

MA Program in the Study of the Americas
The City College of New York
Center for Worker Education

The City College of New York will inaugurate a Master of Arts Program in The Study of the Americas in spring 2010. This program will be intellectually rigorous, interdisciplinary, and grounded through its broadly defined attention to “the Americas.” A focus on relations of power, identities, and cultures through time will aim to decenter hegemonic narratives, which privilege particular processes and places across the region while simultaneously marginalizing others. Given our focus on an exciting and emerging field of study, the program will be attractive to students interested in international and global studies as well as theoretically-informed interdisciplinary studies. The program will also be appealing to professionals in the corporate and non-profit sector who work with diverse populations in the United States or who do business across the Americas. Secondary education teachers in search of certificate programs in a content area or in need of graduate credits for salary increases pose another significant applicant pool. Most importantly, this proposed degree program also evolves out of a request over several years from students at the Center for Worker Education (CWE) for a graduate program.

The goals of our unique program within CUNY are to enable working adult students who complete an undergraduate course of study to pursue graduate studies that will enhance both their liberal arts knowledge base and their critical analysis skills in thinking, reading, and writing. Research indicates that in an increasingly competitive job market, employers value the analytic skills and theoretical background garnered through a liberal arts curriculum. This Master of Arts in the Study of the Americas complements the Center’s existing undergraduate bachelor’s program, which awards students a BA in Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences. Thematically, our program enters into a significant international scholarly conversation on what constitutes the “Americas.” Because of our topical focus and engagement with emerging trends, the program should appeal to potential students in other CUNY schools and outside of CUNY who may wish to enter the program. We currently have a strong core of undergraduate courses in the Study of the Americas and a full-time faculty who have expertise in several different disciplines which fall under the Study of the Americas.