

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE

FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 7115S
Date of Senate Approval 04/09/15

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 56 (IST): Add a Minor in Latin American and Transatlantic Studies

Effective Date: Fall 2015

- 1. Add:** On page 186, before the entry for **INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES: LEGAL STUDIES (LEGL)**

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES: LATIN AMERICAN AND TRANSATLANTIC STUDIES (LATS)

Minor in Latin American and Transatlantic Studies

Students will explore Latin America and related transatlantic connections through the lens of multiple disciplines. This approach will provide a basis for a more holistic understanding of Latin America and interactions across the Atlantic. Touching on issues such as structures of power, representation, appropriation and adaptation, syncretism, identity, gender, ecology, and religion, students will develop an increased awareness of Latin America and a more global perspective on cultural and biological differences. In this context, Latin America includes the diverse regions of Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean as well as Latinos in the United States. Fluency in French, Portuguese, or Spanish as well as experiential learning (study abroad in Latin America and related transatlantic connections) is encouraged.

Requirements for the minor

Students must complete at least 18 hours distributed as follows: one course in French, Portuguese or Spanish at or beyond the 200-level, and additional courses from the electives listed below. The courses must be chosen from at least three disciplines. Only one of the courses used for the Latin American and Transatlantic Studies minor may be used to satisfy major or other minor requirements. Appropriate courses may be substituted with prior approval from the program director. Note: students are responsible for completing required prerequisites.

University-wide minimum requirements for a minor: 1) one-half of the hours required for a minor must be completed in residence at UNC Asheville, to include at least 6 hours at the 300-400 level; 2) students must have a cumulative grade-point-average of at least 2.0 on minor courses taken at UNC Asheville.

ANTH 339	Intersections of Gender in the Americas (4)
ARTH 381	Art in Latin America (4)
ARTH 410	Modern Art of Mexico and Brazil (4)
ARTH 460	Art in Latin America 1950-2015: An Interdisciplinary Approach (4)
BIOL 322	Tropical Ecosystems (3)
BIOL 323	Tropical Ecosystems Field Experience (2)
BIOL 498	Undergraduate Research in Biology: Surinam/Guyana (2-3)
ECON 314	Economic Growth and Development (3)
ENVR 322	Tropical Ecosystems (3)
ENVR 323	Tropical Ecosystems Field Experience (2)
FREN 435	Francophone Studies (4)
HIST 332	Perspectives in Pre-Columbian American History (4)
HIST 333	Perspectives in Colonial Latin American History (4)
HIST 334	Perspectives in Modern Latin American History (4)

HIST	391	The History of the Atlantic World, 1492-1820 (4)
POLS	368	Latin American Politics (4)
SOC	357	Development and Social Change in Latin America (4)
SPAN	330	Survey of Spanish Civilization and Literature (3)
SPAN	332	Survey of Spanish-American Civilization and Literature (3)
SPAN	481	Spanish American Literatures from Modernism through the 21st Century (3)
SPAN	495	Hispanic Studies (3)

Impact Statement: The Latin American and Transatlantic Studies minor is interdisciplinary. Since faculty members from multiple departments are already teaching the diverse number of courses to be incorporated into the minor, the impact on institutional resources is minimal. The addition of this minor would make a positive impact in increasing enrollment in interdisciplinary courses with Latin American and related transatlantic content.

Rationale: Latin American Studies is a well-recognized and highly regarded minor at liberal arts universities across the country. The addition of “Transatlantic” to the title not only responds to a recent scholarly inclination to include connections of other countries across the Atlantic with Latin American but also serves to address the significance of these specific interactions from the colonial period to the present.

Since the minor has a multidisciplinary focus (i.e., encouraging “connections through the lens of multiple disciplines—from political and economic systems or historical, environmental, and social developments to achievements in literature and the arts—providing the basis for a more holistic understanding of Latin America”), students are required to take courses from at least three disciplines.

At UNC Asheville, our liberal arts students would benefit enormously from a Latin American and Transatlantic Studies minor. The interdisciplinary perspective of this minor would offer students important opportunities including the ability to acquire considerable knowledge of this rising region, to develop an increased awareness of diversity through a more global perspective on cultural and biological differences, and to travel and become proficient in the languages of Spanish, Portuguese, and French. The proposed Latin American and Transatlantic Studies minor is consistent with the goals of the UNC Asheville mission statement in encouraging students to understand the connections between disciplines and to recognize and promote human diversity. A Latin American and Transatlantic Studies minor would connect with the goals of UNC Tomorrow in giving students necessary skills to succeed in this rapidly growing global community.

The following courses will be taught by new and established faculty but cannot be included in the list above as they are going to be taught as Special Topics courses:

AFST	374	Afro-Cuban Poetry (4)
ARTH	374	Contemporary Latin American Art (4)
HIST	373	Independence in Colonial America (3)
HIST	373	Latin American History through Film (3)
RELS	373	Special Topics: African Religions in the Americas and the Caribbean (3)
SPAN	474	Caribbean Literature (4)

Note that these additional courses are already being planned for future semesters and, depending on enrollments and departmental planning, there is a good chance that they will become permanent courses and eligible for inclusion formally in the minor.

2. **Add:** On page 51, in list of minors, after International Studies:

Latin American and Transatlantic Studies

3. **Add:** On page 66, in list of abbreviations, after Language:

Latin American and Transatlantic Studies LATS

Impact: None

Rationale: Editorial to include the new minor and prefix in the catalog listings