

Graduate Program in Spanish

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The Master of Arts in Spanish

The graduate curriculum in Spanish is designed to provide students with better command of oral and written Spanish and to consolidate the student's knowledge of the cultures and literature of the Spanish-speaking world. The student plans her program of study with the assistance of the director of the program, taking into consideration the student's particular preparation and objectives.

Admission: Admission requires a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university and a strong undergraduate record. An undergraduate degree in the language is not required in cases where competency has been acquired through experience. Students will be admitted on a full- or part-time basis to the graduate program. Applicants for admission to the Master of Arts program must submit an official transcript of the undergraduate record, a statement of purpose in pursuing the program, an analytical writing sample in Spanish, and two letters of recommendation from teachers or other persons well acquainted with the academic ability and performance of the candidate. Inquiries should be addressed to the program director, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Simmons College, 300 The Fenway, Boston, MA, 02115-5898; or call 617-521-2182.

Degree Requirements: The MA in Spanish requires the completion of eight courses, selected in consultation with the program director, one of which may be a graduate

seminar in literary theory taught in English cross-listed as SPAN 405. A master's thesis is not required. Students should plan to complete the degree requirements within five years.

Certificate Program in Spanish:

This non-degree program is designed for students who have a BA and want to further their studies in Spanish but do not want to enroll in, or have no need for, an MA program. Students take four courses from the graduate Spanish course listings. Students have the option of taking one graduate summer course in Santander, Spain, through GRIIS. For more information, contact the Graduate Spanish office at 617-521-2183.

COURSES

SPAN 445 Conversation and Composition (F-1,2; S-1-2)

4 sem. hrs.

Aims to increase proficiency in the oral and written use of language. Readings include selections by contemporary Latin American authors and focus on various issues, such as women's roles and human rights. Includes written assignments and oral presentations based on readings and other current events. Halty.

SPAN 464 Pushing the Limits: The Quest for Freedom in Contemporary Hispanic Theater (S-1)

4 sem. hrs.

Discusses modern Spanish and Latin American playwrights who, faced with the limitations of a repressive society, seek liberation, freedom of expression, and new perspectives through the medium of the theater. Studies internationally acclaimed works by García Lorca, Buero Vallejo, Sastre, Arrabal, and others. Cohen.

SPAN 466 Imagination, Freedom, and Repression in Latin American Literature (F-1)

4 sem. hrs.

Critically examines texts ranging from the conquest, the colonial era, the wars of independence, the dictatorships of the 20th century, and the present. Covers topics including Spanish views of America and its peoples, the role of writers as advocates for independence, the emergence of the

gaucho, and the tension between literary expression and authoritarianism. Halty.

SPAN 469 The Image of the Bourgeoisie in the 19th- and 20th-Century Spanish Novel (S-2)

4 sem. hrs.

Analyzes the changes and evolution of the religious, social, political, and cultural values of the Spanish bourgeoisie. Studies 19th-century realist writers such as Pérez Galdós, Clarín, and Pardo Bazán as well as 20th-century neorealists like Martín Gaité and Delibes. Peláez-Benitez.

SPAN 449 Graduate Directed Study (F-1,2; S-1-2)

4 or 8 sem. hrs. Prereq.: Consent of the instructor.

SPAN 450 Graduate Independent Study (F, S-1,2)

4 or 8 sem. hrs. Prereq.: Consent of the instructor.

SPAN 510 The Making of Spain: Studies in Spanish Culture (F-1)

4 sem. hrs.

Introduces students to the culture of Spain through the ages, from the multicultural society in medieval Iberia to maestros such as El Greco, Velázquez, and Goya. Includes works by a wide variety of authors and explores music, dance, and film, as well as contemporary issues through newspapers and Internet sites. Peláez-Benítez.

SPAN 512 Society and Politics in Latin America: The Collision of Two Worlds and the Search for Identity (F-2)

4 sem. hrs.

Studies the political, artistic, and intellectual history of the Spanish-speaking nations of the Western Hemisphere, in particular Mexico, Peru, and Argentina. Topics include the conquests of Mexico and Peru, Bolívar and the fight for independence, the Mexican Revolution, the Cuban Revolution, and the dictatorships of the 1970s and 1980s. Halty.

SPAN 514 Hispanic Culture as Seen Through Film (S-1)

4 sem. hrs.

Presents Hispanic culture, politics, and literature as seen through the prism of cinema. Topic changes yearly. Peláez-Benítez.

SPAN 518 Insiders and Outsiders: Love, Honor, and Social Unrest in 16th- and 17th-Century Spain (F-2)

4 sem. hrs.

Explores Spain's major contributions to world literature, from short novels by Cervantes to the original macho, Don Juan, and from honor plays to the underworld of pimps and prostitutes. Views saints and scoundrels against the backdrop of the Golden Age, whose accomplishments and atrocities reflect the impact of the Spanish Inquisition. Cohen.

SPAN 520 The World of Don Quijote (F-1)

4 sem. hrs.

Analyzes the first modern novel, *Don Quijote de la Mancha*, the classic whose timeliness and timelessness establish it as one of the masterpieces of western literature. Explores how the knight and his squire come alive for the modern reader as they have for generations of authors indebted to Cervantes. Cohen.

SPAN 522 Love, War, and Parody in Medieval and Contemporary Spanish Fiction (F-2)

4 sem. hrs.

Studies war and power as well as the concept of courtly love both in medieval masterpieces and in contemporary Spanish literature. Readings include the *Cantar de Mio Cid* (12th century) and Urraca (1991), *Cárcel de amor* (1492), *La Celestina* (1499), and *Melibea no quiere ser mujer* (1991). Peláez-Benítez.

SPAN 532 Contemporary Fiction in Latin America (S-1)

4 sem. hrs.

Discusses the artist's view of social turmoil and the political upheaval that has characterized Latin America in this century. Explores topics that may include coming of age and confronting socioeconomic, religious, and political realities; the figure of the dictator; and exile and *insilio*. Halty.

SPAN 536 Latin American Women Writers (S-2)

4 sem. hrs.

Explores the social, cultural, and aesthetic representation of women in Latin America in the 20th century. Topics include the relationship between society's expectations of women and literary production, the emergence of a feminist point of view, the role of women in political life, and the

F = Fall
S = Spring
U = Summer
TC = Travel Course
1 = Academic Year 2008-2009
2 = Academic Year 2009-2010
* = Schedule t.b.a.

role of the writer in shaping national identity. Halty.

SPAN 580 Migrant in the City: Fieldwork Seminar on Puerto Rican Culture (S-2)

4 sem. hrs.

Introduces Puerto Rican culture and placements in the community. Topics include migration, housing, employment, education, race and racism, machismo, and the Puerto Rican woman. Includes true-life accounts by writers such as Piri Thomas, Oscar Lewis, Pedro Juan Soto, and Esmeralda Santiago, complemented by videos. Cohen.

SPAN 595 Seminar: Special Topics in Spanish*

4 sem. hrs. Topic changes from year to year. Staff.

Graduate Seminars

SPAN 405 Contemporary Critical Theory (F-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Introduces graduate students to the concepts and practices of contemporary literary and cultural criticism. Surveys poststructuralist, psychoanalytic, Marxist, new-historicist, postcolonial, feminist, and gender theory, bringing these perspectives to bear on key literary and historical texts. (Also listed as GCS 405 and ENGL 405.) Bergland.

Linguistics Courses for Education and Dual-Degree Students

ML 408 Second Language Acquisition (U-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Presents research underlying the major theories of second language acquisition. The importance of such factors as age, role of first language, language environment, learning style, and motivation is examined. Other topics to be discussed include acquisition order, error analysis, interlanguage, and discourse analysis, as well as implications for classroom practice. Students reflect on the process of language acquisition by tutoring a non-native English speaker. Mikulecky.

ML 410 Introduction to Linguistics and English Grammar (S-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Examines phonological, morphological, lexical, syntactic, and historical issues for TESL or anyone interested in the English language. Students tutor

a non-native speaker for a view of English grammar from the learner's perspective, and synthesize their own versions of teaching points and strategies. Chumley.