**Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies program**

**Master of Arts (M.A.) Degree**

**DEGREE INFORMATION**

**Program Admission Deadlines:**

**Fall:** June 1

**Spring:** October 15

**International Students:**

**Fall:** June 1

**Spring**: September 15

**Minimum Total Hours:** 36

**Program Level:** Masters

**CIP Code:** 5.0107

**Dept. Code:** IGS

**Program (Major/College):** LAS AS

**Approved:** 2000

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**College:** Arts and Sciences

**Department:** School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies:Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean (ISLAC)

**Contact Information:** [www.grad.usf.edu](http://www.grad.usf.edu)

 **PROGRAM INFORMATION**

The mission of ISLAC is to promote research and study in and about Latin America and the Caribbean. ISLAC is an academic unit devoted to interdisciplinary research and teaching focused on economic, social, political and cultural formations in Latin America and the Caribbean and among the Hispanic/Latino populations in North America.

The Institute fosters greater knowledge of Latin America and the Caribbean and Latino issues, through partnerships with community organizations and other USF departments to sponsor lectures and cultural events that are open to the public throughout the year. We also support graduate students and faculty research in the area, and provide opportunities for Latin Americanist scholars at USF to collaborate and disseminate their work.

**Accreditation:**

Accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of College and Schools.

**Faculty Interests Include:**

ISLAC’s affiliate faculty members are drawn from the social sciences, humanities, arts, and human service fields. We include faculty from the following departments: History, Spanish-American and Caribbean Languages and Literature, Humanities, Anthropology, Political Science, Sociology, Economics, Business, Geography, Public Administration, Fine Arts, Public Health, Education, Africana Studies, Women’s and Gender Studies and Mental Health.

**Research Areas:**

Includes, but is not limited to: Afro-descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean, transatlantic studies, human rights, citizenship, race and ethnicity, education and public health migration and Diaspora.

**ADMISSION INFORMATION**

Must meet University requirements (see Graduate Admissions) as well as requirements listed below.

**Program Admission Requirements**

Same as University in addition to the following:

* 3.00 GPA
* three letters of recommendation
* statement of purpose
* resume
* GRE not required, but suggested for full financial consideration

**DEGREE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

Total Minimum Hours: 36

Core – 9 credit hours

Specialization – 12 credit hours

Electives – 9 credit hours

Thesis/Non-Thesis – 6 credit hours

**Core Requirements - (9 credit hours)**

LAS 6220 3 Issues and Perspectives in Latin American Studies

 Seminar in Latin American Studies

The core seminars, directed by a faculty member from one of the participating departments, will familiarize students with the literature, existing knowledge, and research approaches of the various fields of area studies and invited to acquaint students with faculty and their research. The purposes of the seminars are:

* to provide an interdisciplinary graduate experience
* to foster a community of scholars and learners focused on Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino experiences

Students will also take a three (3) hour methodology course that acquaints them with particular research relevant to their major field of study and when possible, Latin America and/or the Caribbean. This includes special approaches to finding documentation from Latin America and the Caribbean; newly-available search tools available on the internet; and an overview of how disciplines utilize different research materials. The methods class has to be approved by the Graduate Director.

**2. Specialization - (12 credit hours)**

With the concurrence of the ISLAC advisor, students will elect major and minor fields during their first semester. These fields will draw heavily on participating departments (e.g. Anthropology, History, Government and International Affairs, Art History). At that time the student will constitute a supervisory committee, made up of two professors from the major field and one from the minor field. The committee members will counsel the student and serve as members of the exam or thesis committees.

A large number of courses are available to fulfill the specialization requirements. These are listed separately and change somewhat from year to year. Departments who frequently work with ISLAC are Anthropology, Government and International Affairs, Sociology, Mass Communication, Geography, Social Work, Women’s and Gender Studies, Global Health, Philosophy, Economics, History, World Languages, Humanities and American Studies, Art History, Africana Studies and Education. Students may also request to have courses from other departments count toward major or minor fields.

**3. Electives - (9 credit hours)**

Students can take three electives from outside the major field,. These might be technical courses, study abroad courses, internships, math and science courses, methodology, or another unrelated field. Elective courses must be approved by the Graduate Director. To count towards this degree, 50% of the course content must focus on Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinos. Eligible courses include, but are not limited to those listed under specialization.

**Specialization and Elective courses include, but are not limited to:**

AFA 6932 3 Topics in Africana Studies

AFA 6120 3 Social Theory and Social Thought

AMS 6156 3 Theories and Methods in Cultural Studies

ANG 6701 3 Contemporary Applied Anthropology

HIS 6939 3 Seminar in History

HUM 6801 3 Theories and Methods of Cultural Studies

INR 6690 3 Research Seminar in Globalization

PHC 6934 1-6 Selected Topics in Public Health

POS 6933 3 Selected Topics in Political Science

SYA 6933 3 Selected Topics - Sociology

SYD 6605 3 City and Community

SYO 6255 3 Seminar in Sociology of Education

WST 6560 3 Advanced Feminist Theory

SPW 5135 3 Colonial Spanish American Literature

SPW 5934

SPW 6806 3 Introduction to Hispanic Graduate Studies

SPW 6775 3 Caribbean Literature

EDF 6883 4 Issues in Multicultural Education

Or other courses approved by the Graduate Director.

To count towards this degree, 50% of the course content must focus on Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinos.

1. **Thesis/Non Thesis - (Minimum of 6 credit hours):**

**Thesis**:

LAS 6971 6 Thesis: Master’s

Students must enroll in LAS 6971 Thesis: Master’s for a minimum of 6 credit hours. In their thesis, students must provide new insight into a relevant topic in political science or international studies. As students approach the thesis stage, they need to compose a thesis committee consisting of a major professor, who must be a member of the Department of Government and International Affairs, and two readers. One of the two readers can be from another department, but that person must first be approved by the program director. The thesis committee must approve proposals before students embark on their projects. Students must prepare a written thesis and defend their work in a formal oral presentation before their committee.

**Non-Thesis**:

Students who choose a non-thesis option will be required to complete an additional 6 hours of course work at the 6000 level.

TBA 3 Elective structured class approved by the Graduate Program Director

LASA 6913 3 Independent Study – Literature Review of approximately 50 pages

The student is required to demonstrate competency by successfully completing a substantial literature review in his or her field of concentration.

**Comprehensive Examination**

For students in the thesis program, successful completion of the Thesis serves in lieu of the Comprehensive Exam. For students in the non-thesis program, the extensive literature review determines competency and serves as the equivalent of a comprehensive examination.

**Foreign Language Requirement**

At the time of graduation, students must submit proof of proficiency in a Language spoken in Latin America or the Caribbean.

**COURSES**

See <http://www.ugs.usf.edu/course-inventory/>