

Caribbean and Latin American Studies

CLAS catalogue copy:

Caribbean and Latin American Studies (CLAS) is an interdisciplinary program designed to introduce students to the richness and diversity of the cultures, societies and ecologies of Central and South America, Mesoamerica and the Caribbean. Within the broader context of global processes and relationships, the program emphasizes understanding the history and experiences of Caribbean and Latin American peoples: political and economic structures and changes, both peaceful and violent; population processes and transitions; environmental stresses and local responses; post-colonial and cultural theories; forms of expression in music, dance and literature. Because of the program's global and comparative emphasis, the CLAS minor complements many of the University's majors and minors.

CLAS Learning Goals

Through coursework and research in Caribbean and Latin American Studies students should:

1. be familiar with the historical development of the Caribbean and Latin America to understand both the diversities and commonalities of the region and its peoples.
2. understand the global context of which the Caribbean and Latin America are a part.
3. understand the transnational component of migrations, cultural expressions and identities that have emerged in the region.
4. examine the relationships of the United States with the countries and peoples of the Caribbean and Latin America.
5. be self-reflexive as residents and/or citizen of North America to be aware of their own position and how this affects their knowledge of the Caribbean and Latin America and their construction of the peoples of the region.
6. acquire sufficient, relevant foreign language proficiency should they study and/or conduct research in the Caribbean and Latin America.
7. study the Caribbean and Latin America from an interdisciplinary perspective by taking courses in at least three different disciplines.
8. develop and hone their skills as researchers and communicators orally and in writing across the disciplines.

By striving to meet the above learning goals CLAS students will be better prepared to participate in and benefit from study abroad, do independent research, and interact in intercultural settings throughout their lives.

Examples of our students' best work is available at <http://www.stlawu.edu/clas/insidethearea>.
