Spring 2022
Spanish & Portuguese Courses
Introduction to spoken and written Spanish; stress on interactive approach. Extensive and varied activities, including oral presentations, cultural readings and recordings, and video program.
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.
SPAN 241.01 – Repression/Revolution and the Arts

Monday/Thursday 8:30-9:45am
Instructor: Joy Renjilian-Burgy

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 studies cultural expressions as invigorating glimpses into socio-political realities of Latin America and Spain. We will explore how writers, film directors, poets, and artists respond to social demands, political changes, and cultural shifts in particular times, places, and communities. Selected works engage students with diverse cultural repertoires of the Hispanic world in interdisciplinary ways. We will spotlight the relationship between political violence and literature in Argentina and Chile; displacement and photography in Spain and Uruguay; domestic workers and film in Mexico and Peru; education and artistic activism in El Salvador and Nicaragua; and exile and poetry in Cuba and Paraguay.
This course explores the construction of the child and adolescent voices in Argentine contemporary fiction and film. We will consider how young protagonists’ curiosities, trepidations, and transgressions in adult-regimented worlds have critical implications for class, gender, sexual and racial politics. Our discussions will center on diverse portrayals of children and adolescents as navigators of their settings, which range from shantytowns to country clubs, rural provinces to urban centers, homeless shelters to sheltered existences. Short stories, films, novels, and flash fiction by Ariel Magnus, Lucrecia Martel, Mariana Enríquez, Daniela Seggiaro, Paula Markovitch, Andrés Neuman, and Agustina Bazterrica will be considered.
This course will explore themes of mortality, memory, freedom, identity, family, community, myth-making, history, race, creativity, and the environment. Close readings of stories by 19th century founders (Quiroga, Palma, Darío) as well as 20th century masters (Borges, Cortázar, Lispector, and García Márquez among others). Special attention to voices that have emerged since 2000 and Spanish translations of works originally composed in indigenous languages.
The course focuses on women’s literary expression and the roles women played in the societies of pre-Hispanic and colonial Latin America, ranging from serving as concubines and slaves to being recognized as key figures of leadership and prominent literary voices. The course will integrate writing by women with the ways in which women are depicted in visual and material culture, historical sources, and film. Authors to be studied may include Anacaona, la Malinche, Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz, Gertrudis Gomez de Avellaneda, among others. In Spanish.
SPAN 272
Understanding Modern Spain

Tuesday/Friday 9:55-11am
Instructor: Carlos Ramos

A multidisciplinary introduction to contemporary Spain’s life and culture. Literary, historical, artistic, and anthropological readings will inform our understanding of recurrent themes in the construction and questioning of Spanish national identity and culture: Spain as a nexus of Christian, Jewish, and Islamic thought; centripetal vs. centrifugal forces; religion and class; long-term economic and cultural consequences of global empire; dictatorship and democracy. Attention will be paid to Portugal and to the diversity of languages and cultures of the Iberian Peninsula.
SPAN 302 – Freedom and Utopia:
Don Quijote in the 21st Century

Wednesday 9:30am—12:10pm
Instructor: Carlos Ramos

A close reading of one of the most important books of all times. We will explore why Don Quijote is still relevant today, with particular emphasis on Cervantes' invention of the novel form: creation of character, comic genius, hero versus anti-hero, levels of reality and fantasy, and history versus fiction.
SPAN 305 - Seminar: Hispanic Literature in the United States

Monday 9:55am-12:35pm
Instructor: Joy Renjilian-Burgy

A study of U.S. Hispanic writers of the Southwest and East Coast. Political, social, racial, and intellectual contexts of their times and shared inheritance will be explored, along with corresponding cinema and Art. Consideration of literary origins and methods of their craft.
Authors may include: Tomas Rivera, Rodolfo Gonzáles, José Martí, Américo Paredes, Gloria Anzaldúa, Cherríe Moraga, Julián Olivares, Sandra Cisneros, Esmeralda Santiago, Julia Alvarez, Carla Trujillo, and Cristina Garcia.
SPAN 325 – Seminar: Candid Cuisine: Food in Latin American Literature & Culture

Tuesday 2:20pm-5:00pm
Instructor: Evelina Guzauskyte

An in-depth study of food in Latin American literature and culture, with a particular focus on its functions and symbolism in indigenous cultures and in the context of the transatlantic exchanges of food products, plants, animals, and recipes among the Americas, Europe, and Africa after 1492. We will also study the role of food and cuisine in the search for new literary forms of expression during the Latin American independence era and contemporary food times. Notions of food, kitchens, and hunger will be vehicles to explore issues of gender, race, power relations, slavery, and the emergence of new hybrid cultures. Readings will include Gonzalo Fernández de Oviedo's Historia, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz' Respuesta, Francisco de Paula García Peláez' Libro del Chocolate, Fernando Ortiz' Contrapunteo cubano, and Laura Esquivel's Como agua para chocolate.
PORT 203 - Intensive Intermediate Portuguese

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 11:20am-12:35pm Wednesday 11:30am-12:20pm
Instructor: António Igrejas

Review of all language skills and continued study of Lusophone art, music, film, and literature. Emphasis on oral and written expression and critical analysis. The course covers the full-year intermediate language curriculum in one semester. In Portuguese.
This course is conducted in English and will introduce students to the cultures of the Portuguese-speaking world through selected films, music and readings. In this interdisciplinary course, we will explore how filmmakers, musicians and writers respond to social and political changes in Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Mozambique and Portugal. Topics covered include colonialism; postcolonialism; wars of independence in Africa; Brazil’s military dictatorship; Portugal’s New State dictatorship; evolving national identities; and representations of trauma and memory. Readings are in English and films have subtitles.