

Latin American Studies

Department Overview

[Latin American Studies](#) at Langara College provides an interdisciplinary approach to the geography, culture, history, and political economy of this diverse region. The department offers a [Citation in Latin American Studies](#), a [Diploma in Arts and Science \(Latin American Studies\)](#) and an [Associate of Arts in Latin American Studies](#). Program curriculum features core courses taught by a team of instructors whose diverse backgrounds enable them to bring unique perspectives to the classroom. Elective courses from a range of departments across the College feed into and enhance each program. All Latin American Studies courses are university transferable. Many students go on to pursue a bachelor's degree in Latin American Studies or in a related discipline.

Self-Study

Latin American Studies launched its program review in academic year 2020/21 with a Self-Study. Jessie Smith was the primary Self-Study writer on behalf of the rest of the department's faculty. Additional support was provided by:

- Tess MacMillan (Division Chair, Humanities)
- Julie Longo (Dean, Faculty of Arts)
- Pennie Poon (Manager, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Sunita Wiebe (Director, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Institutional Research analysts

Data sources for the Self-Study included:

- Institutional Research-compiled student administrative data (*e.g.*, headcounts, retention, satisfaction)
- Student survey
- Alumni survey
- Faculty survey
- Employer survey

The Self-Study was completed in June 2021.

External Review

Latin American Studies' External Review took place on June 22, 2021. The External Review Team consisted of:

- Marcela Noriega Melchor, Design Formation, Langara (External Review Chair)
- Lili Vieira de Carvalho, Vancouver Latin American Cultural Centre Society
- Jorge Garcia, PhD, Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies, Simon Fraser University

Action Plan Goals

In response to the Self-Study and External Review, the Latin American Studies created an Action Plan with these goals:

- Goal 1: Create a new Special Topics course with floating content.
- Goal 2: Support advisors from Admission, Counselling, Langara Global and Recruitment to find ways that they can help us promote and inform students about Latin American Studies and the Interdisciplinary

Programs, to Latinx freshmen coming from Mexico, Brazil, and other Latin American countries as well to domestic students in coming from Lower Mainland high schools or who are already on campus.

- Goal 3: Review Course descriptions in the Calendar to update content and adjust them to contemporary developments in Latin America and Canada; and to maintain international and cross-cultural focus or review course descriptions and content and write them it in such a way that it can adapt to the ever-changing political scene in Latin America.

Examples of Post-Review Successes

Formation of the Langara Latin American Student Association. Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) in Costa Rica, with an Indigenous focus. Increased collaboration with other academic and service departments at Langara.