



Universiteit Leiden

Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2016

Programme-specific section:

Master's Programme: Latin American Studies (research)

These course and examination regulations have been drawn up in accordance with Section 7.13 of the Higher Education and Research Act [*Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek*] (WHW) (henceforth the Act) and additional quality marks as set out in the framework document Leiden University Register of Study Programmes [*Leids universitair register opleidingen*].

Pursuant to Section 7.14 of the Act the Faculty Board regularly evaluates the course and examination regulations and assesses, for the purpose of monitoring and, if necessary, adjusting the study load, the time it takes students to comply with the regulations. In conformity with Section 9.18 of the Act, the department teaching committee is assigned the task of annually assessing how the course and examination regulations are implemented.

These course and examination regulations consist of two sections: a general section that is the same for all programmes and a section that contains information that is specific to a particular programme. This programme-specific section forms a whole with the general section, and only contains the articles with content that is specific to a particular programme.

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Appendices

Appendix D – Curriculum

Appendix E – E-prospectus (see <https://studiegids.leidenuniv.nl>)

Article 2.1 **Objectives of the Programme**

The programme has the following objectives:

1. to broaden and deepen the students' knowledge, understanding and skills, and train them in the use of scientific methods in the area of contemporary history, cultural and social analysis of Latin America and the Caribbean;
2. to enable students to develop the following academic and professional skills:
 - the ability to solve academic problems independently, critically and creatively;
 - the ability to analyse complex problems;
 - the ability to clearly report academic results, both in writing and orally;
3. to prepare students for an academic career at a university for postgraduate programmes;
4. to prepare students for a non-academic career in the public or private sector for which advanced research skills and practical research experience are a prerequisite.

Article 2.2 **Specialisations**

Not applicable.

Article 2.3 **Achievement Levels**

Graduates of the programme have attained the following learning outcomes, listed according to the Dublin descriptors:

1. Knowledge and understanding

Graduates demonstrate in their written and oral work:

- a. A thorough knowledge and understanding of central research questions and debates in the field of Latin American Studies, with a special focus on knowledge of current debates on Latin American Modernities;
- b. A thorough knowledge and understanding of the interdisciplinary aspects of Latin American studies;
- c. For those who choose to accentuate fieldwork within the scope of the social studies: knowledge of its basic concepts, research methods and techniques and the developments in the specialization; or:
For those who choose to accentuate field work within the scope of Latin American cultural studies: knowledge of basic concepts, research methods and of text and discourse analysis.

2. Applying knowledge and understanding

Graduates demonstrate, in their written and oral work, the ability to:

- a. translate the acquired knowledge on key issues and the academic debates around them into relevant research questions, which in terms of content and scope can be studied in an independent research;
- b. have a thorough knowledge of up-to-date research methods used in the followed path and are able to operationalize this knowledge in an independent way into a concrete and feasible research design;
- c. contribute to the on-going debates on Latin American modernities through a case-study based on independent research and theoretical reflection;
- d. be sensitive towards the relationship between theory, method and place: understand the specificity of Latin American social and cultural dimensions of both the researched practice and the theoretical approaches to it;
- e. critically select, study and analyse literature relevant to the issues and problems presented by the curriculum and the research programmes in question;
- f. carry out independent research in Latin America and they possess the intercultural skills to work there with relevant individuals and institutions.

3. Making judgements

Graduates demonstrate, in their written and oral work, the capacity to:

- a. critically evaluate their sources;
- b. build an argument that leads to its conclusion in a clear, cogent, and verifiable manner;
- c. make careful considerations about the academic merits and utility of academic arguments and of material that is at the basis of their research and subsequent final report;
- d. form a good judgment about the social, cultural and ethical aspects which should be taken into account when conducting and reporting about their research.

4. Communication

Graduates demonstrate the ability to:

- a. formulate a clear and well-founded hypothesis and research questions, and to divide these into convenient and manageable parts;
- b. produce a clear, systematic and well-founded oral or written report of the state of the art in their research field, the selected object of inquiry and the concepts and theories used;
- c. present their work for an audience of specialists in the field and non-specialists;
- d. write texts at a high scholarly standard in Spanish, Portuguese or English;
- e. to rework the results of the thesis in to an article for an academic journal and/or non-academic publications.

5. Learning Skills

Graduates demonstrate, in their written and oral work, the ability to:

apply learning skills that allow them to initiate and conduct a research project with a great degree of independence and autonomy, under expert national or international supervision.

This means that graduates:

- have articulated the research question or thesis independently;
- have conducted relevant bibliographical research;
- have drawn up a realistic research plan;
- possess the learning skills that enable them to pursue a follow-up study which demands a great amount of self-organization and self-sufficiency, such as writing a PhD thesis.

Article 2.5 **Study Load**

The programme has a study load of 120 credits.

Article 2.8 **Language of Instruction**

In compliance with the Code of Conduct regarding Language of Instruction [*Gedragscode voertaal*¹] the languages of instruction and examination of the programme are English and Spanish. Students are expected to have an adequate command of the languages of instruction of the programme.

Article 3.1 **Compulsory Components**

3.1.1 The programme includes compulsory components totalling a study load of 120 credits. These compulsory components include the optional courses [*keuzevakken*] from which a student is obliged to choose.

¹ The Code of Conduct on the Language of Instruction and Examination [*Gedragscode voertaal*] was adopted by the Executive Board on 28 May 2013 and can be found on the following website: [media.leidenuniv.nl/legacy/language of instruction.pdf](http://media.leidenuniv.nl/legacy/language%20of%20instruction.pdf).

These compulsory components also include 10 credits for electives offered by the recognised national research schools.

Article 4.2 **Obligatory Order**

4.2.1 Not applicable.

Article 4.3 **Examination Formats**

4.3.7 Not applicable.

Article 5.2 **Admission to the academic year 2016-2017 and following years**

5.2.1 Not applicable.

5.2.2 The Board of Admissions may, on request, grant admission to the programmes to persons who do not meet the requirements specified in 5.2.1 but who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board of Admissions that they possess an equal level of knowledge, understanding and skills as the holders of a degree specified in 5.2.1, possibly under conditions to be further determined, without prejudice to the requirements in 5.2.4.

5.2.4 Alongside the requirements specified in 5.2.1 and 5.2.2, the following qualitative admission requirements apply for the programme pursuant to Article 7.30b, second paragraph, of the Act:

- have earned the degree of Bachelor at a university, equivalent to the level of a Dutch academic Bachelor's degree, or demonstrate to meet the requirements for such a degree, including the General Academic Skills listed in Appendix C; and
- have affinity with and suitability for scholarly research, demonstrated by good grades comparable with an average mark of at least 7.5 (Dutch grading system) for their entire bachelor's programme, and a grade for the bachelor's thesis of an 8 or higher; and
- are sufficiently proficient in the languages of instruction, to be assessed by the Faculty Board (English IELTS 7.0, TOEFL 100 (internet-based) or Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE);
- are sufficiently proficient in the language of instruction, to be assessed by the Faculty Board (Listening: Spanish CEFR B2, Reading: Spanish CEFR C1; Spoken interaction Spanish and/or Portuguese CEFR B2: Spoken production Spanish and/or Portuguese CEFR B2: Writing Spanish and/or Portuguese CEFR B2;)and
- possess knowledge of the fundamentals of area studies, literary studies, history and/or social sciences, demonstrable from a bachelor's thesis in which relevant literature and research are covered;

5.2.5 If the Executive Board has determined a maximum capacity for the programme, the order of admission will be determined by the qualitative admission requirements as referred to in Article 5.2.4 and Appendix F.

Article 5.4 **Bridging Programmes (Premasters)**

Not applicable.