

Romance Languages and Literatures

The major and minor in Romance languages and literatures are administered by the Romance Languages and Literatures Committee: Professors Debnar (classics, on leave fall 2009), Gelfand (French), Valet (French); Associate Professors Arnold (classics), Romero-Diaz (Spanish, *chair*); Associate Professors Crumbaugh (Spanish), Frau (Italian), Gundermann (Spanish), Mosby (Spanish).

Contact Persons

Mary Fanelli, *senior administrative assistant*
Nieves Romero-Diaz, *chair*

The major program in Romance languages and literatures is designed to assure fluency in at least two Romance languages, as well as knowledge of the literatures and cultures they represent. The student is encouraged to view language/ literature/culture in its interrelatedness and combine linguistic proficiency with cultural and literary expertise. She will develop skills of communication and the critical tools to explore matters of aesthetics, cultural studies, history of ideas, and gender studies. A major in Romance languages and literatures can lead to a variety of national and international careers from government to fashion, from the culinary arts to banking, and from film to teaching.

Department Web Site

<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/romance>

Requirements for the Major

The Romance languages and literatures major includes work in two of the following Romance languages: French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish. The student will select two languages, one for primary and one for secondary emphasis. The student is also encouraged to attain intermediate-level competence in a third Romance language or Latin. Students interested in Portuguese should

consult the chair of the committee for appropriate Five College courses.

Credits

- A minimum of 40 credits
- 28 credits must be at the 300 level

Courses

- The 28 credits at the 300 level should be divided as follows:
 - 16 credits should be dedicated to the language and literature of primary emphasis.
 - 12 credits should be dedicated to the language and literature of secondary emphasis.
- French 203 and below and Spanish/Italian 201 and below do not count toward the 40-credit minimum.

Other

- Advanced courses in the major should be chosen to provide both a varied background and a means of focusing and unifying the major.
- In the years when it is offered, qualified students are expected to elect the Seminar in the Romance Languages and Literatures (375).
- Normally the student is well advised first to broaden her acquaintance with the two principal cultures in which she is working, then to select a more specific aspect—a topic, theme, period, literary form, or genre, for example—around which to organize her choice of courses. Students desiring to develop an advanced knowledge of languages as their specific focus can consider advanced language courses in French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish that are available through the Five College Consortium.
- No more than 4 credits of independent study (not including thesis credits) may

be counted toward the 28 required credits at the 300 level. Independent Study credits taken as part of an honors thesis do not count toward the requirements for the major.

Romance languages and literatures is an interdisciplinary major. Students who pursue an interdisciplinary major automatically fulfill the College's "outside the major" requirement (see p. 8).

Study Abroad

Students should enhance their major by spending an academic year in a country where one of the languages of their major is spoken. Students who plan to take part in a study abroad program must consult both the chair of the Romance languages and literatures committee and the chair of the target language. Normally, credits earned while studying abroad satisfy some of the requirements of the major.

Allied Courses

Students are advised to complement their study of Romance languages and literatures with related courses in the fields of humanities and social sciences. These courses should broaden the cultural and linguistic expertise of the student.

Requirements for the Minor

Students are expected to select a Romance language for primary emphasis and another one for secondary emphasis.

Credits

- A minimum of 16 credits

Courses

- For the language of primary emphasis:
 - At least 4 credits at the 200 level and
 - 4 credits at the 300 level, with completion of specified prerequisites
- For the language of secondary emphasis:
 - 8 credits at the 200 level

- French 203 and below and Spanish/Italian 201 and below do not count toward the 16-credit minimum.

Other

- More than the minimum 4 credits at the 300 level are encouraged in the primary or secondary language.

A student majoring in a Romance language may not include that language in a Romance languages and literatures minor.

Course Offerings

295fs Independent Study

*Does not meet a distribution requirement
Prereq. permission of department; Independent study credits taken as part of an honors thesis do not count toward the requirements for the major.; 1-4 credits*

375s Seminar in Romance Languages and Literatures: Topic: Sweet Cruelty: Anti-Humanism and Gay Writing

This interdisciplinary seminar will focus on a comparative study of Romance languages or literatures. Topics will vary from semester to semester. Seminar discussions will be conducted in English, but students are expected to read works in at least one original language. Papers will be written in the Romance language of the student's choice.

(Taught in English; Same as Spanish 330, Italian 361, French 321, Gender Studies 333)
Much of twentieth-century gay writing in Latin America is characterized by an aesthetic celebration of anti-humanism, which has often clashed with left-wing progressive politics in these countries. But how does a "gay style" come about? What is its genealogy? How does it identify itself, and what does such an identity mean politically and historically? In this seminar, we will study a number of writers from Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Perú, and Uruguay, and examine their roots in French and Italian anti-humanist authors from Baudelaire, Lautréamont, and Rimbaud to Genet and Pasolini. We will also read a few key texts in queer theory.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement

C. Gundermann

Prereq. for Spanish majors: two courses in

Spanish at the 200-level above 212; Papers will be written in English or the Romance language of the student's choice. Students wishing to obtain 300-level credit in French, Italian, or Spanish students must read texts and write papers in the Romance language for which they wish to receive credit.; 4 credits

395fs Independent Study

Does not meet a distribution requirement

The department

Prereq. permission of department; Independent Study credits taken as part of an honors thesis do not count toward the requirements for the major.; 1-8 credits