Spanish (Hispanophone Studies)

The major and minor in Spanish (Hispanophone Studies) is administered by the Department of Spanish, Latina/o, and Latin American Studies: Professors Gudmundson (on leave Spring 2016), Mosby (on leave Spring 2016), Romero-Díaz; Associate Professors Crumbaugh (chair) Assistant Professor D. Hernandez (on leave 2015-16); Visiting Lecturers J. Hernandez, Rosa, Soltero Lopez; Senior Lecturer Castro; Language Instructors Gunha, Garcia-Frazier, Illescas; Visiting Language Instructor Barrios-Beltran.

Overview

The Department of Spanish, Latina/o, and Latin American Studies engages in the multidisciplinary study of the past, current state, and emerging realities of societies and cultures of Latin America, Spain, the Caribbean, and the Latina/o heritage populations within the United States and their relations with each other and with the wider world. To that end, our courses adopt a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches, including literary studies, film and media studies, social history, and politics.

The Department of Spanish, Latina/o, and Latin American Studies also collaborates closely with a number of other departments and programs on campus, frequently crosslisting courses with film studies, gender studies, history, and Romance languages and cultures. Regular cocurricular activities organized by the department (film series, lectures, etc.) also engage the larger college community in the interests of our students and faculty. In addition to providing opportunities for learning on campus, the department also strongly recommends that students study off campus in a Spanish-speaking context in order to enhance their language skills and to forge their own connections to place through language.

Spanish—the second most spoken language in the United States today and one of the three most spoken languages in the world—has become a crucial part of civic engagement and global citizenship. Facility with the language has been an important component of career success for many Mount Holyoke graduates in fields including government, law, business, international affairs, education, journalism, medicine, and the performing arts.

To this end, the major and minor in Spanish (Hispanophone Studies) include a variety of courses intended to facilitate proficiency in the language and contextualize and analyze issues relevant to Spanish speakers abroad and in the U.S., such as terrorism, migration, and imperialism.

Contact Info

Debra Morrissey, senior administrative assistant
Justin Crumbaugh, chair
Nieves Romero-Díaz, study abroad (Spain), study abroad (Latin America)
Esther Castro, language program director

Requirements for the Major

Credits

- A minimum of 36 credits

Courses

- 212, Preparation for Advanced Studies

- A minimum of four 300-level courses (excluding 395 which may not be counted as one of these four courses). At least two of the four must be taken within the department. At least one must be taken in the senior year at Mount Holyoke.

- Four other courses in Spanish at any level, within the following restrictions:
  - Two 200-level introductory courses (above 212) must be taken prior to enrolling in any 300-level course.

Other

- At least one of the courses above 212 has to concentrate on Spain and/or Latin America before 1800.

- Courses in Latin American Studies count toward the Spanish major (see next bullet about courses in English).

- If a student spends a semester in a Spanish-speaking place or is a Spanish native speaker, two courses taught in English can be counted toward the major. If not, only one course in English (if cross-listed or approved by the department) will be allowed.

- For one semester abroad, a student can get up to 8 credits towards her major at the 200 or 300 level, and up to 20 credits for two semesters abroad. For the major in Spanish, the department will accept no more than 8 credits taken abroad at the 300 level.

- Decisions regarding credit transfers from study abroad will be based on academic criteria. Students should save course syllabi, written assignments, and any other relevant materials. Courses on a variety of subjects (literature, history, art, film, but also political science, economics, sociology) may count toward the major, but only if the study abroad advisor approves of the course contents and objectives.

Requirements for the Minor

Credits

- A minimum of 20 credits

Courses

- 212, Preparation for Advanced Studies

- At least one 300-level course. Note: two 200-level introductory courses (above 212) must be taken prior to enrolling in a 300-level course.

- Three other courses at the 200 or 300-level. One 100-level course could be substituted for one of these.

Other

- The 300-level required course must be taken in the department.

- No course in English can be counted toward the minor.

- Independent Study (Spanish 395) may not be used as part of the minor.

- No more than 8 credits toward the minor can be completed abroad.

Spanish minors should take all their courses abroad in Spanish.

Teacher Licensure

Students interested in pursuing licensure in the field of Spanish can combine their course work in Spanish with a minor in education. In some instances course work in the major coincides with course work required for licensure; in other cases, it does not. For specific course requirements for licensure within the major of Spanish (Hispanophone Studies), please consult your advisor or the chair of the Department of Spanish, Latina/o, and Latin American Studies. For information about the requirements for the minor in education, please consult “Teacher Licensure” in the Education section.
Licensure in the Other Degree and Certificate Programs chapter and Prof. Lawrence in the Department of Psychology and Education.

Licensure also requires a formal application as well as passing scores on the Massachusetts Test of Educator Licensure (MTEL) in both the literacy component and the subject matter component. Copies of the test objectives for the MTEL are available in the Department of Spanish, Latina/o, and Latin American Studies and in the Department of Psychology and Education. Licensure application information and materials are available in the Department of Psychology and Education.

Course Advice

Placement

Students with no prior knowledge of Spanish can enroll in 101 or 103 (intensive).

Any student with prior course work in Spanish must do the following: 1) take an online placement test within two months of registration, and 2) complete a language questionnaire (located in the online First-Year Curriculum Guide). The Web address for the placement exam is https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/spanish/placement. Upon reviewing both the questionnaire and placement test results, the department may require a level change.

Notes

Students are strongly encouraged to take their language courses in close succession, without lapses between one level and the next.

Students who have previously taken Spanish courses at Mount Holyoke and who wish to continue their study of Spanish must have the prerequisites stipulated for specific courses.

All courses satisfy distribution requirements unless indicated otherwise.

All courses are conducted in Spanish unless indicated otherwise.

Students contemplating study abroad in Spain or Latin America are encouraged to elect a Spanish course in the first semester of their first year.

Course Offerings

SPAN-101 Elementary Spanish
Fall and Spring
A dynamic and interactive introduction to Spanish and Spanish American cultures. Covers the basic grammar structures of the Spanish language through extensive use of video, classroom practice, and weekly conversation sessions with a native language assistant. Assumes no previous study of Spanish.

Apply to requirement(s): Humanities; Language

F. Cunha, E. Garcia Frazier, The department

Notes: We recommend students complete Spanish 101 and Spanish 102.
Credits: 4

SPAN-199 Preparation for Intermediate Spanish
Fall and Spring
A fast-paced review of basic Spanish grammar. Stresses Spanish and Spanish American culture through readings, films, and weekly conversation sessions with a native language assistant.

Apply to requirement(s): Language

D. Barrios-Beltran, E. Castro E. Garcia Frazier, A. Illescas, The department

Prereq: Spanish 101 or 103.
Credits: 4

SPAN-201 Intermediate Spanish
Fall and Spring
Strives for mastery of complex grammatical structures and continues work on writing and reading skills. Frequent compositions, selected literary readings, class discussions, and debates on films and current events. May be taken without Spanish 199 to satisfy the language requirement.

Apply to requirement(s): Humanities; Language

D. Barrios-Beltran, A. Illescas, The department

Advisory: Spanish 199 or by obtaining a qualifying score on placement exam
Credits: 4

SPAN-209 Composition and Culture
Fall and Spring
Emphasis on written expression in Spanish through frequent assignments emphasizing difficult grammatical structures or idiomatic usages, sentence and paragraph structure, making smooth transitions, writing the short essay, writing descriptions, engaging in personal or business correspondence, analyzing texts, doing library research, and drafting and completing research papers. Students will comment on each other’s work in the classroom and/or via the use of email or Web sites and will practice techniques of self-editing and self-criticism.

Apply to requirement(s): Humanities; Language

Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive

E. Castro-Cuenca

Prereq: Spanish 201.; Coreq: SPAN-209L.
Credits: 4

SPAN-212 Preparation for Advanced Studies
Fall and Spring
This course will equip students of Spanish with a variety of skills that prepare them for upper-division courses. Specific areas of study will include introduction to literary genres and movements; practice in critical reading and writing; study of figures of speech, rhetoric, and style; presentation of oral reports; use of library resources. In addition, students acquire basic knowledge of the geography, history, and culture of the Hispanic world.

Apply to requirement(s): Humanities; Language

N. Romero-Díaz

Prereq: Spanish 201 or 209.
Credits: 4

SPAN-217 Portuguese for Spanish Speakers
Fall
This course is specially designed for students who are proficient in Spanish or another Romance language. This previous knowledge will be drawn upon to promote fast and solid acquisition of linguistic skills in Portuguese. Course conducted in Portuguese. Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to: interact with other students and the instructor in Portuguese; describe and compare people, places, and things in Portuguese; communicate future plans in Portuguese; narrate and understand past events in Portuguese; offer and understand advice and directions in Portuguese; give and understand opinions in Portuguese; and hypothesize in Portuguese.

Crosslisted as: Latin American Studies 217

Apply to requirement(s): Humanities; Language

F. Cunha

Prereq: Spanish 201, placement test, or instructor permission.

Advisory: Spanish placement test, Spanish 201, or permission of instructor if you have proficiency in other Romance languages.

Notes: Students with proficiency in other Romance languages should seek permission of the instructor.
Credits: 4

Spanish 2
SPAN-227 Portuguese for Spanish Speakers - Intermediate
Spring
The goal of this course is to offer students sophisticated linguistic tools that will allow them to interact and communicate in Portuguese in socio-cultural contexts that go beyond their immediate personal experience and daily life. The course is designed for students who have previous experience with Portuguese and are already familiar with the majority of the grammatical structures of the language. Through the use of authentic written texts, videos, and songs, students will broaden and deepen their reading, writing, listening, and speaking abilities in Portuguese. Course taught in Portuguese.
Crosslisted as: Latin American Studies 227
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
F. Castha
Prereq: Spanish 217.
Credits: 4

SPAN-230 Identities & Intersections

SPAN-230LF Identities and Intersections: An Introduction: 'Spanish Women Through Literature and Film'
Spring
This course explores the history of Spanish women from a critical and interdisciplinary perspective. Topics include a variety of feminist issues, from domestic violence to maternity and equality. There is a strong emphasis on developing analytical strategies for reading and speaking, improving skills for (creative) writing, and designing pedagogical materials for teaching. Course examines works by María de Zayas, Federico García Lorca, and Ana Rossetti, and movies by Icíar Bollaín and Bigas Luna, among others.
Crosslisted as: Gender Studies 204LF
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
N. Romero-Díaz
Prereq: Spanish 212.
Notes: Taught in Spanish.
Credits: 4

SPAN-240 Visual Cultures: An Introduction

SPAN-240CN Visual Cultures, An Introduction: 'Introduction to Spanish and Latin American Cinema'
Fall
This course offers a broad introduction to the history, politics and aesthetics of Latin American and Spanish cinema. The course also introduces students to the basic terminology and methodologies of film studies.
Crosslisted as: Film Studies 203
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive; Topics Course
J. Crumbaugh
Prereq: Spanish 212.
Credits: 4

SPAN-260 Studies in Language and Society
A broad introduction to the study of specific form/meaning relations in the linguistic system of Spanish and the function of language in society. Topics may include, but are not limited to, languages in contact, bilingualism, teaching methodology, translation and interpretation, sociolinguistics, phonetics and phonology, morpho-syntax, semantics and pragmatics. The specific course contents and examples examined will vary each semester.

SPAN-260PH Studies in Language and Society: An Introduction: 'Spanish Phonetics and Pronunciation'
Not Scheduled for This Year

SPAN-260PS Studies in Language and Society: An Introduction: 'Public Speaking'
Spring
This course is an introduction to phonetics (study of sounds) and phonology (study of sound system) of Spanish and to some of the main dialectological varieties of the language. As it is designed specifically for English-speaking students, one of the main objectives of the course is to help students improve their pronunciation of Spanish through various practices such as description of sounds, analysis and comparison of Spanish and English sounds, pronunciation activities, analysis of oral discourses, etc.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive; Topics Course
E. Castro
Prereq: Spanish 209.
Credits: 4

SPAN-260PS Studies in Language and Society: An Introduction: 'Public Speaking'
Spring
This course is an introduction to phonetics (study of sounds) and phonology (study of sound system) of Spanish and to some of the main dialectological varieties of the language. As it is designed specifically for English-speaking students, one of the main objectives of the course is to help students improve their pronunciation of Spanish through various practices such as description of sounds, analysis and comparison of Spanish and English sounds, pronunciation activities, analysis of oral discourses, etc.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive; Topics Course
E. Castro
Prereq: Spanish 209.
Credits: 4

SPAN-295 Independent Study
Fall and Spring
The department
Instructor permission required.
Credits: 1-4
Course can be repeated for credit.


SPAN-330SL Advanced Studies in Identities and Intersections: 'Spain and Islam'
Fall
This course will explore a variety of questions and concerns about the 'Islamic constant presence' in Spanish history in order to understand critically the emphatic interest of ISIS in reconquering Spain. From an interdisciplinary perspective employing historical and literary texts, media, legal documents, art, and movies, we will study the Spanish-Islam connection, starting at the period of the supposed coexistence between Muslims and Christians in the Middle Ages. Issues of assimilation and integration in relation to the use of veils, the creation of mosques, immigration, terrorism, and so on, will be analyzed by following a comparative model to examine the past and present.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive; Topics Course
N. Romero-Díaz
Prereq: Two 200-level Spanish courses above Spanish 212.
Notes: This course may be of interest to medieval studies students
Credits: 4

SPAN-340 Advanced Studies in Visual Cultures
A broad introduction to the study of visual representation in Latin American, Spanish, and U.S. Latina/o culture. Students will examine the articulation of a variety of topics in media such as film, television, fine arts, Internet, and/or video. The specific course contents and examples will vary each semester.
Not Scheduled for This Year
This course examines how digital storytelling (DST) may enhance bilingual literacy. Students will assist Spanish-speaking residents in Springfield during the completion of an English-language digital storytelling workshop imparted by the Latino Youth Media Institute. Grounded in New Media Literacies and Latina/o studies, students will bring their own interests and disciplinary expertise as we evaluate and refine our experimental use of DST to promote bilingualism. Five College faculty and community partners will support our multidisciplinary and digital project. Taught mostly in English with some Spanish. Intermediate Spanish (201) is required for non Spanish majors or minors.
Crosslisted as: Educational Studies 250BL
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Community-Based Learning; Topics Course
The department
Prereq: Spanish 201 for non Spanish majors/minors. Spanish 212 and two 200-level courses for Spanish majors/minors.
Advisory: Spanish 201 for non Spanish majors/minors. Spanish 212 and two 200-level courses for Spanish majors/minors.
Notes: Taught in both English and Spanish according to level of Spanish proficiency of students enrolled.
Credits: 4

SPAN-340PA Advanced Studies in Visual Cultures: 'Natural's Not in It: Pedro Almodóvar'
Spring
This course studies the films of Pedro Almodóvar, European cinema's favorite bad boy turned acclaimed auteur. On the one hand, students learn to situate films within the context of contemporary Spanish history (the transition to democracy, the advent of globalization, etc.) in order to consider the local contours of postmodern aesthetics. On the other hand, the films provide a springboard to reflect on larger theoretical and ethical debates. For instance, what can a weeping transvestite teach us about desire? What happens when plastic surgery and organ transplants become metaphors? Under what circumstances, if any, can spectators find child prostitution cute?
Crosslisted as: Film Studies 380PA
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Community-Based Learning; Topics Course
J. Crumbaugh
Prereq: Two 200-level Spanish courses above Spanish 212.
Notes: Weekly evening screenings.
Credits: 4

SPAN-350 Advanced Studies in Concepts and Practices of Power
Spring
In 1492, the Spanish conquest forever changed indigenous America and created a new world. European imperial discourses collided with resistance movements and the emerging voices of oppressed peoples, including indigenous peoples, women, and mestizos. This course traces the tensions between imperialist and resistance discourses during both the colonial period and today. We will analyze the literary 'fighting words' that consolidated the Spanish empire and later opened the path to Latin American independence. Tracing the impact of these struggles on the Americas today, we will examine how subaltern communities currently fight to make their voices heard in a globalized world.
Crosslisted as: Latin American Studies 387FW
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive; Topics Course
The department
Prereq: Two 200-level Spanish courses above Spanish 212.
Notes: Taught in Spanish.
Credits: 4

Not Scheduled for This Year
This class will interrogate the limits and possibilities of talking about a slanted or queer subject position with the context of Latin American literature. Looking at texts from the Caribbean, Central America and South America, we will explore the construction of a queer subjectivity through literature, film and visual art. We will pay careful attention to the intersections of class, race, gender, and sexuality to speak of queerness not only as a sexual orientation, but also as a decolonial intervention. Readings will draw from philosophy as well as literature.
Crosslisted as: Gender Studies 333XX
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive; Topics Course
T. Daly
Prereq: Two 200-level Spanish courses above Spanish 212.
Credits: 4

SPAN-360 Advanced Studies in Language and Society
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.

SPAN-360MT Advanced Studies in Language and Society: 'The Mind of the Traveler: Journeys, Expeditions, Tours'
Spring
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.
Crosslisted as: Romance Languages & Cultures 375MT, Italian 361MT, French 321MT
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
O. Frau
Prereq: Two 200-level courses above Spanish 212.
Advisory: for language majors; two courses in culture and literature at the 200-level
Notes: 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.
Credits: 4

SPAN-395 Independent Study
Fall and Spring
The department
Instructor permission required.
Credits: 1-8
Course can be repeated for credit.