Hispanic Studies

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Program Codes:
20FS1312MA (MA)
20FS1900PHD (PhD)

The Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies offers work leading to degrees in Hispanic Studies at both the master’s and doctoral levels. Students with a baccalaureate degree may apply directly to the doctoral program. The MA and PhD programs offer two concentrations: Hispanic Literary and Cultural Studies and Spanish Linguistics. Interdepartmental concentrations in Gender and Women’s Studies, Latin American and Latino Studies, and Violence Studies are available to students in both the master’s and doctoral programs. The Interdepartmental Graduate Concentration in Neuroscience is also available to doctoral students in the Hispanic Linguistics Concentration.

The department also offers a master’s in the Teaching of Spanish; more information in the Spanish section of this catalog.

Admission and Degree Requirements

- MA in Hispanic Studies
- PhD in Hispanic Studies

SPAN 400. History of the Spanish Language. 3 or 4 hours.
Origins and development of Spanish; phonological, morphological, syntactic development of the language; foreign influences; origin of dialects. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite(s): SPAN 362 or SPAN 401 or consent of the instructor.

SPAN 406. Spanish Sociolinguistics. 3 or 4 hours.
Past and current theoretical and empirical sociolinguistics as applied to the study of variation within Spanish and U.S. Hispanic communities. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite(s): SPAN 363 or consent of the instructor.

SPAN 407. Methods of Literary and Cultural Analysis. 3 or 4 hours.
Introduction to basic tools and critical vocabulary to conduct advanced work in Hispanic literature. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Taught in Spanish or English. Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or above and completion of two 300-level courses in Spanish literature; or consent of the instructor.

SPAN 408. Hispanic Dialectology. 3 or 4 hours.
Descriptive and historical analysis of the most salient linguistic phenomena of peninsular and American Spanish dialects. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite(s): SPAN 362 or SPAN 401; or consent of the instructor.

SPAN 409. Semantics and Pragmatics in Spanish. 3 or 4 hours.
Introduction to the study of meaning in language with a focus on Spanish. Includes formal/compositional semantics and an introduction to pragmatics. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite(s): SPAN 365 or SPAN 401; or consent of the instructor.

SPAN 411. Topics in Medieval and Early Modern Spanish Literature and Culture. 3 or 4 hours.
Exploration of topics and theoretical approaches to the literature and culture of medieval and early modern Spain. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated if topics vary. Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or above. Completion of two 300-level courses in Spanish literature; or consent of the instructor.

SPAN 414. Topics in Cervantes' Don Quijote. 3 or 4 hours.
Examination of current critical and theoretical approaches to Cervantes Don Quijote, including questions of gender, class, historiography, and ideology. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated if topics vary. Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or above and completion of two 300-level courses in Spanish literature; or consent of the instructor.

SPAN 411. Topics in 18th and 19th Century Spanish Literature and Culture. 3 or 4 hours.
Exploration of topics and theoretical approaches to Peninsular literature and culture from the Neoclassical period through the Generation of 1898. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated if topics vary. Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or above and completion of two 300-level courses in Spanish literature; or consent of the instructor.

SPAN 422. Topics in 20th and 21st Century Spanish Literature and Culture. 3 or 4 hours.
Exploration of topics; sociological and historical approaches to the literature and culture from the vanguard movements of the early 20th century through the present day. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated if topics vary. Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or above and completion of two 300-level courses in Spanish literature; or consent of the instructor.

SPAN 427. Studies in Language Policy and Cultural Identity. 3 or 4 hours.
Examines the development, articulation, and effects of language policies on identity formation and culture. Focuses on the United States and the Spanish language, although other countries and languages are included. Course Information: Same as LALS 427. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Taught in English. Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or above. Reading and writing knowledge of Spanish.

SPAN 430. Topics in Colonial History, Literature and Culture. 3 or 4 hours.
Topics in colonial literature, history and culture intended to introduce students to the main methodologies, paradigms, issues and critical approaches to colonial studies. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated if topics vary. Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or above and completion of two 300-level courses in Spanish literature; or consent of the instructor.
SPAN 431. Topics in Latin American Letters from the Revolutionary Era to Independence. 3 or 4 hours.
Nineteenth-century literary trends from the beginnings of the novel through Romanticism and Realism to Urban naturalism. Prose and poetry. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated if topics vary. Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or above and completion of two 300-level courses in Spanish literature; or consent of the instructor.

SPAN 434. Topics in Latin American Letters from Modernismo to the Early 1970's. 3 or 4 hours.
Emergence of new literary and cultural trends from the beginning of the 20th century to the end of the so-called Latin American Boom. It may include fiction, poetry, film, theater, as well as less traditional genres. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated if topics vary. Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or above and completion of two 300-level courses in Spanish literature; or consent of the instructor.

SPAN 435. Topics in Contemporary Urban Latin American and Latino Culture, Literature and the Arts. 3 or 4 hours.
Study of particular cultural, artistic or literary phenomenon in urban Latin American and Latino culture, literature or the arts. Emphasis on cultural studies and/or literary analysis. Critical writing is an important component of the course. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated if topics vary. Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or above for undergraduate students, completion of two 300-level courses in Spanish literature; or consent of the instructor.

SPAN 436. Special Topics in the Teaching of Spanish. 1-4 hours.
Course content is announced prior to each term in which course is given. Course Information: May be repeated. Students may register in more than one section per term. Taught in English. Some semesters, may be taught in Spanish. Prerequisite(s): Approval of the department.

SPAN 440. Theory and Methods in Teaching Heritage Speakers. 3 or 4 hours.
Reviews theories in bilingual development, sociolinguistics, and language teaching in order to understand best practices in and develop coherent materials for teaching heritage language learners. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Course is taught online and internet/computer access is required. Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or above; and consent of the instructor. Recommended background: Credit or concurrent registration in SPAN 363 or Credit or concurrent registration in SPAN 448 or Credit or concurrent registration in SPAN 449.

SPAN 448. Foundations of Second Language Teaching. 3 or 4 hours.
Provides an introduction to second language acquisition research and its implications for communicative language teaching. Emphasis is on creating activities to develop high school students' communicative abilities in speaking and listening. Course Information: Same as FR 448 and GER 448. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Taught in English. Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or above; and consent of the instructor and three courses at the 200 and 300 levels.

SPAN 449. Teaching Second Language Literacy and Cultural Awareness. 3 or 4 hours.
Examines the nature of literacy as a reciprocal relationship between readers, writers, texts and culture. Students learn the practical and theoretical foundations of classroom teaching of second language reading and writing skills. Course Information: Same as FR 449, and GER 449. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Taught in English. Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or above; and consent of the instructor and three courses at the 200 and 300 levels.

SPAN 451. Educational Practice with Seminar I. 6 hours.
The first half of a two-segment sequence of practice teaching, including seminar, to meet certification requirements for teaching in grades six through twelve. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Good academic standing in a teacher education program, completion of 100 clock hours of pre-student-teaching field experiences, and approval of the department. Class Schedule Information: To be properly registered, students must enroll in one Lecture-Discussion and one Practice.

SPAN 452. Educational Practice with Seminar II. 6 hours.
The second half of a two-segment sequence of practice teaching, including seminar, to meet certification requirements for teaching in grades six through twelve. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Good academic standing in a teacher education program, completion of 100 clock hours of pre-student-teaching field experiences, credit or concurrent registration in SPAN 451, and approval of the department. Class Schedule Information: To be properly registered, students must enroll in one Conference and one Practice.

SPAN 487. Computer Assisted Language Learning. 3 or 4 hours.
An introduction to computer assisted language learning (CALL): the use of computer technology in second language reading and research. The effectiveness of CALL technology is assessed based on SLA theory and research studies. Course Information: Same as GER 487 and LING 487. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Taught in English. Extensive computer use required. Prerequisite(s): LING 483 or CIE 483 or GER 448 or FR 448 or SPAN 448 or GER 449 or FR 449 or SPAN 449; or SPAN 502 or FR 502 or the equivalent; and senior standing or above.

SPAN 500. Intensive Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics. 4 hours.
An intensive introduction to phonetics/phonology, syntax, and semantics of Spanish. Course Information: Previously listed as SPAN 401.

SPAN 501. Introduction to Literary Analysis and Criticism for Teachers of Spanish. 4 hours.
The distinctive elements of genre and introduction to the main theory movements in literary criticism in the 21st century through the reading of Spanish works. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor. Recommended background: Coursework in literature and/or education, or experience teaching Spanish. Recommended background: Coursework in literature and/or education, or experience teaching Spanish.

SPAN 504. Seminar in Spanish Theoretical and Descriptive Linguistics. 4 hours.
Topics in phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics or dialectology of Spanish. Course Information: May be repeated to a maximum of 16 hours if topics vary. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.

SPAN 505. Seminar in Second Language Acquisition and Bilingualism. 4 hours.
Current theoretical and research directions of bilingualism and second language acquisition by non-natives. May include original empirical research projects. Course Information: May be repeated to a maximum of 8 hours. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.
SPAN 509. Spanish Phonology. 4 hours.
Provides an introduction to the organization of the Spanish sound system from the perspective of generative phonology. Course Information: Previously listed as SPAN 404. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.

SPAN 510. Advanced Spanish Phonology. 4 hours.
In depth discussion of current issues in phonological theory and evaluation of their predictions for the analysis of Spanish phonology. Course Information: Previously listed as SPAN 508.

SPAN 511. Spanish Syntax. 4 hours.
Introduction to Spanish syntax within a generative framework. Course Information: Previously listed as SPAN 402.

SPAN 512. Syntactic theory and Spanish syntax. 4 hours.
In depth discussion of current issues in syntactic theory and evaluation of their predictions for the analysis of Spanish syntax. Course Information: Previously listed as SPAN 506. Prerequisite(s): SPAN 511; or consent of the instructor.

SPAN 515. Advanced Seminar in Medieval and Early Modern Spanish Literature and Culture. 4 hours.
Examination of topics using selected literary, historical and philosophical readings from Medieval and Early Modern Spain. Course Information: May be repeated up to 1 time(s). May be taught in English or Spanish. Recommended background: Credit or concurrent registration in SPAN 409 and SPAN 411.

SPAN 520. Advanced Seminar on Modern and/or Contemporary Spanish Literature and Culture. 4 hours.
Particular areas, genres, works or figures in 19th, 20th or 21st Century Spanish literature and culture. Course Information: May be repeated to a maximum of 8 hours. May be taught in English or Spanish.

SPAN 522. Advanced Seminar on Hispanic Colonial and Postcolonial Letters and Culture. 4 hours.
An in-depth examination of problems and issues that concern the study of colonial and postcolonial cultures and societies. Course Information: May be repeated to a maximum of 8 hours. May be taught in English or Spanish.

SPAN 523. Advanced Seminar on Postmodern Latin American Literature, Film and Culture. 4 hours.
An in-depth examination of issues, trends and problems that concern recent and contemporary Latin American literature, film and other art forms. Course Information: May be repeated to a maximum of 8 hours. May be taught in English or Spanish.

SPAN 525. Advanced Seminar on Trans-American, Transatlantic and/or US Latino Studies. 4 hours.
Intensive study of relevant issues in comparative Transatlantic, Trans-American and/or US Latino literatures and cultures. Course Information: May be repeated up to 1 time(s). May be taught in English or Spanish.

SPAN 535. Concepts and Methodologies in Hispanic Literary and Cultural Studies. 4 hours.
Study of concepts and methodologies in current Hispanic literary and cultural studies. Course Information: May be repeated to a maximum of 8 hours. Prerequisite(s): SPAN 407 or consent of the instructor.

SPAN 540. Seminar on Language in Context. 4 hours.
Past and current theoretical and empirical directions as applied to the study of oral and written discourse and its social context. Course Information: May be repeated to a maximum of 8 hours. Prerequisite(s): SPAN 406; or consent of the instructor.

SPAN 551. Research Practicum in Sociolinguistics. 4 hours.
Strategies and methods for studying language use in communities: participant-observation, interviewing, elicitation, using public-domain data, note-taking vs. tape recording, and issues of transcription and ethics. Course Information: Same as LING 551. May be repeated to a maximum of 12 hours. Prerequisite(s): LING 480; or consent of the instructor.

SPAN 556. Second Language Learning. 4 hours.
An introduction to research findings and methods in second language learning. Course Information: Same as LING 556. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.

SPAN 557. Theories in Second Language Acquisition. 4 hours.
Review of current linguistic, cognitive, and socio-cultural theories with the following in mind: What do these theories purport to explain? What methodologies are used by researchers working within the theories? Course Information: Taught in English. Prerequisite(s): LING 556 or SPAN 556; or consent of the instructor.

SPAN 570. Seminar in Literary Theory and Criticism. 4 hours.
Theories of literary production and reception; their application to the practice of literary criticism. Specific themes and topics vary. Course Information: Same as FR 570. May be repeated to a maximum of 8 hours with approval. Approval to repeat course granted by the instructor. Taught in English.

SPAN 590. Preliminary Examination and Dissertation Prospectus Preparation. 1-16 hours.
Under the supervision of a faculty mentor, the student will prepare for the preliminary examination and prepare the dissertation prospectus required by the department. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. May be repeated for a maximum of 16 hours of credit. A maximum of 16 credit hours can be applied toward the degree. Approval of the Department and completion of all required course work for the Ph.D. in Hispanic Studies. May be taken concurrently with non-required or elective course work.

SPAN 594. Special Topics in Hispanic Studies. 4 hours.
Topics which involve multiple approaches to problems in linguistics and literature, or which cross the chronological and geographical boundaries established in the seminars. Course Information: May be repeated to a maximum of 16 hours. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.

SPAN 596. Independent Study. 1-4 hours.
Provides for areas of study not regularly covered by departmental offerings. Study proposals must conform to departmental guidelines. Course Information: May be repeated. Students may register in more than one section per term. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.

SPAN 598. M.A. Thesis Research. 0-16 hours.
Students involved in thesis research and writing are assigned to the course at the discretion of the graduate committee. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. Prerequisite(s): Approval of the graduate committee.

SPAN 599. Ph.D. Thesis Research. 0-16 hours.
The writing of a Ph.D. thesis based on original research in the area of the candidate's major specialization (literature, linguistics, or culture). Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. May be repeated to a maximum of 31 hours. Prerequisite(s): Admission to candidacy for the doctoral degree and consent of director of graduate studies.