

BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH A MAJOR IN LATIN AMERICAN AND HEMISPHERIC STUDIES

The Latin American and Hemispheric Studies program at GW begins with a foundation in political science, economics, history, and anthropology that prepares students to deal with issues that cross political and cultural boundaries. Students in the program explore a wide variety of subjects beginning with international politics and policy, moving through trade and economics, development and human rights, culture, and regional studies. Benefiting from a faculty of leading scholars and senior international affairs practitioners, students have access to a number of internships, diverse study-abroad opportunities, and more than 250 events each year. Program graduates also have access to numerous career opportunities within Washington, DC. Many go on to serve as senior policymakers and diplomats, international business executives, and global nonprofit leaders.

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

ADMISSIONS

For information about the admission process, including deadlines, visit the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website (<https://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/>). Applications can be submitted via the Common Application (<https://go.gwu.edu/commonapp/>).

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions
The George Washington University
800 21st St NW Suite 100
Washington, DC 20052

For questions visit undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us (<http://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us/>).

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Elliott School bachelor's degrees engage students with global issues through multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches. Students begin their studies in the first year with foundational courses in political science, economics, history, and anthropology or geography. They supplement these courses with others in the traditional liberal arts categories of writing, oral communication, natural or physical science, mathematics or statistics, and the humanities/creative arts, plus two writing in the disciplines courses. Language study also is emphasized early to enable students to satisfy the third-year language proficiency requirement of the bachelor's degree in a timely manner.

Elliott School bachelor's degrees require a minimum of 120 credits. The following three sets of requirements must be fulfilled:

1. University General Education Requirements

2. Elliott School Introductory Requirements

3. Major Requirements

1. University General Education Requirements

Coursework (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/#generaleducationtext>) for the University General Education Requirement is distributed as follows:

- One course in critical thinking in the humanities.
- Two courses in critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, or scientific reasoning in the social sciences.
- One course that has an approved oral communication component.
- One course in quantitative reasoning (must be in mathematics or statistics).
 - Students in the BS in international affairs program are required to take a calculus-based course to fulfill the University General Education requirement in quantitative reasoning. Options include MATH 1220 and MATH 1221; MATH 1231; MATH 1232; or MATH 1252. Students must complete all required prerequisites for their intended analytic core courses. Students are encouraged to consult their advisor with any questions.
- One course in scientific reasoning, with lab (must be in natural and/or physical laboratory sciences).
- UW 1020 (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/search/?P=UW%201020>) University Writing (4 credits).
- After successful completion of UW 1020, 6 credits distributed over at least two writing in the discipline (WID) courses taken in separate semesters. WID courses are designated by a "W" appended to the course number.

2. Elliott School Introductory Requirements

| Code | Title | Credits |
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| Introductory requirements (22 credits) | | |
| Required | | |
| IAFF 1001 is not required for internal or external transfer students. | | |
| IAFF 1001 | First-Year Experience (fall of first year) | |
| IAFF 1005 | Introduction to International Affairs (required in the first year) | |
| ECON 1011 | Principles of Economics I | |
| ECON 1012 | Principles of Economics II | |
| HIST 1011 | World History from 1500 to Present | |
| PSC 1001 | Introduction to Comparative Politics | |

One of the following introductory anthropology or geography courses:

ANTH 1002 Sociocultural Anthropology

ANTH 1004 Language in Culture and Society

GEOG 1001 Introduction to Human Geography

GEOG 1003 Society and Environment *

*GEOG 1003 does not meet the prerequisite requirement for all upper-level geography courses.

One additional course from the University General Education "Critical Thinking in the Humanities" course list or from the GPAC "Creative or Critical Thinking in the Arts" course list.

3. Major Requirements

In addition to the University General Education Requirements and Elliott School Introductory Requirements, Elliott School students must complete the Major Requirements for their individual major:

- BA in International Affairs (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/undergraduate-programs/ba-international-affairs/#majorrequirements>)
- BS in International Affairs (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/undergraduate-programs/bs-international-affairs/#majorrequirements>)
- BA in Asian Studies (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/undergraduate-programs/ba-asian-studies/#majorrequirements>)
- BA in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/undergraduate-programs/ba-latin-american-hemispheric-studies/#majorrequirements>)
- BA in Middle East Studies (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/undergraduate-programs/ba-middle-east-studies/#majorrequirements>)

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

If you are an Elliott School student who started at GW before Fall 2024, you are following a different version of the curriculum. Please find your degree requirements in the archived Bulletin (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/archives/>) for your matriculation year.

Students pursuing the BA in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies as a second major must complete all of the major requirements listed below, including any prerequisites for these courses. These requirements are taken in addition to the requirements for the student's primary major, which typically includes completion of the University General Education requirement and other requirements specific to the primary major. Students are encouraged to talk with their home school's academic advisor for more information about their primary major requirements.

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Elliott School of International Affairs, Undergraduate Degree Requirements (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/undergraduate-programs/ba-latin-american-hemispheric-studies/#generalrequirements>).

A minimum grade of C- must be earned in all major requirement courses, to include the last course used to prove third-year proficiency in a modern language.

[If a student wishes to take any course not listed here, prior approval of the program director is required.](#)

| Code | Title | Credits |
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Foundation (3 credits)

Required

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| IAFF 2090 | Latin America: Problems and Promise |
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Language (credits vary)

Students must demonstrate third-year Spanish or Portuguese proficiency by examination or coursework. If taking coursework, students can satisfy the language requirement by taking a course that is equivalent to third-year proficiency, or by taking a course beyond the third year which has a listed prerequisite of the second semester of the third year. Please note that the language placement exam determines the level at which students begin their language study. Additional information regarding the Elliott School language examinations is available from the academic advisor.

Spanish

Option one:

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| SPAN 1001 | Elementary Spanish I |
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| SPAN 1002 | Elementary Spanish II |
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| SPAN 1013 | Intermediate Spanish I: the Spanish-Speaking World |
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| SPAN 1014 | Intermediate Spanish II: the Spanish-speaking world |
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| SPAN 2005 | Advanced Spanish I |
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| SPAN 2006 | Advanced Spanish II |
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Or

Option two:

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| SPAN 1012 | Intensive Elementary Spanish: the Spanish-speaking world |
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| SPAN 1034 | Intensive Intermediate Spanish |
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| SPAN 2056 | Intensive Advanced Spanish through Sustainability Literacy |
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| ANTH 3704 | Cultures of Southeast Asia |
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| ECON 2169 | Introduction to the Economy of China |
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| GEOG 3165 | Geography of South Asia |
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| HIST 3615 | History of Chinese Communism |
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| HIST 3621 | History of Modern Japan |
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| HIST 3631 | History of Modern Korea |
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| HIST 3640 | History of Southeast Asia |
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| IAFF 2091 | East Asia-Past and Present |
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| IAFF 3186 | Special Topics in Asian Studies (Asian Order and Community Building) |
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| IAFF 3186 | Special Topics in Asian Studies (Central Asia Security) |
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| IAFF 3186 | Special Topics in Asian Studies (Comparative Politics in Southeast Asia) |
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| IAFF 3186 | Special Topics in Asian Studies (Economic Development of East Asia) |
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| IAFF 3186 | Special Topics in Asian Studies (Economic Lessons from East Asia) |
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| IAFF 3186 | Special Topics in Asian Studies (Indo-Pacific Security Challenges) |
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| IAFF 3186 | Special Topics in Asian Studies (South Asian Politics Via Literature and Film) |
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| IAFF 3186 | Special Topics in Asian Studies (Women in Asia) |
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| IAFF 3752W | Equitable Development in Southeast Asia |
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| IAFF 3753 | International Relations of South Asia |
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| IAFF 3756 | Christianity and Islam in East Asia |
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| PSC 2368 | Politics in the Two Koreas |
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| PSC 2371 | Politics and Foreign Policy of China |
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| PSC 2374 | Politics and Foreign Policy of Japan |
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| PSC 2373 | Comparative Politics of Southeast Asia |
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Europe and Eurasia

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| GEOG 3197 | Special Topics in Regional Geography (Geography of Russia and Its Neighbors) |
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| HIST 1121 | The War of Ideas in European and International History, 1750-Present |
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| HIST 2125 | Twentieth-Century Europe |
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Regional Foundations (3 credits)

One course from the following in any region other than Latin America. IAFF, ANTH, ECON, GEOG, HIST, and PSC courses pertaining to a region of the world with a focus on the contemporary, post-World War II era. Includes courses focused on single and multiple countries in a region.

| Code | Title | Credits |
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| Africa | | |
| ANTH 3708 | Anthropology of Africa | |
| GEOG 3164 | The Geography of Africa | |
| HIST 3530 | Women in Africa | |
| IAFF 2093 | Africa: Problems and Prospects | |
| IAFF 2190W | Special Topics (North Africa and the World)* | |
| IAFF 3189 | Special Topics in African Studies (Africa Declassified) | |
| IAFF 3189 | Special Topics in African Studies (Africa and Globalization: Culture and Context) | |
| IAFF 3189 | Special Topics in African Studies (African Literature and Politics) | |
| IAFF 3189 | Special Topics in African Studies (Africa in the Global Economy) | |
| IAFF 3189 | Special Topics in African Studies (Ethnic and Religious Conflict in Africa) | |
| IAFF 3189 | Special Topics in African Studies (International Affairs in Africa) | |
| IAFF 3189 | Special Topics in African Studies (Women and Leadership in Africa) | |
| PSC 2381 | Comparative Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa | |
| PSC 2482 | African International Politics | |
| *IAFF 2190W (North Africa and the World) is not approved as a regional foundations course for students in the Middle East Studies program due to the degree of overlap between issues in North Africa and the Middle East. | | |
| Asia | | |
| (Students in the BA in Asian studies program must fulfill the regional foundations requirement using a course focused in a world region other than Asia.) | | |

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| HIST 3101 | Topics: Europe (All sections of HIST 3101 are approved for this requirement.) |
| HIST 3168 | Divided and United Germany Since 1945 |
| IAFF 2092 | Russia and Eastern Europe: An Introduction |
| IAFF 2094 | Europe in Transition |
| IAFF 3185 | Special Topics in European and Eurasian Studies (Nationalism in Eurasia) |
| IAFF 3185 | Special Topics in European and Eurasian Studies (The West and Russia) |
| IAFF 3185 | Special Topics in European and Eurasian Studies (Ukraine and Georgia between Russia and the West) |
| IAFF 3185 | Special Topics in European and Eurasian Studies (Ukrainian Security) |
| IAFF 3190 | Special Topics in International Affairs (European Economies and Crisis of Integration) |
| PSC 2330 | Comparative Politics of Western Europe |
| PSC 2331 | Comparative Politics of Central and Eastern Europe |
| PSC 2332 | European Integration |
| PSC 2366 | Russian Politics |
| PSC 2994 | Special Topics in International Relations (International Politics of Central and Eastern Europe) |
| PSC 3192W | Proseminar: Political Science (British Politics) |
| Latin America | |
| (Students in the BA in Latin American and hemispheric studies program must fulfill the regional foundations requirement using a course focused in a world region other than Latin America.) | |
| ANTH 3702 | Anthropology of Latin America |
| ANTH 3791 | Topics in Regional Anthropology (Anthropology of the Caribbean) |
| GEOG 3161 | Geography of Latin America |
| HIST 3701 | Topics in Latin American History (Democracy in Latin America) |
| HIST 3701 | Topics in Latin American History (Violence, Drugs, and Democracy in Latin America) |
| HIST 3710 | History of Latin America I |

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| HIST 3711 | History of Latin America II |
| IAFF 2090 | Latin America: Problems and Promise |
| IAFF 3177 | Political Economy of Latin America |
| IAFF 3187 | Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Cuba in the Global Arena) |
| IAFF 3187 | Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Democracy in Latin America) |
| IAFF 3187 | Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Democracy Under Siege in Latin America) |
| IAFF 3187 | Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Economic and Social Development of Latin America) |
| IAFF 3187 | Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Feminist Movements in Latin America) |
| IAFF 3187 | Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Geography of Latin America) |
| IAFF 3187 | Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Latin America Geopolitics and Geoeconomy) |
| IAFF 3187 | Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Latin American Migration) |
| IAFF 3187 | Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Racial and Ethnic Politics of Latin America) |
| IAFF 3187 | Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Security in the Americas) |
| IAFF 3191W | Populism and Regime Change in Latin America |
| IAFF 3855 | Argentina in Global Context |
| PSC 2383 | Comparative Politics of Latin America |
| PSC 2993 | Special Topics in Comparative Politics (Democratic Experiments in Latin America) |
| SPAN 3200 | Bilingualism in the Spanish-Speaking World |
| Middle East | |

(Students in the BA in Middle East studies program must fulfill the regional foundations requirement using a course focused in a world region other than the Middle East.)

ANTH 3707 Anthropology of the Middle East

GEOG 3154 Geography of the Middle East and North Africa

HIST 3801 Topics in Middle Eastern History (The Middle East Since WWII)

HIST 3810 History of the Middle East to 1800

HIST 3825 Land and Power in Israel/Palestine

IAFF 2095 The Middle East in International Affairs

IAFF 2190W Special Topics (Arab Politics)

IAFF 2190W Special Topics (North Africa and the World)

IAFF 2190W Special Topics (Politics and Culture in the Middle East)

IAFF 2190W Special Topics (Turkey and Its Neighbors)

IAFF 3188 Special Topics in Middle East Studies (Iran in the Middle East)

IAFF 3188 Special Topics in Middle East Studies (National Security Lab Middle East)

IAFF 3188 Special Topics in Middle East Studies (The Middle East Since WWII)

IAFF 3352 Israeli and Palestinian Peacebuilding

PSC 2377 Comparative Politics of the Middle East

PSC 2476 The Arab-Israeli Conflict

or PSC 2476W The Arab-Israeli Conflict

PSC 2478 International Relations of the Middle East

PSC 2993 Special Topics in Comparative Politics (Political Violence in the Middle East)

DATS 1001 Data Science for All

DNCS 1001 Business Analytics I: Statistics for Descriptive and Predictive Analytics *

DNCS 2001 Business Analytics II: Predictive and Prescriptive Analytics **

ECON 2123 Introduction to Econometrics

or STAT 2123 Introduction to Econometrics

GEOG 2104 Introduction to Cartography and GIS

IAFF 2101 Qualitative Methods in International Affairs

IAFF 2102 Quantitative Methods in International Affairs

IAFF 2190 Special Topics (Political Risk Analysis)

IAFF 2190 Special Topics (Program Design in International Affairs)

IAFF 3180W Special Topics in Security Policy (Security Policy and Qualitative Analysis)

IAFF 3190 Special Topics in International Affairs (International Conflict and Politics Research Seminar)

IAFF 3502 Strategic Management and Qualitative Methods in International Affairs

IAFF 4191W Research Seminar (International Conflict and Politics Research Seminar)

IAFF 4191W Research Seminar (Security Policy and Qualitative Analysis)

ISTM 3119 Introduction to Programming

PSC 2101 Scope and Methods of Political Science

PSYC 2101 Research Methods in Psychology

PUBH 2142 Introduction to Biostatistics for Public Health

PUBH 3131 Epidemiology

PUBH 3199 Topics in Public Health (Research Methods Foundations)

PUBH 4201 Practical Computing

SMPA 2151 Research Methods

SOC 2101 Social Research Methods

SOC 2102 Techniques of Data Analysis

RESEARCH METHODS (3 CREDITS)

One course pertaining to qualitative or quantitative social science research methods, computer programming, or other analytical competencies, from the following:

| Code | Title | Credits |
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| ANTH 3531 | Methods in Sociocultural Anthropology | |
| APSC 3115 | Engineering Analysis III | |
| CSCI 1012 | Introduction to Programming with Python | |

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| STAT 1051 | Introduction to Business and Economic Statistics * |
| STAT 1053 | Introduction to Statistics in Social Science * |
| STAT 1111 | Business and Economic Statistics I * |
| STAT 1127 | Statistics for the Biological Sciences * |
| STAT 1129 | Introduction to Computing |
| STAT 2112 | Business and Economic Statistics II ** |
| STAT 2118 | Regression Analysis |
| STAT 2123 | Introduction to Econometrics |
| or ECON 2123 | Introduction to Econometrics |
| STAT 2183W | Intermediate Statistical Laboratory: Statistical Computing Packages |
| STAT 4157 | Introduction to Mathematical Statistics I |

*Credit for only one of the following courses can be counted toward an Elliott School undergraduate degree: DNSC 1001, STAT 1051, STAT 1053, STAT 1111, or STAT 1127.

**Credit for only one of the following courses can be counted toward an Elliott School undergraduate degree: DNSC 2001 or STAT 2112.

| Code | Title | Credits |
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Latin American Literature (3 credits)

One course from the following. Another literature course at the 3000- or 4000-level may be substituted with the approval of the program director.

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| PORT 4800 | Independent Study * |
| SPAN 3100 | Texts and Contexts of the Spanish-Speaking World |
| SPAN 3410 | Latin American Short Fiction |
| SPAN 3520 | Decolonizing the Empire: Colonial Latin America |
| SPAN 3600 | Special Topics |
| or SPAN 4600 | Special Topics |
| SPAN 4410 | Contemporary Narrative in Latin America |
| SPAN 4800 | Independent Study * |

*Program Director approval is required for PORT 4800 or SPAN 4800 Independent Study courses.

Multi-disciplinary Core (21 credits)

History (3 credits)

One course from the following:

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| IAFF 3187 | Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (History of Latin America II) |
| or HIST 3711 | History of Latin America II |
| HIST 3701 | Topics in Latin American History |
| HIST 3710 | History of Latin America I |

Political Science (3 credits)

One course from the following:

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| IAFF 3187 | Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Democracy Under Siege) |
| IAFF 3187 | Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Racial and Ethnic Politics in Latin America) |
| PSC 2383 | Comparative Politics of Latin America |

Economics (3 credits)

One course from the following:

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| IAFF 3177 | Political Economy of Latin America |
| IAFF 3187 | Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Economic and Social Development of Latin America) |

Geography (3 credits)

One course from the following:

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| GEOG 3161 | Geography of Latin America |
| IAFF 3187 | Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Immigration and Weak States) |
| IAFF 3187 | Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Latino Migration) |

Anthropology (3 credits)

One course from the following:

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| ANTH 3702 | Anthropology of Latin America |
| ANTH 3791 | Topics in Regional Anthropology (Anthropology of the Caribbean) |
| ANTH 3991 | Special Topics (Displacement & Diaspora) |

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| IAFF 3187 | Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Latin American Environmental Politics) |
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| IAFF 3187 | Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Latin Motion: Indigenous Movements and Media) |
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Students may request to use other 3000-level anthropology courses with Latin American content but this must be approved by the Program Director

International Affairs (6 credits)

Two courses from the following:

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| IAFF 3187 | Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Contemporary Mexican-US Relations) |
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| IAFF 3187 | Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Latin America-U.S. Relations) |
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| IAFF 3187 | Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Latin American Geopolitics and Geoeconomics) |
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| PSC 2484 | International Relations of Latin America |
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Undergraduate students may be able to enroll in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies graduate courses with instructor approval.

Related Coursework (6 credits)

Two courses related to Latin America from any discipline, including International Affairs (IAFF), selected with the approval of the Program Director.

Study Abroad

Students are encouraged to study in Latin America through one of GW's formal partnerships with a regional university or an approved self-designed study abroad program.