

From: [Kowalsky, Lisa](#)
To: [Reed, Katie](#)
Cc: [Miriti, Maria](#); [Vieira, Leila](#)
Subject: Forwarding Informational Item: Center for Latin American Studies
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 11:15:47 AM
Attachments: [CLAS-Letter-MA-Requirement-3.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

Dear Katie,

Please find attached an Informational Item for a Course Replacement within the Center for Latin American Studies. Approvals from the College of Arts and Sciences are placed at the back of the file.

Please let me know if any questions or concerns arise.

Best,
Lisa



Lisa Clouser (Kowalsky)

The Ohio State University

Graduate School
247E University Hall
230 N. Oval Mall, Columbus, OH 43210
614-292-2267 Office
gradsch.osu.edu

Pronouns: she/her/hers

January 13, 2026

Vice Provost for Academic Programs
Council on Academic Affairs
Office of Academic Affairs
203 Bricker Hall
190 North Oval Mall
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Vice Provost Smith,

This letter serves to inform the Graduate School and the Office of Academic Affairs of needed minor curricular revisions to a graduate program. The M.A. in Latin American Studies program (LATAMSTDS-MA), managed by the Center for Latin American Studies, needs to replace our required course from **International Studies 5640 - Globalization and Latin America: Multi-Disciplinary Approaches to Spanish 6705 - Introduction to Latino Studies.**

International Studies 5640 has been facing low enrollment. The International Studies program is not offering the course this Spring and is not confident that the course will be offered in the future. In order to avoid disruptions to our students' progress to degree, we propose substituting this requirement for Spanish 6705. Spanish 6705 was selected because the course is interdisciplinary (as is our M.A. program), and because, to understand Latinx migrants in the U.S., students will also need to learn about the macro-region from which they migrated (Latin America). We are confident that Spanish 6705 will not face issues of low enrollment, since for the past five years this class has consistently had 6-8 students every Spring, and also because it is a requirement for the Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Latinx Studies, managed by the Center for Ethnic Studies. Since Spanish 6705 is a 4-credit course, this would increase our required credit hours from 30 to 31.

Additionally, we have consulted with Dr. Bernadette Vankeerbergen (Assistant Dean for Curriculum, Arts & Sciences) and Dr. Andrew Martin (Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education) on this proposed change, and they support our proposal. You can find this email exchange below.

In sum, we propose to:

Change the required course for the M.A. in Latin American Studies from INTSTDS 5640 to SPAN 6705.

This has been approved by the Graduate Studies Committee for this program.

Thank you for your consideration of this request,



Scott A. Schwenter, PhD
Director, Center for Latin American Studies

Chair, Graduate Studies Committee for Latin American Studies (MA program)
 Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese

Leila Vieira

Leila Vieira, PhD
 Assistant Director, Center for Latin American Studies

Current/Mark up

M.A. in Latin American Studies Curriculum plan/minimum credits required (30)

| Required courses | Credit Hours |
|--|--------------|
| INTSTDS 5640, Globalization and Latin America | 3 |
| SPAN 6705 - Introduction to Latino Studies | 4 |
| Course on research methods, related to the student's primary area of concentration | 3 |
| Primary Area of Concentration (12 hours) | |
| Course 1 | 3 |
| Course 2 | 3 |
| Course 3 | 3 |
| Course 4 | 3 |
| Secondary Area of Concentration (9 hours) | |
| Course 1 | 3 |
| Course 2 | 3 |
| Course 3 | 3 |
| Elective (3 hours) | |
| Course 1 | 3 |

Proposed

M.A. in Latin American Studies Curriculum plan/minimum credits required (31)

| Required courses | Credit Hours |
|--|--------------|
| SPAN 6705 - Introduction to Latino Studies | 4 |
| Course on research methods, related to the student's primary area of concentration | 3 |
| Primary Area of Concentration (12 hours) | |
| Course 1 | 3 |
| Course 2 | 3 |
| Course 3 | 3 |
| Course 4 | 3 |
| Secondary Area of Concentration (9 hours) | |
| Course 1 | 3 |
| Course 2 | 3 |
| Course 3 | 3 |
| Elective (3 hours) | |
| Course 1 | 3 |

Email exchanges with the Graduate School and Arts & Sciences, in chronological order

From: Vieira, Leila <vieira.31@osu.edu>
Sent: Friday, January 23, 2026 3:17 PM
To: Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>; Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>
Subject: FW: Required course not offered - petition for replacement?

Dear Bernadette and Andrew,
I hope you are doing well!

The Center for Latin American Studies' M.A. program in Latin American Studies is looking to replace one of our required courses. Lisa Kowalsky, from the Graduate School, said we need to contact you for guidance/feedback even though we are not technically under Arts & Sciences.

I'm attaching our proposal to this email and I'm looking forward to your comments and insights.

Best,
Leila

From: Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>
Date: Monday, January 26, 2026 at 11:23 AM
To: Vieira, Leila <vieira.31@osu.edu>, Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>
Subject: RE: Required course not offered - petition for replacement?

Hi Leila,

I am OK with this. I assume SPPO has been informed of this change?

If so, Andrew, do you want to give the green light for the College?

Many thanks,
Bernadette

From: Vieira, Leila <vieira.31@osu.edu>
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2026 1:21 PM
To: Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>; Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>
Subject: Re: Required course not offered - petition for replacement?

Hi Bernadette,
Yes, I've spoken with SPPO about it and they're ok with the change. Hopefully it'll slightly increase enrollment numbers for them too.

Best,
Leila

From: Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>

Date: Monday, January 26, 2026 at 7:41 PM

To: Vieira, Leila <vieira.31@osu.edu>, Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>

Subject: RE: Required course not offered - petition for replacement?

I'm supportive of it as well!



Andrew W. Martin