

Latin American Studies 499 (MAP)  
Senior Research Project Guidelines

Students who engage in LAS senior research are expected to build on the skills, information and methodologies that they have used during their preparation in the area studies program. Senior research demands a discussion of critical and primary sources. All LAS 499 MAPs must be interdisciplinary in nature and integrate Spanish-language sources. This attempt at integration and sophistication distinguishes this senior academic essay from regular term papers.

Students enroll in LAS 499 for 4 credits after completing all other requirements for the Concentration. Students generally enroll in LAS 499 for 4 credits during the spring semester of their senior year. Fall semester enrollment is permitted if all requirements are completed in advance. As with all MAPs, LAS students must complete the Registrar's MAP application: [http://www.grinnell.edu/offices/registrar/additionalinfo/forms/includes/Indep%20Study\(MAP\).pdf](http://www.grinnell.edu/offices/registrar/additionalinfo/forms/includes/Indep%20Study(MAP).pdf)

In the semester preceding enrollment in LAS 499, students must:

- 1) select a topic and present it to the LAS chair by the first week of October; or the first week of March for fall enrollment;
- 2) select two academic readers/advisors for the project; one reader/advisor must be a member of the LAS Concentration Committee;
- 3) write, in consultation with their readers/advisors, a project proposal in which they posit their research question(s), present their methodology and a preliminary bibliography addressing relevant fields of study;
- 4) submit the proposal and this form to the LAS Concentration Committee for approval by the Wednesday after Fall Break (firm deadline); or the Wednesday after Spring Break for fall enrollment (firm deadline). Note that the LAS Concentration Committee reserves the right to reject any project proposal.
- 5) once the proposal has been approved, request that the two readers/advisors sign this form indicating their agreement to advise on the project, to read the research paper produced during the project, and to evaluate the quality of the LAS MAP.
- 6) turn in the original form, along with the final version of the proposal, to the LAS Chair; and make copies of the form for yourself and your readers/advisors. Note that in order to enroll in LAS 499 you need the LAS Chair's signature.

Student responsibilities when enrolled in LAS 499:

- 1) Students must meet with both readers/advisors during the first two weeks of the semester so that the faculty members can discuss in detail his/her academic expectations (e.g. number of required meetings during the semester, schedule for submission of project drafts, bibliographic requirements, criteria for evaluation, etc.).
- 2) Students should expect to meet with their readers/advisors at least four times during the semester.
- 3) Students will have to meet the demands of their readers/advisors; readers/advisors may request multiple modifications of project, rewrites of drafts, etc.

- 4) Students must give a public presentation of their LAS MAP projects during the last two weeks of the semester.
- 5) All LAS MAPs are due by 5pm on the last day of classes of the semester of LAS 499 enrollment.
- 6) A copy of the MAP must be submitted to each reader/advisor. A third copy must be provided for the LAS Concentration Committee and will be stored in the Chair's office.

Faculty readers/advisors' responsibilities:

- 1) After agreeing to advise on a project, readers/advisors should clearly define their (joint) role as readers/advisors and establish guidelines for the student.
- 2) Any problems should be discussed with the co-reader/advisor and, if necessary, with the Chair.
- 3) The readers/advisors should consult with each other in determining the final grade for the LAS 499 (MAP).

Signatures:

LAS 499 Student \_\_\_\_\_

LAS 499 Reader/Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

LAS 499 Reader/Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

Student's LAS Advisor \_\_\_\_\_