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Minor Field Proposal: Latin America and the World
Advisor: Dr. Joan C. Bristol
Second Reader: Dr. Matthew B. Karush
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The minor field 804 readings course will focus on Latin America within a global context, and serve as a complement to previous coursework: Global Power and Local Culture in Early Latin America (a graduate course taken at Georgetown University) and HIST 525: Latin America and the United States. The main objective of 804 is to gain conversational fluency across a wide variety of topics involving Latin America's relationship--diplomatic, political, economic, social, and cultural--with the rest of the world.

For purposes of this minor field, "Latin America" encompasses mainland South America, the Caribbean, Central America, Mexico, and, for the pre-1848 period, the present-day Southwestern United States and Florida. Chronologically, this field will cover Latin America from 1492 to the present. The minor field readings course will supplement course readings for the colonial and independence periods and the 20th century.

The global context within which the minor field will situate Latin American regions shifts according to time period. For the early modern period the focus will be on literature dealing with the Atlantic World and Asia (a small literature that looks at trade relationships between Spanish and Portuguese America and East Asia and the Indian Ocean world). For the post-colonial period the literature, following historical events, is more about Latin American economic and political relations with Great Britain and the United States.

The literature that will situate Latin American regions within global history breaks down into several broad categories, including African diaspora, colonialism and post-colonialism, commodity flows, dependency, and migration, among others.