual attention from your professors. They will guide you in your projects, give you theoretical information and real-world resources, review your writing and discuss important contemporary issues with you. Our students have interned with grass-roots organizations in Chile and recorded oral histories of disenfranchised women in Nicaragua. They return to Connecticut College profoundly affected by their experiences. Like them, you will learn that people at the bottom of a society's economic ladder are the majority — and they matter. Armed with both academic and real-world experience, our majors are excelling in education, business, government, social work, healthcare, government, law, media, travel and more. Many continue on to graduate studies.

Study Abroad

Most Latin American studies majors spend a semester or summer in the region. You might participate in a TRIP course, which includes a short, fully funded travel component. Past TRIPs have gone to Spain and Peru. You might study away in a program sponsored by another college or spend your semester abroad with a small group of students and one of our professors. In the past, faculty have led study abroad semesters in Mexico and Spain. Funded internships in Latin America are available through the College's career office.

Interdisciplinary Study

Many of our majors are involved in community service learning. Through *Proyecto Comunidad*, you can spend three to six hours a week working in New London's Hispanic community, often in social service offices. You may also wish to try the *Proyecto Comunidad* Shadow Program, accompanying a range of professionals as they do their jobs. The program can help you explore career interests, meet potential mentors, do research, gain insight into issues pertinent to the Hispanic community and envision practical applications of classroom learning. The major also combines well with the College's interdisciplinary certificate programs in international studies, community action or environmental studies.

Faculty

Leo Garofalo, *Assistant Professor of History*
B.A. History & B.A. Hispanic Studies,
Brown University; M.A., Boston
College; Ph.D., University of Wisconsin
at Madison
Latin American and Caribbean history;
the history of race and ethnicity;
African diaspora and Afro-Latin
America; Peru and the Andes

Robert J. Gay, *Professor of Sociology*;
*Director of the Toor Cummings Center for
International Studies and the Liberal Arts*
B.A., London University; M.A., Syracuse
University; Ph.D., Brown University
Comparative political sociology;
comparative analysis of development;
urban social movements; popular
organization in Latin America,
particularly Brazil

Frank Graziano, *John D. MacArthur
Professor of Hispanic Studies; Chair of the
Hispanic Studies Department*
B.A., University of Arizona; M.F.A.,
University of Iowa; Ph.D., University of
New Mexico
Latin American cultures; Latin American
fiction; religion in Latin America;
theories of culture

Sample Courses

Advanced Grammar and Composition, Hispanic Cultures, Latin America in Film, An Introduction to Latin American and Caribbean History, Religion and Violence In Latin America, Growing up in Latin America: The *Bildungsroman* in Latin American Narrative, Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Spanish America, Economics of Latin America, Democracy in Latin America, Literature of the Hispanic Caribbean, Rebellion and Revolutions in Latin America

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College is a highly selective residential liberal arts college with 1,900 students from all over the country and the world. The academic program offers more than 47 majors in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities, as well as innovative interdisciplinary programs. Students engage with dedicated faculty and each other to create a vibrant social, cultural and intellectual community in which learning is valued for its own sake — and individuals' diverse perspectives enrich the experience of all.

Aida L. Heredia, *Associate Professor of
Hispanic Studies*
B.A., Queens College; M.A., Ph.D.,
SUNY Buffalo
Latin American literature and cultures;
Caribbean literature and cultures; race
and ethnicity; African diaspora

Alex Roberto Hybel, *Susan Eckert Lynch
'62 Professor of Government*
B.A., University of North Carolina; M.A.,
The American University; M.A., Ph.D.,
Stanford University
U.S. foreign policy; international relations
theory; democracy in Latin America

Julia A. Kushigian, *Professor of Hispanic
Studies*
B.A., University of Connecticut; M.A.,
New York University; M.A., M.Phil.,
Ph.D., Yale University
Contemporary Latin American literature;
gender, culture and race in Spanish
America

Manuel Lizarralde, *Associate Professor of
Anthropology*
B.A., M.A., Ph.D., University of
California at Berkeley
Ethnobotany; ecological anthropology;
traditional ecological knowledge loss;
ethnology of South America; traditional
hunting technology; ethnobotany of
southern New England

What can you do with a major in Latin American studies?

Alexandra Fiorillo '03

Associate director of *Accion Internacional*, an organization providing technical assistance and financing to microfinance institutions in Latin America, Africa, India and China.

Earned a certificate in international studies from Connecticut College's Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts and was a Fulbright scholar in Ecuador the year after graduation.

Marissa Litwin '03

Spanish teacher at a small alternative high school in Manhattan, plans to attend law school.

After graduation, led trips to Costa Rica, Ecuador and Spain for Putney Student Travel. Worked to increase youth voter turnout during the 2004 presidential election. Taught English for a year in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Reynaldo Punzalan, Jr. '05

Teaching in a bilingual special education middle school in New York City.

Chaired the Connecticut College Asian/Asian-American Student Association and studied abroad in Chile and Mexico.

Elizabeth Hubley '06

Leads youth service trips to rural communities in El Salvador for Companion Community Development Alternatives.

For her senior thesis at Connecticut College, created a bilingual documentary film about an eco-tourism project in Costa Rica.

For more information, visit
www.conncoll.edu/academics/