Latin American Studies

Overview

Major in Latin American studies and you gain a solid understanding of the economics, politics, history and cultures of the region, along with proficiency in Spanish. You come to know and understand many global and multicultural communities. Your professors guide you in your projects, give you theoretical information and real-world resources, review your writing and discuss important contemporary issues with you. Armed with both academic and real-world experience, you can excel in education, business, government, social work, healthcare, law, media, travel and more.

International Opportunities and Study Abroad

Most Latin American studies majors spend a semester or summer in the region. You might travel with your class and a Connecticut College professor, enroll in a separate program or take an internship to do work or research. Recently, our faculty have led semesters in Mexico and Spain. Our students have interned with grass-roots organizations in Chile and recorded oral histories of disenfranchised women in Nicaragua.

Special Opportunities

Proyecto Comunidad gives you the opportunity to work three to six hours a week in New London’s Hispanic community. You may also wish to try the Proyecto Comunidad Shadow Program, which can help you explore career interests, meet potential mentors, do research, gain insight into issues pertinent to the Hispanic community and better understand practical applications of classroom learning.

Q: Why Connecticut College?
A: Connecticut College hit all of my major qualifications: small, liberal arts, highly selective, residential. But what really got me hooked on Conn was the people. Visiting campus, everyone was so friendly, so interesting and so passionate about what they were studying and doing. I knew these were people I wanted to be surrounded by in college.

Q: Why Latin American studies?
A: One of my main college goals is to become functionally fluent in Spanish, and the Latin American studies major allows me to develop my fluency while learning about many topics relevant to Latin America and Latinos in the U.S. The major is interdisciplinary, so I can include classes offered in other departments to really get a dynamic understanding of the history, politics and social realities of the Spanish-speaking community.

Q: Favorite class?
A: Hands down the best class I have taken is “Proyecto Comunidad.” This class really connected us with the New London community and got us working hands-on with real people. We spent class periods traveling around the city, meeting with and interviewing various members of the Latino community – teachers, lawyers, priests, even the mayor – and completed a semester-long internship and research project with a community organization.

Q: Did you study abroad?
A: I completed a summer study abroad experience in Cuba. Cuba is a fascinating place to study, as its history and people present a very different way of viewing the world, and the opportunity to learn with Cubans is still very rare, with political tensions between our two nations as they are.
Faculty

Leo Garofalo, Associate Professor of History; Director of the Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity
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

Frank Graziano, John D. MacArthur Professor of Hispanic Studies
B.A., University of Arizona; M.F.A., University of Iowa; Ph.D., University of New Mexico
Spanish American cultures; popular Catholicism in Spanish America; undocumented migration

Julia A. Kushigian, Hanna Hafkesbrink Professor of Hispanic Studies
B.A., University of Connecticut; M.A., New York University; M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., Yale University
Gender; culture and race studies in Spanish America; orientalism in the Hispanic tradition

Aida L. Heredia, Associate Professor of Hispanic Studies
B.A., Queens College; M.A., SUNY Buffalo
Latin American literature and cultures; Caribbean literature and cultures; critical theory

Manuel Lizarralde, Associate Professor of Botany and Anthropology
B.A., M.A., Ph.D., University of California at Berkeley
Ethnobotany; environmental anthropology

Robert Gay, Professor of Sociology
B.A., London University; M.A., Syracuse University; Ph.D., Brown University
Democracy; civil society; organized crime; violence; Brazil

Luis M. González, Associate Professor of Hispanic Studies
B.A., Universidad de Alcalá de Henares; Ph.D., Universidad de Alcalá de Henares; Ph.D., Georgetown University
Peninsular literature; Spanish film studies; Spanish cultural studies; culture and ideology

Alex Roberto Hybel, Susan Eckert Lynch 62 Professor of Government and International Relations
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

Jennifer Domino Rudolph, Assistant Professor of Hispanic Studies
B.A., St. Xavier University; M.A., Loyola University; Ph.D., University of Illinois
Latino cultural studies, critical race theory, masculinity theory

Selected 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 private, highly selective liberal arts college with 1,850 students and more than 40 majors in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities, as well as the option for students to self-design majors. The College offers a high level of intellectual challenge, a campus culture that supports students to tailor their educational experience to their own interests and goals, and a four-year career development program that teaches students how to translate a liberal arts degree into a first job or graduate school admission. Connecticut College is situated in the small New England seaport of New London.

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

Latin America Partner – Support Representative, EMC Corp.
Reporting Analyst, United HealthCare
Law Student, University of Arizona
Second Grade Teacher, Pohakea Elementary School
Bilingual Outreach Worker, Housing Opportunities Unlimited at Harbor Point
Youth Service Trip Leader (El Salvador), Companion Community Development Alternatives
Senior Correspondent, Voice of America
Vice President, MicroFinance Transparency International
Green Business Program Coordinator, Sonoma County Economic Development Board
Technical Adviser, HIV/AIDS Care & Treatment Program
Marketing Manager and Events Coordinator, Tanteo Spirits
Structured Credit Specialist, ICAP
Talent Acquisition Specialist, Pepsi Bottling Co.
Principal, GRID Impact
Senior Manager, Robert Allen Group

Example of Student Research in Latin American Studies

Janil Tejada ’15
Non-Traditional Dominican Migration and its Effects on Foreign Affairs, Gender Norms and Race Relations: Migration to Madrid, Spain in Comparison to the United States

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