MASTER OF ARTS IN THE FIELD OF LATIN AMERICAN AND HEMISPHERIC STUDIES

The master of arts in Latin American and hemispheric studies (LAHS) is an interdisciplinary program which prepares students to develop innovative approaches to the enduring problems and emerging challenges of the hemisphere. This training allows graduates to grapple with an often contradictory blend of political and economic successes and failures throughout the region.

Specific admission requirements are shown on the Graduate Program Finder. (http://www.gwu.edu/all-graduate-programs)

Visit the program website (https://elliott.gwu.edu/latin-american-studies) for additional program information.

REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled: 40 credits, including a 3-credit cornerstone course, 9 credits in core field courses, a 3-credit research methods course, a 4-credit capstone sequence, 12 credits in specialized field courses, and 9 credits in electives. In addition, all students must fulfill a foreign language proficiency requirement (see below).

See note regarding special topics courses, the capstone sequence, and the additional thesis option.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornerstone (3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>IAFF 6341</td>
<td>Latin American and Hemispheric Studies Cornerstone (taken in the fall semester of the first year)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Core field (9 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three courses, each in a different field, selected from the following groups:</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. Anthropology</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 6702</td>
<td>Issues in Latin American Anthropology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Or another 6000-level ANTH course approved by the Program Director.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Economics and Political Economy</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 6285</td>
<td>Economic Development of Latin America*</td>
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<tr>
<td>IAFF 3187</td>
<td>Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Political Economy of Latin America)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research methods (3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 6331</td>
<td>Research Methods in Development Anthropology</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 6114</td>
<td>Introduction to Quantitative Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 8122</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 8130</td>
<td>Survey Research Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 8131</td>
<td>Case Study Research Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 8140</td>
<td>Ethnographic Research Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>IAFF 6501</td>
<td>Quantitative Analysis for International Affairs Practitioners</td>
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<tr>
<td>IAFF 6198</td>
<td>Special Topics in International Trade and Investment Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPPA 6002</td>
<td>Research Methods and Applied Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPPA 6013</td>
<td>Econometrics for Policy Research I</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Prerequisites: ECON 1011 and ECON 1012 or equivalent courses.

**If the Economic and Social Development section of IAFF 6358 is chosen as the required course, it cannot also count as supporting coursework. Students may take IAFF 6358 courses with other titles as supporting coursework.
Capstone (4 credits)

- Students are required to complete a two-course capstone sequence that involves collaboration on a project of mutual interest and research in Latin America or the United States with sponsoring institutions outside the University. The capstone sequence includes a 1-credit pre-capstone course that must be taken in the fall of the student’s second or third year and a 3-credit capstone course that must be taken in the spring of the student’s second or third year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6357</td>
<td>Pre-Capstone Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6359</td>
<td>Latin American and Hemispheric Studies Capstone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Specialized fields (12 credits)

- Students select two specialized fields from the following and take at least two courses in each, for a total of 12 credits.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 6280</td>
<td>Survey of International Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 6283</td>
<td>Survey of International Trade Theory and Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 6284</td>
<td>Survey of International Macroeconomics and Finance Theory and Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 6295</td>
<td>Special Topics (Economic Analysis of International Trade Law)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 6295</td>
<td>Special Topics (Applied Industrial Organization)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 6295</td>
<td>Special Topics (Labor Economics and Public Policy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>IAFF 3183</td>
<td>Special Topics in Development Policy (Post-Disaster Development: Haiti in Comparative Perspective)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Anthropology

- Required course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 2750W</td>
<td>Latinos in the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 3814</td>
<td>Ancient Mexican Civilizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6358</td>
<td>Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Indigenous Social Movements)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
<td>Course Title</td>
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<td>IAFF 3187</td>
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<td>IAFF 6138</td>
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<td>IAFF 6138</td>
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<td>IAFF 6138</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geography</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required course:</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG 6232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting courses:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 6224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 3187</td>
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<tr>
<td>IAFF 6358</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>International Business</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Courses:</td>
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<tr>
<td>IAFF 6358</td>
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<tr>
<td>IBUS 4900</td>
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<tr>
<td>IBUS 6201</td>
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</table>

Master of Arts in the Field of Latin American and Hemispheric Studies
### Required course (one from the following):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 6290</td>
<td>Principles of Demography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or GEOG 6290</td>
<td>Principles of Demography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or SOC 6290</td>
<td>Principles of Demography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 6291</td>
<td>Methods of Demographic Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or GEOG 6291</td>
<td>Methods of Demographic Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or STAT 6291</td>
<td>Methods of Demographic Analysis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Supporting courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 6295</td>
<td>Special Topics (International Migration and Labor Markets)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 6261</td>
<td>Geographical Perspectives on Latin America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 6293</td>
<td>Special Topics (Migration and Development)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 3187</td>
<td>Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Latino Migration)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6138</td>
<td>Special Topics in International Development Studies (Human Trafficking)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6138</td>
<td>Special Topics in International Development Studies (International Migration)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6138</td>
<td>Special Topics in International Development Studies (Internal Displacement)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6358</td>
<td>Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Mexico in the Global Arena)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6358</td>
<td>Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Immigration and Weak States: The Central American Case)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6358</td>
<td>Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Immigration and Weak States: The Central American Case)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Political Science Courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 3187</td>
<td>Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Cuba in the Global Arena)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 3187</td>
<td>Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (OAS and Democracy in the Americas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 3187</td>
<td>Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Mexico Since Independence)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6138</td>
<td>Special Topics in International Development Studies (Poverty Alleviation and Bottom-up Development)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6138</td>
<td>Special Topics in International Development Studies (Civil Society and Development)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6138</td>
<td>Special Topics in International Development Studies (Poverty in all its Dimensions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6358</td>
<td>Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Brazil in the Global Arena)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6358</td>
<td>Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (The UN and Regional Human Rights Systems: The Americas and Europe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6358</td>
<td>Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Argentina in Global Context)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6358</td>
<td>Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (History and Praxis of U.S.-Mexico Relations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6358</td>
<td>Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Immigration and Weak States: The Central American Case)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
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<tr>
<td>IAFF 6358</td>
<td>Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Security in the Americas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 6383</td>
<td>Comparative Politics of Latin America</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 6484</td>
<td>International Relations of Latin America</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Security</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Required course:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>IAFF 6358</td>
<td>Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Security in the Americas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Supporting courses:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6138</td>
<td>Special Topics in International Development Studies (Global Food Security)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6138</td>
<td>Special Topics in International Development Studies (Human Trafficking)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6138</td>
<td>Special Topics in International Development Studies (Violence, Gender, and Humanitarian Assistance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6138</td>
<td>Special Topics in International Development Studies (Care for Children in Complex Emergencies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6163</td>
<td>Transnational Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6186</td>
<td>Special Topics in Security Policy Studies (International Organized Crime)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6186</td>
<td>Special Topics in Security Policy Studies (Energy Security)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6186</td>
<td>Special Topics in Security Policy Studies (International Peacekeeping)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6186</td>
<td>Special Topics in Security Policy Studies (Conflict Early Warning and Prevention)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6186</td>
<td>Special Topics in Security Policy Studies (Environmental Security)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6186</td>
<td>Special Topics in Security Policy Studies (Political Risk Analysis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6186</td>
<td>Special Topics in Security Policy Studies (Illicit Finance and Security)</td>
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<tr>
<td>IAFF 6186</td>
<td>Special Topics in Security Policy Studies (Strategic Planning for the 21st Century)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6186</td>
<td>Special Topics in Security Policy Studies (Military Power and Effectiveness)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6358</td>
<td>Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (The UN and Regional Human Rights Systems: The Americas and Europe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6358</td>
<td>Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (History and Praxis of U.S.-Mexico Relations)</td>
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<tr>
<td>IAFF 6358</td>
<td>Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Immigration and Weak States: The Central American Case)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Electives (9 credits)</strong></td>
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<td>9 credits in elective course, which may include up to 6 credits of Spanish language coursework (other foreign languages spoken in Latin America will be considered on a case-by-case basis) and up to 4 credits of 1-credit skills courses. Additional electives may be selected from any of the specialized fields or in other relevant areas or disciplines. Elective courses must be approved in advance by the Program Director.</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Additional thesis option</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Students who wish to complete a thesis do so in addition to the capstone requirement. Students pursuing a thesis must have a minimum GPA of 3.5 and approval from the faculty member who will serve as their thesis director. Thesis students also need to complete at least one research methods course. Thesis credits are counted as elective or specialization credits with Program Director approval. The two 3-credit thesis courses must be taken consecutively.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6998</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6999</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Specific subject matter covered in special/selected topics courses varies by semester. Consult the Schedule of Classes (http://my.gwu.edu/mod/pws) for each semester’s offerings. Topics courses not listed here may be used to fulfill program requirements if approved by the Program Director.

Additional information regarding skills courses (https://elliott.gwu.edu/professional-skills-courses), the capstone (https://elliott.gwu.edu/global-capstone), and the thesis (https://elliott.gwu.edu/thesis) is available on the Elliott School website.

**Foreign language proficiency requirement**

Students in the Latin American and hemispheric studies program are required to demonstrate proficiency in Spanish or Portuguese by passing the Elliott School-administered foreign language proficiency reading and speaking examination at the currently-required level of proficiency (https://elliott.gwu.edu/foreign-language-proficiency-requirement). The Elliott School administers foreign language proficiency examinations once in the fall and once in the spring semesters. Students should plan to take the language proficiency examination as soon as
possible following their matriculation in the program. Students have three opportunities to pass the examination. Failure to pass the examination for a third time results in dismissal from the program.