

## **Georgia Gwinnett College**

### **Certificate in Latin American Studies**

The Certificate in Latin American Studies (CLAS) is a collaborative program of the University System of Georgia and the Americas Council. It is open to students in all majors. To apply for acceptance into this program, a student must first complete 30 credit hours, maintain a 2.8 GPA (or above) and complete one 3-credit hour course that focuses on contemporary Latin America or a 3-credit hour course on Latin American culture and civilization. Applications are available from the CLAS coordinator.

To earn a CLAS, students must complete 18 credit-hours in specific courses. Six credit-hours must be in a foreign language (French, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole or Quechua) at or above the 3000-level. The remaining 12 credit-hours must be in courses that focus on Latin America.

#### **Language requirement (six credit-hours)**

Students pursuing a CLAS must:

Complete six (6) hours of Spanish at the 3000-level or above with a minimum grade of “C.” These hours may be taken as part of an approved study abroad program as long as the course is beyond the intermediate level; **or**

Demonstrate written and oral proficiency in Spanish, Portuguese, French, Haitian Creole or Quechua. Demonstration of language proficiency above the intermediate level as defined by ACTFL standards through examination or successful completion of an oral and written examination evaluated by a qualified University System of Georgia faculty member.

#### **Latin American studies requirement (12 credit-hours)**

Students pursuing a CLAS must:

Complete one 3-credit hour course that focuses on contemporary Latin America or a 3-credit hour course on Latin American culture and civilization.

Complete three 3-credit-hour courses (nine hours) in Latin American studies. Two of these must be outside the student’s major. All of them must fall within the following guidelines:

- Any upper-division Latin American courses offered in the University System of Georgia
- Six (6) hours may come from courses that have a minimum 25 percent Latin American component
- No more than 6 (six) hours from study abroad or internships

**NOTE:** *All courses, study abroad programs and internships must be approved by the campus Certificate in Latin American Studies coordinator. All courses require a grade of “C” (2.0) or better. No more than one course may be taken at the 1000-2000 level. The CLAS is awarded upon graduation from GGC; it is not awarded before the student graduates. An overall GPA of at least 2.8 is required to receive the certificate.*