

# Romance Languages and Cultures

The major and minor in Romance languages are administered by the Romance Languages and Cultures Committee: Professors Debnar (Classics), Gelfand (French, on leave spring 2012), Vaget (French); Associate Professors Arnold (Classics), Crumbaugh (Spanish), Frau (Italian), Gundermann (Spanish, on leave fall 2011), Mosby (Spanish, on leave fall 2011), Romero-Diaz (Spanish); Lecturer, Esther Castro-Cuenca (Spanish).

## Contact Persons

Susan LaBarre, *senior administrative assistant*  
Nieves Romero-Diaz, *chair*

The major program in Romance languages and cultures 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 cultures 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 Website

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

## Requirements for the Major

The Romance languages 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 Por-

tuguese 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.
- Qualified students are required to elect the Seminar in the Romance Languages (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 cultures 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 cultures 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 cultures 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 cultures minor.*

## Course Offerings

### 295fs 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.; 1-4 credits*

### 375s Seminar in Romance Languages and Cultures: Topic: The Mind of the Traveler: Journeys, Expeditions, Tours

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 wishing to obtain language credit are expected to read works in at least one original language. Papers will be written in either English or the Romance language of the student's choice. (Taught in English; Same as Spanish 360, Italian 361, French 321) Travel literature has always been a precious source for the study of culture, politics, arts and, last but not least, people. From Tacitus to Marco Polo, from Stendhal to Camilo Jose Cela, we will read and discuss authors who traveled for political, personal, and recreational reasons. We will also pay special attention to tales of emigration and immigration in the third millennium.

*Meets either language requirement or*

*Humanities I-A requirement*

*O. Frau*

*Prereq. for language majors: two courses in culture and literature at the 200-level; Note: Students wishing to obtain 300-level credit in French, Italian, or Spanish 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*