

## **Latin American Studies Portfolio**

Students graduating with a major in Latin American Studies will produce a portfolio in their senior year of their best work from courses taken in the program, and write a reflective essay indicating how those projects represent their learning in the program. The portfolio will be assessed by a group of the Latin American Studies faculty members, and the approval is required as evidence of completion of the requirement. A grade of Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory will be reported to the Registrar once the portfolio has been evaluated.

The purpose of the portfolio is to: 1. allow students to assess and reflect upon their educational experiences in the Latin American Studies program (courses and extra curricular activities); 2. document the student's progress in the interdisciplinary program; and 3. help the Latin American Studies program determine the strengths and weaknesses from the perspective of the students it serves.

The portfolio required for the academic year 2015-2016 should contain the following elements:

### **1. SENIOR PORTFOLIO REFLECTIVE ESSAY**

The reflective essay should be approximately 2 pages, in English, and address the following question: How have the different disciplines you have studied during your time at The University of Scranton informed your understanding of Latin America? Students should consider both personal and academic experiences and explain how they relate to their studies within this interdisciplinary program.

### **2. FORMAL ESSAYS AND/OR OTHER ACADEMIC ARTIFACTS IN THREE OF THE FIVE CONTENT AREAS**

The student should include three or more formal essays and/or other artifacts drawn from his/her work in three different content areas offered by the program: Area 1 (History and Political Science), Area 2 (Philosophy and Theology/Religious Studies), Area 3 (Biology, Anthropology, and Geography), Area 4 (Literature) and Area 5 (Supporting courses). The student should also include source documentation, grading rubrics, or instructor comments as appropriate.

### **3. EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

LAS students are expected to participate in the various events sponsored by the program, such as lectures, concerts, theme dinners, film screenings, service-learning projects with agencies and associations in NEPA. The student should write a summary of his or her participation in these activities and reflect on how such involvement provides both broad, general knowledge of the Latin American region as a whole and an in-depth knowledge of specific countries, regions, languages and cultures. Length: two double-spaced pages.

### **4. STUDY ABROAD (Optional) (Required if the student studied abroad)**

The student should reflect on his or her study abroad experience(s) in Latin America, including reasons for choosing a specific program. Reflections might respond to such questions as: How did your study abroad experience enhance your knowledge, skills, and understanding of Latin America? What assets might international study yield as opposed to someone who studied domestically?

Version revised on November 24, 2014.