

Department: LAMS

Course No.: 290W

Title: Latin American Studies Research Seminar

Credits: 3

Contact: Peter Kingstone

WQ: W

Catalog Copy: LAMS 290W Latin American Studies Research Seminar. Spring Semester, 3 credits, Open only to LAMS majors, instructor consent required. Instructor: Elizabeth Mahan.

LAMS 290W is the capstone course for majors and minors in Latin American Studies. Students develop a research project and write a 15 to 20-page paper using the methods and processes of original, library-based research. Seminar sessions will be devoted to discussing and mastering the steps in the research process and group critiques of the papers-in-progress.

W Criteria: The purpose of this course is for students to develop a written, capstone project that draws together their studies of Latin America and the Caribbean. A 15-20 page written research project is the core element of the course, and it counts for 75% of the final grad.

Writing instruction will be in the form of in-class instruction, written feedback, and one-on-one meetings. The basic focus of lectures is to guide students through the writing of a research paper step-by-step. Students are required to submit drafts of a research question, literary review, and the research paper, and they will receive written comments on these. Students will also be required to meet with the instructor individually to discuss how to improve upon their writing.

Students will submit drafts of their work, and will receive comments to help them make improvements before the assignment is graded.

The syllabus states that students must pass the writing component in order to pass the class.