

# Latin American Studies

We strongly encourage Latin American Studies majors to study abroad, and Cornell offers many off-campus courses that immerse students in the cultures of Mexico, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, the Bahamas, and soon, Cuba.

Pursuing Latin American studies at Cornell College is a unique experience. Because of the small class sizes, which are capped at 25 students, students have in-depth discussions and personalized instruction.

The Latin American studies program offers invaluable skills in communicating, writing clearly, and in critical thinking—skills that are especially useful in the era of globalization. Latin American studies prepares students for many different kinds of graduate school or career experiences and can be especially useful in such careers as government service (both foreign and domestic), the ministry and other forms of church service, journalism, teaching, international business and trade, social work, and international service organizations in the United States and abroad.

#### **BENEFITS OF ONE COURSE AT A TIME**

The One Course At A Time curriculum offers the freedom of long class periods and allows our students to be immersed in one class full-time for three and a half weeks.

One Course At A Time also makes it possible for students to travel to countries such as Guatemala for immersive language instruction. Cornell's associations with the Associated Colleges of the Midwest

and School for International Training also provide access to semester-long programs in Costa Rica, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. In addition, Cornell faculty lead various block-long courses to Latin America and students in areas as diverse as economics and business, education, and biology have all traveled to Latin America recently. Many of these programs are outlined in greater detail on the Spanish department website at [cornellcollege.edu/spanish](http://cornellcollege.edu/spanish).

#### **CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS**

Latin American studies is a flexible, interdisciplinary program designed to provide students with a broad knowledge of Latin American culture and history. Our majors select courses from a range of disciplines including anthropology, art, economics and business, history, Latin American literature and culture, politics, religion, and Spanish. In addition to our standard course list, students also enjoy a variety of topics courses and independent study opportunities to explore subjects of particular interest.

One recent student took advantage of the One Course calendar to travel to Costa Rica, Argentina, and Uruguay and wrote a capstone thesis about the history of, and prospects for, integration between Central American countries. Another student traveled to the Bahamas and wrote her thesis about a Latino painter from her hometown of Denver.

We strongly encourage our students to study abroad, and Cornell professors sponsor a number of courses in Latin America ranging from Art 278: Introduction to Pre-Columbian Art

## Faculty Bios & Courses

### **MARCELA OCHOA-SHIVAPOUR**

*Professor of Spanish*

Serves as the program advisor. She teaches Latin America Through Film, Latin American Culture and Civilization, and Latinos in the U.S. Ph. D. and M.A., University of Iowa.

### **MARTY CONDON**

*Professor of Biology*

Has studied rainforest plant/insect interrelationships for more than 20 years. She leads students to Latin American countries such as Ecuador and Costa Rica for the field research course Biological Problems. Ph.D., University of Texas; B.S. University of Michigan.

### **ELLEN MARIE HOUBLER**

*Assistant Professor of Art History*

Teaches the Latin American studies courses Pre-Columbian Art and Culture of Mexico, The Art and Architecture of the Aztecs, and Arts of the African Diaspora. She is fluent in Spanish and is an avid world traveler. Ph.D., M.A., M.Phil., Columbia University; B.A., Wellesley College.

and Culture of Mexico, to a trip to Cuba that is being developed. As the U.S. government reopens diplomatic relations in the island nation, we will study the history of U.S.-Cuban relations, as well as the effect of 60 years of socialism on Cuban cultural production. Both trips involve weekend excursions to different cities and visits to museums and cultural events. Professor Ochoa-Shivapour takes students to San Salvador (Bahamas) every third year to revisit the controversial topic of the Conquest. SPA 205 is also developing activities in Chicago, using the college's McLennan Center, to study Latinos in the United States. The class visits the Mexican American Museum and the Pilsen Neighborhood, and attends the Latino Film Festival.

Other courses that are new to the program include The Mexican Muralists and Beyond: Art in Mexico, 1920-1968, as well as The Art and Architecture of the Aztecs. The Mexican Muralists class worked closely with actual Mexican prints from the University of Iowa Museum of Art collection and wrote catalogue entries and wall text that appeared next to the prints when they were hung in the museum. The Art and Architecture of the Aztecs delved into such topics as human sacrifice, Aztec deities, collecting and faking of pre-Columbian art, and traveled to the Saint Louis Art Museum where they met with the curator about some of these issues.

#### AFTER CORNELL

##### ALUMNI CAREERS

Student success coordinator, Open Meadow, Portland, Oregon (Class of 2010)

Human resources support specialist, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York (Class of 2007)

Analyst, California Department of Social Services, Sacramento, California (Class of 2006)

Director of budget planning and risk management, San Jose State University, San Francisco, California (Class of 2004)

Teacher, Montessori School of the Finger Lakes, Auburn, New York (Class of 2001)

Commercial lender, Northwest Federal Bank, Okoboji, Iowa (Class of 2000)

Chief technology officer, Rubin Brothers, Inc., Cedar Rapids, Iowa (Class of 1998)

IT project manager, Ferguson Enterprises, Newport News, Virginia (Class of 1997)

ELL teacher, Des Moines Public Schools, Des Moines, Iowa (Class of 1995)

High school teacher, Solon Community School District, Solon, Iowa; adjunct instructor, Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa (Class of 1994)

Executive director, Centro Guadalupano at Holy Rosary Church, Minneapolis (Class of 1992)

Legal assistant, Union Pacific Railroad Company, Omaha (Class of 1993)

Licensed psychotherapist, certified massage therapist, and behavioral health professional, The Mental Health Center, Boulder, Colorado (Class of 1991)

#### GRADUATE SCHOOLS ATTENDED

M.A., international relations and national security studies, Tel Aviv University (Class of 2014)

Master of Social Work, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota (Class of 2010)

Master of International Policy Studies, Monterey Institute of International Studies, Monterey, California (Class of 2006)

Ed.D., higher education administration, California State University-Long Beach (Class of 2004)

M. Ed., State University of New York at Oswego (Class of 2001)

#### MICHAEL MOSIER

*Assistant Professor of Spanish*

Specializes in Latin American literature. He teaches Introduction to Latin American Studies, Latin American Short Story and Novel, Latin American Poetry, and Modern Latin American Theatre. Ph.D. and M.A., Indiana University; B.A., University of Wisconsin.

#### DAVID YAMANISHI

*Associate Professor of Politics*

Specializes in the politics of Latin America and teaches U.S. Foreign Policy and Political Economy of Developing Countries. Ph.D., C.Phil, and M.A., University of California, Los Angeles; B.A., Michigan State University.

#### JUDITH SIEBERT

*Lecturer in Anthropology and Latin American Studies*

Teaches Introduction to Latin American Studies and The Maya. Ph.D. and M.A., University of Iowa; B.A., Spanish and geography, elementary education, Augustana College.