Overview of the Majors

In courses for the Spanish major, students gain understanding of the diversity of the Spanish-speaking world (Spain, Latin America, and the Hispanic U.S.) through the study of literature, non-literary texts, culture, language, and linguistics. At the same time, they develop communication, critical thinking, and analytical skills.

Level II courses are divided into two levels. In SPAN 250, the gateway course for all majors, students develop academic reading and writing skills in Spanish through textual analysis of cultural documents and literature. 270-level courses introduce students to a variety of ways to explore the Spanish-speaking world further through literature, linguistics, culture, and contemporary issues.

Level III courses build upon the analytical skills and knowledge of the Spanish-speaking world acquired by students in 270-level courses. These courses examine particular topics, genres, or critical or theoretical issues through textual analysis or analysis of linguistic data. Some of these courses focus on comparative analysis across geographical areas of the Spanish-speaking world.

Intended Learning Outcomes for the Major (http://wp.stolaf.edu/curriculum-committee/spanish-major-ilos)

Distinction

See Academic Honors (http://catalog.stolaf.edu/academic-regulations-procedures/academic-honors/#distinction)
The courses in the Spanish major are designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures and languages. The curriculum emphasizes the development of intercultural communicative skills through a combination of theoretical and practical approaches.

**Courses**

**SPAN 111: Introduction to Spanish Language and the Spanish-Speaking World I**
Students begin learning Spanish in an intercultural context. The course introduces the Spanish-speaking world through exploration of topics, for example: the geography of the Spanish-speaking world; Mexico, our neighbor; and ecotourism. In-class speaking, listening, reading, and writing activities are complemented by attendance at two required culture tables. Offered fall semester and Interim.

**SPAN 112: Introduction to Spanish Language and the Spanish-Speaking World II**
Students continue learning Spanish in an intercultural context. The course continues to examine the Spanish-speaking world through exploration of topics, for example: cities and urban life; housing; and the historical roots of culinary traditions and food production. In-class speaking, listening, reading, and writing activities are complemented by attendance at two required culture tables. Offered each semester.

Through exploring the material and human diversity of the Spanish-speaking world and important connections among the United States, the Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America, and Spain, students develop increasingly complex skills for analyzing and communicating in Spanish. An examination of geography, environmental challenges and solutions, development, demographic changes, and ethnic diversity highlights the intersection of cultural, economic, and environmental realities. Required attendance at three conversation tables. Offered each semester and during Interim.

**SPAN 232: Latinx Experiences in the United States**
Through autobiographies and other texts, students explore the unique histories and identities of Mexican-Americans, Cuban-Americans, and Puerto Ricans, among others. By considering how ethnicity, race, gender, and social class manifest themselves in U.S. institutions such as immigration policy, citizenship, and the educational system for different groups of Latinos, students will reflect on how power and privilege intersect to shape their own experiences. Attendance at four cultural events required. This Intermediate II-level Spanish course is offered each semester and during Interim.

**Prerequisite:** SPAN 231 or placement into SPAN 232.

**SPAN 233: Intermediate Spanish II in Ecuador (abroad)**
This course provides students with an intensive linguistic and cultural immersion experience in Ecuador. In-class activities focus on development of language skills and cross-cultural awareness. Outside of class, students improve their language proficiency and explore the cultural identity of Ecuador through a three-and-a-half-week homestay with a family in Quito; excursions and activities in and around the city of Quito; and field trips to the indigenous market of Otavalo, the Amazon region, and other areas in rural Ecuador. Completes foreign language requirement.

**Prerequisite:** SPAN 231 with a minimum grade of B- or equivalent preparation. Open to first-year students. Not open to students who have completed SPAN 232.

**SPAN 234: Intermediate Spanish II in Costa Rica (abroad)**
Students explore geographic, economic, political, and ethnic dimensions of life in Costa Rica by combining intensive course work with such cross-cultural experiences as a homestay in San Jose, field work, visits to sites of cultural interest, and excursions to the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. They consolidate their language skills and continue to develop their skills for analyzing and communicating in Spanish through compositions, oral presentations, and interviews of Costa Ricans.

**Prerequisite:** SPAN 231 or placement into SPAN 232.

**SPAN 250: Family and Gender Roles in Spain: 1900 to Present**
Students explore the topic of family and gender roles in the Spanish society by analyzing cultural documents (literary and non-literary texts, including at least one substantive literary work). This cultural analysis provides for the development of critical reading and writing skills (e.g., description, narration, exposition, and argumentation). Taught in Spanish. Offered each semester. Counts toward women's and gender studies and Latin American studies majors and family studies, management studies, and women's and gender studies concentrations.

**Prerequisite:** SPAN 232 or placement into SPAN 250.

**SPAN 270: Spain's Cultural and Linguistic Legacy (abroad)**
This topics course explores a Spanish peninsular cultural, literary, and/or linguistic theme from a base in Spain through analysis and discussion of texts, guest lectures, excursions to appropriate cultural sites, field research, and related experiential activities. Sample topics include: Christians, Jews and Muslims in Spain, and Spain's Autonomous Communities, Spain's Multilingual and Multicultural Landscape. Taught in Spanish. Counts toward Latin American studies major.

**Prerequisite:** SPAN 250.
SPAN 271: Cultural Heritage of Spain
Students examine the diverse elements that have shaped Spanish culture through an exploration of political, social, economic, religious, and artistic topics. They develop critical analysis skills through reading, discussion, and written and/or oral projects. This course includes the study of selected literary and non-literary texts, including at least one substantive literary work. Taught in Spanish. Counts toward Latin American studies major.
Prerequisite: SPAN 250.

SPAN 272: Cultural Heritage of Latin America
Students examine the diverse elements that have shaped Latin American culture through an exploration of political, social, economic, religious, and artistic topics. They develop critical analysis skills through reading, discussion, and written and/or oral projects. The course features the study of selected literary and non-literary texts, including at least one substantive literary work. Taught in Spanish. Counts toward Latin American studies major.
Prerequisite: SPAN 250.

SPAN 273: Cultural Heritage of the Hispanic U.S.
Students examine the diverse elements that have shaped the cultures of U.S. Hispanics through an exploration of political, social, economic, religious, and artistic topics. They develop skills in critical analysis through reading, discussion, and written and/or oral projects. The course features the study of selected literary and non-literary texts, including at least one substantive literary work. Taught in Spanish. Counts toward race and ethnic studies major and concentration.
Prerequisite: SPAN 250.

SPAN 274: Contemporary Issues in the Spanish-Speaking World
Students analyze patterns of continuity and change in Spain, Latin America, and/or the Hispanic U.S. Using readings from the press, academic sources, and governmental as well as non-governmental documents, students read, discuss, and write about issues at an advanced level of linguistic and analytical sophistication. The course includes study of at least one substantive literary work. Possible themes include love, family and marriage, or crossing borders and the challenges of migration. Taught in Spanish. Counts toward Latin American studies major.
Prerequisite: SPAN 250.

SPAN 275: Exploring Hispanic Literature
In this introduction to literary terminology and to principles of literary analysis across genres, literary texts (including poetry, short stories, theater, and novel) are studied in their socio-historical context. In different semesters, the focus may be literature of the Mexican Revolution, urban and rural life, or another topic chosen by the instructor. Taught in Spanish. Offered each semester.
Prerequisite: SPAN 250.

SPAN 276: Spanish as a First and Second Language
Students explore the processes involved in the acquisition of Spanish as a first and second language and the variation present in the language of both native and non-native speakers of Spanish from Spain, Latin America, and the U.S. Hispanic linguistics are studied with special attention paid to the socio-cultural as well as structural aspects. The course includes the study of at least one substantive literary work. Includes pronunciation lab. Taught in Spanish. Offered each semester. Counts toward linguistic studies concentration.
Prerequisite: SPAN 250.

SPAN 278: Exploring Hispanic Literature
In this introduction to literary terminology and to principles of literary analysis across genres, literary texts (including poetry, short stories, theater, and novel) are studied in their socio-historical context. In different semesters, the focus may be literature of the Mexican Revolution, urban and rural life, or another topic chosen by the instructor. Taught in Spanish. Offered each semester.
Prerequisite: SPAN 250.

SPAN 294: Academic Internship

SPAN 298: Independent Study

SPAN 311: Language in Society
What is the role of language in our society? What is the impact of bilingualism in the U.S.? Students explore such questions from current Spanish socio-linguistics research. Through analysis of data, students examine issues of language contact, variation and change, language and gender, language and power, and/or language planning. May be repeated if topic is different. This course includes the study of at least one substantive literary work. Taught in Spanish. Counts toward linguistic studies concentration.
Prerequisites: SPAN 250 and SPAN 276.

SPAN 312: Voices of the Spanish-Speaking World
Students examine political, economic, religious and/or social issues through textual analysis of literary and/or non-literary works representing diverse voices of the Spanish-speaking world (e.g. indigenous people, women, non-Castilian nationalities in Spain, or Afro-Hispanic groups). The course includes study of at least one substantive literary work. Sample topics include: Women and Repression or The Afro-Hispanic Struggle for Identity. May be repeated if topic is different. Taught in Spanish.
Prerequisites: SPAN 250 and at least one 270-level course.

SPAN 313: Literature and Society in Spain
Students explore one or more periods, genres, or topics of Spanish literature from its beginnings to the 21st century. Selected literary works are analyzed within their socio-historical and cultural contexts and in reference to pertinent critical or theoretical issues. Sample topics include: Sin and the Church in Medieval Literature, The Stage as Political Propaganda in Imperial Spain, and Federico García Lorca: Voices of the Oppressed. May be repeated if topic is different. Taught in Spanish.
Prerequisite: SPAN 275.

SPAN 314: Literature and Society in Latin America
Students explore one or more periods, genres, or topics from Pre-Columbian times to the 21st century. Selected literary works are analyzed within their socio-historical and cultural contexts and in reference to pertinent critical or theoretical issues. Sample topics include: The Shaping of Latin America; Personalism and Politics; Love and Magical Realism; and Literary Representations of Kitchens, Cooking, and Eating in Latin America. May be repeated if topic is different. Taught in Spanish.
Prerequisite: SPAN 275.

SPAN 315: Comparative "Hispanidades"
Students explore a topic pertinent to more than one geographic area of the Spanish-speaking world (Spain, Latin America, and/or the Hispanic U.S.). Students focus on comparative analysis through reading, discussion and writing in Spanish. The course includes study of at least one substantive literary work. Sample topics include: Dictatorship and Literature, and Language and Identity. May be repeated if topic is different. Taught in Spanish.
Prerequisite: SPAN 250 and at least one 270-level course.
SPAN 394: Academic Internship

SPAN 396: Directed Undergraduate Research
This course provides a comprehensive research opportunity, including an introduction to relevant background material, technical instruction, identification of a meaningful project, and data collection. The topic is determined by the faculty member in charge of the course and may relate to his/her research interests. Offered based on department decision. May be offered as a 1.00 credit course or .50 credit course. **Prerequisite:** determined by individual instructor.

SPAN 398: Independent Research

SPAN 399: Seminar in Literature
Seminars engage students in in-depth study of a specified topic through readings, research and oral and written student reports. Special attention is paid to theoretical and bibliographic issues. Topics vary according to the areas of expertise and professional interests of departmental faculty. May be repeated if topic is different. Taught in Spanish. **Prerequisites:** SPAN 250 and at least two courses at the 270 or 300 level.

**Faculty**

**Chair, 2018-2019**
Maggie A. Broner  
Associate Professor of Romance Languages - Spanish  
Hispanic linguistics; culture; second language acquisition

Gwendolyn Barnes-Karol  
Professor of Romance Languages - Spanish  
Peninsular literature and culture; contemporary Spain; orality and literacy; second language acquisition

Kris A. Cropsey  
Instructor in Romance Languages - Spanish  
Hispanic linguistics; sociolinguistics; second language acquisition; teacher education

Marit K. Hanson  
Visiting Instructor of Romance Languages - Spanish

Carla Manzoni  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Romance Languages - Spanish  
Hispanic literatures and cultures; film studies; gender studies; visual arts; memory studies

Kristina Medina-Vilariño (on leave)  
Assistant Professor of Romance Languages-Spanish  
Caribbean Studies; 20th- and 21st-century Latin American studies; contemporary Latino studies; race and ethnic studies

Maria d. Moreno-Diaz  
Assistant Professor of Romance Languages

Leon Narvaez  
Professor of Romance Languages - Spanish  
Hispanic culture, language, and literature; migration and other interdisciplinary studies

Jonathan P. O’Conner  
Associate Professor of Romance Languages-Spanish  
Peninsular early modern/golden age literature and cultures; cultural and intellectual histories; humanism; colonial Latin America

Ariel T. Strichartz  
Associate Professor of Romance Languages - Spanish  
Contemporary Latin American theater and narrative; Argentine theater; literary food studies; memory studies

Molly Tun  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Romance Languages - Spanish