

Latin American Studies Proposal

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Class of 2011

In my opinion, Latin America is a part of our world that is greatly overlooked by many people. Many Latin American countries are facing dire economic and social circumstances, but seem to be ignored because there are countries in Africa and the Middle East that are viewed as places in greater need. For example, Colombia is a country, in great trouble socially and politically, suffering from guerilla warfare in the jungle regions. Although the United States as a country and as a political power has taken some notice of this turmoil, there are far fewer programs for relief of any sort in Colombia than there are in other countries of the world that need help. Colombia is not the only country being overlooked by America and other powerful countries. Almost every Latin American country is in some sort of trouble; economically, politically or socially. I believe that by becoming more educated about the cultures and backgrounds of Latin America, I can become more able to help Latin American countries that are in great need. My Latin American Studies major will come together during my time as a Hendrix College student by combining courses in the fields of Anthropology/Sociology, Politics, History, and Latin American Literature/Spanish Language classes. Anthropology will help me understand the cultures of Latin America in an open-minded but educated fashion. Politics will help me understand the reasons for turmoil in many Latin American countries. History will help me understand many of the different rich pasts of these countries. Spanish classes based in Latin American literature and art will help me become acquainted with more history and the many important people that emerged from these rich cultural histories.

I will be living in Bogotá, Colombia with a native Colombian family for two months in the summer of 2009. I will also be studying abroad during the spring of 2010 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. These two trips will be a great opportunity to become more acquainted with two of the many very different cultures of Latin America.

The courses selected for this major will help me obtain a well-rounded education. I believe this major will help me in my future, as a plan to join the U.S. Peace Corps or some other related program that will give me hands on experience in a Latin American country.

Study Abroad:

In the spring of 2010 I plan on studying abroad in Argentina at La Universidad del Salvador. While studying in Argentina, I will be taking many Argentine and Latin American history and politics courses all taught in the Spanish language. Independently, I am traveling to Colombia to stay with a family for two months during the summer of 2009. Therefore, studying abroad in Argentina will offer me a chance to immerse myself in Latin American culture for a second time, but with a different cultural background. I took Spanish courses in grade school from seventh grade to eleventh grade, as well as testing out of the first semester of Spanish at Hendrix and taking Spanish Fundamentals II and Spanish Conversation and Composition. These courses, along with living in Colombia for two months, will help me transition more easily into speaking and understanding while I study abroad in Argentina. This study abroad program will include five to six courses pertaining to Argentine history, international relations, and Spanish.

Senior Capstone Experience:

My senior capstone experience will consist of an independent study with Professor Anne Goldberg. The end product will be a lengthy research paper, subject undetermined as of yet, which will be presented to, reviewed by, and graded by the Major's advising committee, Anne Goldberg, Ian King, and Lilian Contreras-Silva.

Course listing for major:

Spanish:

- SPAN 330 Survey of Latin American Literature
- SPAN 335 Survey of Latin American Theater
- SPAN 475 Politics, Human Rights, and Vocation in Latin American Literature

Anthropology/Sociology:

- ANTH 230 Cultures of the United States-Mexico Borderlands
- ANTH 235 Peoples and Cultures of Latin America
- ANTH 300 Ethnographic Methods
- ANTH 360 Globalizations and Transnationalism

Politics/International Relations:

- POLI 371 Latin America

History (classes taken during Study Abroad):

- Historia del Arte Hispanoamericano y Argentino
- Historia Argentina
- Seminario Introducción a la Problemática Latinoamericana

Senior Capstone:

- Independent Study (subject to be determined)

Supplements for Argentina Study Abroad (not a part of the major):

- SPAN 110 Fundamentals of Spanish I (Credit)
- SPAN 120 Fundamentals of Spanish II
- SPAN 210 Spanish Conversation and Composition

Dr. Ian King:

Advisor signature: _____

Dr. Lilian Contreras-Silva:

Advising Committee chair: _____

Dr. Anne Goldberg:

Advising Committee chair: _____