Department of Foreign Languages

The M.A. in Spanish program prepares students to use their linguistic proficiency and cultural knowledge to function successfully in today’s global environment.

Faculty members create a near total immersion language environment in the classroom in which both students and faculty use the target language all the time. Faculty strive to create an environment of engagement in which students internalize the value of learning languages and understanding other cultures. Students practice the language competencies of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and culture by working collaboratively and individually on activities and projects both in and outside the classroom with guidance and feedback from their instructors. The Department of Foreign Languages offers a variety of courses which engage the student in discussions of literary, cultural, social, philosophical, political, historical and contemporary texts and contexts. By focusing on these areas, we prepare students to be highly competent both linguistically and culturally so that they are able to function successfully in today’s global environment. The Department of Foreign Languages also offers several highly successful study abroad programs in Spain and Latin America. The M.A. in Spanish program serves not only students who major or minor in a foreign language, but it also serves students who majored in other disciplines, but who can utilize advanced knowledge of Spanish to enhance their skillset and goals.

By creating an environment in which students master both linguistic competence and cultural sensitivity, the M.A. in Spanish program supports the university’s broader institutional vision of graduating students who embrace core values expressed through integrity, civility, kindness, collaboration, and a commitment to lifelong learning, wellness, and social responsibility.

Foreign Languages Degree


SPAN 5030G Selected Topics in Spanish
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Selected topics in Spanish. Graduate students will be assigned extra work that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in one 4000-level Spanish course or permission of instructor.
Cross Listing(s): SPAN 5030, SPAN 5030S.

SPAN 5090G Selected Topics in Spanish
1-3 Credit Hours. 1-3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in SPAN 2002 or SPAN 2060.
Cross Listing(s): SPAN 5090.

SPAN 5230G Studies in Hispanic History
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Practice of Superior-level Spanish-proficiency skills through the examination of the history of the Spanish-speaking world. Graduate students must produce an extra paper/project, give an extra conference-length presentation, and conduct extra research that is not required of the undergraduate students. Course repeatable for credit with advisor approval.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in one 4000-level Spanish course or permission of instructor.
Cross Listing(s): SPAN 5230.

SPAN 5234G Studies in Hispanic Literature
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Practice of Superior-level Spanish-proficiency skills through the examination of the literatures of the Spanish-speaking world. Situates works in their cultural, historical, and aesthetic contexts using appropriate critical methodologies. Graduate students must produce an extra paper/project, give an extra conference-length presentation, and conduct extra research that is not required of the undergraduate students. Course repeatable for credit with advisor approval.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in one 4000-level Spanish course or permission of instructor.
Cross Listing(s): SPAN 5234.

SPAN 5331G Latinos in the U.S.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course is designed to familiarize students with significant cultural, historical, and social contributions of Latinos in the United States. Emphasis will be placed on the diversity within the Latino community and the contributions of Latino literature. Graduate students will be assigned extra work that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in one 4000-level Spanish course or permission of instructor.
Cross Listing(s): SPAN 5331.

SPAN 5332G Studies in Hispanic Film
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Practice of Superior-level Spanish-proficiency skills through study of the films of the Spanish-speaking world. Situates works in their cultural, historical, and aesthetic contexts using appropriate critical methodologies. Graduate students must produce an extra paper/project, give an extra conference-length presentation, and conduct extra research that is not required of the undergraduate students. Course repeatable for credit with advisor approval.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in one 4000-level Spanish course or permission of instructor.
Cross Listing(s): SPAN 5332.

SPAN 6130 History of the Spanish Language
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Study of how Spanish developed from Latin to its contemporary form. Emphasis upon the external historical context in which Spanish developed, as well as an understanding of what linguists think about language change and evolution from phonological, morphological, and syntactic points of view.

SPAN 6132 Hispanic Linguistics
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course explores Spanish linguistics and establishes the basis for future application of linguistic principles. The course begins with an exploration of the sound system of Spanish and its theoretical representation. Building on this, the discussion continues with topics in Spanish morphology such as word formation and verbal inflection. This is followed by issues in syntax and semantics that are analyzed both in isolation and in terms of their relationship to each other. The goal of this course is to provide students with a level of knowledge that enables them to make connections between the structure of Spanish and relevant issues in contemporary Hispanic linguistics, such as language variation, bilingualism, and Spanish in the United States.

SPAN 6230 Early Modern Hispanic Studies
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Practice of Superior-level Spanish-proficiency skills through detailed analysis of the Spanish-speaking world prior to the disintegration of the Spanish Empire. Situates content studied in its cultural, historical, and aesthetic contexts using appropriate critical methodologies. Course repeatable for credit with advisor approval.
SPAN 6231 18th- and 19th-Century Hispanic Studies
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Practice of Superior-level Spanish-proficiency skills through detailed analysis of the Spanish-speaking world of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Situates content studied in its cultural, historical, and aesthetic contexts using appropriate critical methodologies. Course repeatable for credit with advisor approval.

SPAN 6237 20th- and 21st-Century Hispanic Studies
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Practice of Superior-level Spanish-proficiency skills through detailed analysis of the Spanish-speaking world of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Situates content studied in its cultural, historical, and aesthetic contexts using appropriate critical methodologies. Course repeatable for credit with advisor approval.

SPAN 7090 Selected Topics in Spanish
1-12 Credit Hours. 1-12 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Selected Topics in Spanish.
Cross Listing(s): SPAN 7090S.

SPAN 7091 Seminar in Spanish
1-12 Credit Hours. 1-12 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Seminar in Spanish.

SPAN 7130 Studies in Spanish Pedagogy
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Practice of Superior-level Spanish-proficiency skills through the study of the history and practice of Spanish pedagogy. Emphasis placed on learning how to help Spanish-language learners become functionally proficient in Spanish. Opportunities provided for hands-on experience. Course repeatable for credit with advisor approval.

SPAN 7131 Studies in Spanish Language
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Practice of Superior-level Spanish-proficiency skills through theoretical and pragmatic analysis of various branches of linguistics, with special attention to practical applications. Topics may include semantics, stylistics, morphology, phonology, dialectology, sociolinguistics, etc. Course repeatable for credit with advisor approval.

SPAN 7195 Studies Abroad: Language
1-12 Credit Hours. 1-12 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Studies oral and written features of the Spanish within a Spanish-speaking country, using native materials and resources.
Cross Listing(s): SPAN 7195S.

SPAN 7195S Studies Abroad: Language
1-12 Credit Hours. 1-12 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Studies oral and written features of Spanish within a Spanish-speaking country using native materials and resources.
Cross Listing(s): SPAN 7195.

SPAN 7232 Studies in Hispanic Authors
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Practice of Superior-level Spanish-proficiency skills through the study of the life, works, and criticism of a particular Hispanic author. Course repeatable for credit with advisor approval.

SPAN 7233 Periods, Genres, Themes
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Practice of Superior-level Spanish-proficiency skills through the study of a particular period, genre, or theme of importance in Hispanic life, art, and literature. Course repeatable for credit with advisor approval.

SPAN 7234 Spanish Masterpieces
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Practice of Superior-level Spanish-proficiency skills through the study of a Spanish masterpiece situated within both its historical moment and its critical aftermath. Works might include such titles as Don Quijote, Cien años de soledad, La Regenta, etc. Course repeatable for credit with advisor approval.

SPAN 7395 Studies Abroad: Culture
1-12 Credit Hours. 1-12 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Studies literature, culture, and/or civilization within a Spanish-speaking country, using native materials and resources.
Cross Listing(s): SPAN 7395S.

SPAN 7395S Studies Abroad: Culture
1-12 Credit Hours. 1-12 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Studies literature, culture, and/or civilization within a Spanish-speaking country, using native materials and resources.
Cross Listing(s): SPAN 7395.

SPAN 7890 Directed Study in Spanish
1-12 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Independent Study under faculty supervision.
Cross Listing(s): SPAN 7890S.

SPAN 7890S Directed Study in Spanish
1-12 Credit Hours. 1-12 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Independent Study under faculty supervision.
Cross Listing(s): SPAN 7890.

SPAN 7999 Thesis
1-6 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Planned research and writing directed by the student’s thesis director.