Spanish and Portuguese Courses
Fall 2021
SPAN 101 – Elementary Spanish I

Introduction to spoken and written Spanish; stress on interactive approach. Extensive and varied activities, including oral presentations, cultural readings and recordings, and video program.

MTH 8:30am – 9:45am/W 8:30am – 9:20am
Prof. Antonio Arraiza Rivera

TF 8:30am – 9:45am/W 8:30am – 9:20am
Prof. Nancy Hall
SPAN 201 – Intermediate Spanish I

Intensive review of all language skills and introduction to the art, literature, and cultures of Spain and Latin America. Emphasis on oral and written expression and critical analysis.
In this course, short selections in prose and poetry manifest popular revolutionary responses to repressive regimes throughout the ages, in Hispanic nations. We will examine issues of race and ethnicity, gender, and socio-political/ economic conditions that have resulted in social change. Cinematographic, musical and artistic creations complement and corroborate themes of dictatorial governments, military violence, religious self-righteousness, and families fragmented by civil war. We will study evolving national identities in Argentina, Chile, Cuba, El Salvador, Mexico and Spain. Particular focus will highlight deleterious discrimination towards Indigenous peoples.
This course explores literary texts as well as visual images from Contemporary Latin America. We will study the interactions between these texts and the role they play in culture, politics, and society. Our goal will be to decipher, analyze and contextualize their enigmas and their messages to better understand the importance of Latin American culture in a globalized context. Special attention will be paid to the improvement of linguistic abilities and to the acquisition of fluidity in written and oral expression.
Close readings of brief, groundbreaking fiction and essays that explore various forms of social injustice. We will study six authors from Spain, Argentina, Cuba, Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico who wrote during different historical periods, from the XVII century to the present. The selected texts feature young protagonists and/or narrators facing formidable obstacles while dreaming of a better society for themselves and others. Class discussions focus on the readings as well as current events from around the Spanish-speaking world. Students will visit Special Collections, complete a review of grammar, and write several short essays.
This course is for Heritage Learners of Spanish. Heritage Speakers have learned Spanish primarily as an immersion experience at home. Participants will improve their written and oral Spanish through the examination of cultural assumptions and values. Content is based on a variety of topics such as legends, differing historical perspectives, traditions, and others. The review of language structures and grammar will emerge from students’ language levels. Participants will read novels, short stories, plays, and essays. Students will examine multimedia illustrating experiences of Latinos/Hispanics in the United States. By the end of the semester, students will gain an understanding of how their culture influences language learning and how language learning affects their perspective of Latino/Hispanic culture. The course is conducted entirely in Spanish.
Few cities are as imbued with history, culture and myth as is Cordoba in the south of Spain. As of 2018 it can boast even more UNESCO World Heritage Sites than any other city in the world. As “City of Three Cultures” it witnessed the convergence over centuries of the three main monotheistic religions, a commingling that, while unique in medieval civilization, was rarely completely harmonious and may have oftentimes been overly idealized. Print materials (including philosophical and literary production), recent educational media (including digital architectural reconstructions) and samples of dance and music will offer students the opportunity to see how cultural cross pollination resulted in significant and lasting contributions to the world.
SPAN 269 – The Caribbean Experience: Literature, Culture and History

MTH 8:30am – 9:45am
Prof. Joy Renjilian-Burgy

An introduction to the major literary, historical, artistic and cultural traditions of the Caribbean. Attention will focus on the Spanish-speaking island countries: Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico. We will discuss such topics as slavery, independence, nation-building, race, gender, dictatorship, and immigration. We will use a variety of texts, films and artworks. Authors may include Juan Francisco Manzano, José Martí, Julia de Burgos, Alejo Carpentier, Nicolás Guillén, Nancy Morejón, Luis Palés Matos, Mayra Santos Febres and Junot Díaz.
SPAN 279 – Female Fashion in Colonial Latin America

TF 12:45pm – 2pm
Prof. Evelina Guzauskyte

In this interdisciplinary course, students will acquire a deep understanding of the colonial Latin American period, while learning to identify and interpret textiles, clothing items, and fashion movements. Focus on female garb in the 17th and 18th centuries Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Mexico. Topics will include dress as a form of language, representation, and performance; morality, and sexuality; dress and politics. Materials will include primary and secondary sources; illustrations of clothing in printed and manuscript texts; textiles and clothing in museums, Special Collections, and digital collections; films and webcasts; and representations of clothing in various art forms and digital sources. Students will be able to undertake a digital humanities project. Museum and Wellesley College Special Collections.
SPAN 303
Seminar: Argentine Women Filmmakers

M 2:20pm – 5pm
Prof. Inela Selimovic

This course focuses on fundamental films by prominent contemporary Argentine women filmmakers. The course will highlight topics such as the construction and representation of gender in an industry primarily populated by males, gendered filmic storytelling, and the heretofore unheralded influence of women filmmakers on the New Argentine Cinema (NAC). Students will examine the inherent heterogeneity that informed changing sociopolitical and cultural contexts from 1995 onwards and how these realities were both represented in new media and, in turn, shaped and rendered more nuanced the social, political, economic and cultural realities of the period both in Argentina and other parts of Latin America.
Connections between two geographically remote areas (Asia and Latin America) that would seem to have little in common will be studied. By analyzing prose, poetry, art, and music, we will examine diverse Asian influences in Latin American literature and culture from the nineteenth century to the present. We will explore how various images of the “exotic” Orient are represented in Latin America during the periods of “modernismo” and “vanguardia.”

We will also examine contemporary Asian-Latin American writers and artists with an emphasis on the multicultural experience of immigration and assimilation. Authors may include Edward Said, José Martí, José Rizal, Rubén Darío, José Juan Tablada, Enrique Gómez Carrillo, Octavio Paz, Jorge Luis Borges, Cristina García, Anna Kazumi Stahl, José Watanabe, Siu Kam Wen, and Seiichi Higashide.
Spain in the US: Facing the Past, Imagining the Future

The legacy of Spain in the US is a complicated one. On the one hand, Spanish conquest and colonization had devastating effects on indigenous peoples of North America. On the other, Spain has had an extensive and lasting influence on American and Hispanic cultures, especially in the areas of language, religion, art, and architecture. In order to understand the past, assess the present, and imagine the future, we will read chronicles from early Spanish explorers of North America, investigate Mission/Spanish revival architecture and painting, examine the testimonies of American travelers to Spain, and learn about social justice interventions of contemporary indigenous activists, including attacks on statues linked to colonialism and slavery in the United States depicting prominent figures from Spain’s past.

TH 2:20pm - 5PM
Prof. Carlos Ramos
PORT 103
Intensive Elementary Portuguese

MTTH 11:20am – 12:35pm W 11:30am – 12:20pm
Prof. António Igrejas

Introduction to listening, speaking, reading, and writing in Portuguese. Authentic cultural readings, art, music, and films from Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe and East Timor will be included. The course covers the full-year elementary language curriculum in one semester.
PORT 241  
Introduction to Lusophone Studies

MTH 2:20pm– 3:35pm  
Prof. António Igrejas

Practice in oral and written Portuguese at the advanced level. Serves as a transition between language study and cultural studies through the examination of Lusophone cultural and artistic production. Designed to enhance communicative competence, this course will include a review of advanced grammatical structures within cultural contexts of the Lusophone world. Class discussions focus on the readings and films, as well as current events from around the Portuguese-speaking world. Oral interactions and critical writing will be stressed.