SPANISH

Chair, Professor Luis Millones
Professors Jorge Olivares and Luis Millones; Associate Professor Betty Sasaki; Assistant Professors Dean Allbritton, María Bollo-Panadero, Rebeca Hey-Colón, Anita Savo, and Bretton White; Visiting Assistant Professors Pablo García-Piñar, Michael Martínez-Raguso, Rodolfo Mata, and Tracy Quan; Language Assistant Natalia Fernández-Fraile

The Department of Spanish provides two programs designed to deepen students’ understanding of cultural difference and diversity: a language program that fulfills the all-College distribution requirement in foreign language and an academic major program.

In its commitment to the study of foreign languages, the Department of Spanish strives to prepare students for active engagement in the Spanish-speaking world, both within the United States and abroad. Our language courses facilitate oral and written communication by presenting grammar in a cultural context. The language classroom provides a space for students to appreciate cultural connections and differences and to grow into their role as global citizens.

The academic major program offers a course of study in Spanish, Latin American, and U.S. Latino/a literature and culture. Spanish majors attain depth and breadth of literary and cultural knowledge across historical periods and geographical areas.

The program is committed to promoting greater critical awareness of the differentials of power that perpetuate social injustice and inform cultural and cross-cultural assumptions. Students acquire the skills to become close readers and critical thinkers and to explore different modes of cultural production within specific social, political, and historical contexts. Our pedagogical goal is to prepare students to be productive critics of the world beyond the texts. To that end, students examine the ways in which different texts challenge or affirm aesthetic conventions and dominant social narratives, including race, class, gender, sexuality, nationality, and imperialism. In the process, our majors are encouraged to analyze the connections among systems of domination and to develop as scholars and promoters of social justice.

Achievement Test: Students seeking entrance credit in Spanish and wishing to pursue Spanish at Colby must have taken the College Board SAT Subject Test in Spanish or must take the placement test during orientation.

Requirements for the Major in Spanish

Spanish 135 and 231 and at least seven additional literature, culture, or film courses at or above the 200 level, including at least one course in each of the following areas: Spanish, Latin American, and U.S. Latino/a literatures/cultures. Majors must take two courses at the 200 level or above on literature written before 1800 and two on literature written after 1800. Senior majors must enroll in 300- or 400-level courses and must take at least one senior seminar. Independent-study work does not replace required courses. Majors are strongly advised to spend one academic year studying abroad at the junior level. A minimum grade point average of 2.7 is required for permission to study abroad. Students who do not meet this minimum requirement will not be able to retain their Spanish major. All study-abroad plans for students majoring in Spanish must be approved in advance by the chair of the Department of Spanish. Eligibility prerequisites for Spanish majors to study abroad include the completion of Spanish 135 and Spanish 231 with a grade of C or better.

The following statements also apply:

1. The point scale for retention of the major is based on all Spanish Department courses numbered above 131.
2. No major requirements may be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory.
3. Students must receive a grade of C or better for the course to count toward the major.
4. All majors must take and pass with a grade of C or better at least one course in Spanish approved by the major advisor each semester until graduation.
5. No more than the equivalent of two semester courses of foreign-study credit may be counted toward the major per semester abroad, or four semester courses per year abroad.
6. No more than the equivalent of four semester courses of foreign-study or transfer credit may be counted toward the major.

Honors in Spanish

Students majoring in Spanish with a 3.7 major average or better and an overall GPA of 3.5 or higher at the end of their sixth semester may apply for admission to the honors program by the Friday after fall break of their senior year. Permission is required; guidelines are established by the department. Successful completion of the work of the honors thesis and of the major will enable the student to graduate with “Honors in Spanish.”

Course Offerings

SP125f Elementary Spanish I The first semester of three consecutive courses designed to develop fluency and accuracy in the Spanish language. Through an interactive approach to language learning, students gain communicative proficiency through fast-paced, task-
content-based exercises designed to integrate listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Videos, audio, and web materials introduce students to cultural differences within the Spanish speaking world.  

Four credit hours.
realities of Spanish America in the 20th and 21st centuries. Also considers critical literary concepts such as narrative perspective, parody, intertextuality, and self-consciousness. Prerequisite: Spanish 135. Four credit hours. L.

[SP266] Language of Spanish Cinema An examination of selected works by major Spanish directors of the 20th and 21st centuries. Introduces students to the discipline of film studies and investigates cinematic representations of Spain during the dictatorship and the subsequent transition to democracy. Special attention to questions of identity, violence, and instances of resistance. Prerequisite: Spanish 135. Four credit hours. A, I.

SP267f Family/History/Nation: Latina/o Genealogies How do Latina/o literary constructs of "family" engage with the concept of nationhood? Do Latina/o genealogies affirm the nation? Do they contest it? We explore the answers to these questions by examining the relationship between family histories and national histories in Latina/o genealogies that move within and between the United States, Mexico, and the Caribbean. Prerequisite: Spanish 135. Four credit hours. A, I. HEY-COLON

SP269s Spanish Cultural Studies The study of recent Peninsular Spanish expression across a variety of mass media (digital and print media, television, film). Introduces students to the discipline of cultural studies and considers how the concept of españa🎂ol🎂d (Spanishness) comes to be defined in an ever-changing present and across regions and identities that may not even consider themselves such. Topics may include sex and sexuality, regionalism and linguistic difference, race and immigration, and the state of contemporary politics. Prerequisite: Spanish 135. Four credit hours. A, I. ALLBRITTON

[SP273] Contemporary Spanish-American Short Story Close readings of contemporary Spanish-American short stories. Prerequisite: Spanish 135. Four credit hours. L.

[SP276] U.S. Latina/Chicana Women Writers An examination of a selection of novels, short stories, poetry, theater, and nonfiction by U.S. Latina and Chicana women writers. Interdisciplinary in approach, focused on the relationship between the texts read and several important contemporary issues. Topics include feminism, the social and cultural construction of race and ethnicity, immigration, cultural nationalism, and identity formation. Readings and class are in English. Prerequisite: Spanish 135. Four credit hours. L, U.

SP278f Narratives, Artifacts, and Monuments of Pre-Columbian Civilization Studies narratives of pre-Columbian civilizations as transmitted by oral tradition or by drawings, painted codices, pottery, architecture, textiles, etc., and how all these cultural products were read and refashioned under colonial rule. Students develop skills in analytical reading of cultural productions as diverse expressions of power, identity, religion, race, and hybridity. Promotes a sophisticated understanding of the types of primary sources and methodological approaches that scholars use to reconstruct the world of pre-Columbian societies. Prerequisite: Spanish 135. Four credit hours. L. MILLONES

[SP288] Uncanny Horror: Tracing the Fantastic in Latin America An examination of the Latin American short story in relation to the concepts of the fantastic and uncanny. Readings of canonical authors will be guided by discussions of magical realism, horror and monstrosity, haunting, desire and obsession, and the political deployment of literature. Students will learn to apply theoretical frameworks by thinkers such as Freud and Todorov in the interpretation of both literary and filmic texts, while gaining knowledge of trends in Latin American thought. Prerequisite: Spanish 135. Four credit hours. L. MARTINEZ-RAGUSO

[SP338] The Diasporic Imagination: Cubans Beyond Cuba An examination of the cultural production of Cubans living in the diaspora after the 1959 revolution. Representative literary works of Reinaldo Arenas, Richard Blanco, Jennine Capó Crucet, Lourdes Casal, Ana Menéndez, Achy Obejas, Gustavo Pérez Firmat, Sonia Rivera Valdés, Guillermo Rosales, and Zoé Valdés. Also feature films, documentaries, TV shows, and songs. Topics will include the traumas of migration; the politics of exile; the workings of memory and nostalgia; the fantasies of return; the hybridization of culture; and the class, generational, gender, linguistic, political, racial, and sexual diversity of Cubans beyond Cuba. Prerequisite: A 200-level literature, culture, or film course. Four credit hours. L.

[SP341] Cities, Bodies, and Nations in Caribbean Literature Examines the close but contested relationships between bodies, cities, and nations in contemporary Caribbean literature. Special attention will be paid to key moments in the history of the three Spanish-speaking islands: the Trujillo regime in the Dominican Republic, the Cuban Revolution of 1959, and Operation Bootstrap in Puerto Rico. In each instance, the role of migration will be explored, within the Caribbean, to the United States, and beyond. This will facilitate a discussion on transnationalism, a development that is integral to the current understanding of the relationships between bodies, cities, and nations. Prerequisite: 200-level literature, culture, or film course. Four credit hours. L.

[SP351] Ideology and Ethics in Spanish Golden Age Literature An examination of specific literary works as responses to Spain's changing political climate during the 16th and 17th centuries. How the literary work reinforces or questions, creates or undermines, an official discourse that, in both Reformation and Counter-Reformation Spain, seeks to define national identity in ethical and ideological terms. Prerequisite: A 200-level literature, culture, or film course. Four credit hours. L.
SP352s  **Don Quijote**  Using an interdisciplinary approach, we will explore the complexities of the narrative construction of *Don Quijote* as a mirror of Cervantes' society, as well as how the novel undermines the accepted discourses and mores of its time. Topics will include, among others, empire ideology, cultural identity, and social inequality—all in the context of a literary revolution. **Revolutions theme course.**  
*Prerequisite:* A 200-level Spanish literature, culture, or film course.  
*Four credit hours.*  
L. BOLLO-PANADERO

[SP354]  **Detectives and Spies: Popular Culture in Spanish-American Fiction**  A consideration of how the classic detective story has permeated the realm of high or respectable art, and, in particular, how writers such as Bioy Casares, Borges, García Márquez, Leñero, Padura Fuentes, Puig, Sábato, Valenzuela, and Vargas Llosa have simultaneously appropriated and subverted the genre. While focused on the function of parody and intertextual relations, and on the distinction between the mimetic and the reflexive modes, the course will provide a framework to address questions of ideology, community, gender, sex, and sexuality. **Prerequisite:** A 200-level literature, culture, or film course.  
*Four credit hours.*  
L.

[SP362]  **All about Almodóvar**  The study of contemporary Spanish history and film through the works of noted filmmaker Pedro Almodóvar. Analyzes the films of Almodóvar as representative of the changes in Spanish culture from the 1980s to the present day. Topics may include sex and sexuality, film genres and film history, and modern Spanish political and cultural life. **Prerequisite:** A 200-level literature, culture, or film course.  
*Four credit hours.*  
A, I.

SP364f  **Gender, Sex, and the Spanish Body**  Focus on contemporary film, media, and literature in Spain in order to explore how sex and gender are covered up, censored, and potentially recovered. Considers the importance of censorship to the development of Spanish attitudes towards sex and gender, and how these are not merely byproducts of a dictatorial regime but a persistent element of culture itself. Special attention paid to issues of national identity, sexual pleasure and violence, masculinities, and political rupture. Previously listed as SP398 (Spring 2014). **Prerequisite:** A 200-level literature, culture, or film course.  
*Four credit hours.*  
I. ALLBRITTON

[SP371]  **The Colonial Experience: European and Amerindian Responses**  Close readings of representative primary documents and iconography from throughout the Spanish and Portuguese empires that were produced to report, understand, legislate, and record various dimensions of the encounter between Europe and the New World during the 16th and 17th centuries. Emphasizes efforts by Europeans and Amerindiands to control the memory of events and to position themselves in colonial societies. Students will explore texts and cultural productions used to exert dominance or resistance during a specific historical context, become critical readers of primary documents, and engage with key issues of colonial literature. **Prerequisite:** A 200-level literature, culture, or film course.  
*Four credit hours.*  
L.

SP397f  **Freaks and Geeks: Deviants in Early Modern Spain**  Analyzes the labels by which early modern Spanish society categorized its marginal people. We will reflect on literary, artistic, filmic, and autobiographical accounts of the freak, the geek, and the misfit, and consider how the dominant culture relies on and, in many respects, cannot function without the presence of marginalized people.  
*Prerequisite:* 200-level Spanish literature, culture, or film course.  
*Four credit hours.*  
L. GARCÍA-PINAR

SP483f, 484s  **Senior Honors Thesis**  The senior honors thesis can replace the senior seminar requirement. The thesis, which will be written in Spanish, is to be a substantial study of a carefully defined literary topic supported by critical sources. **Prerequisite:** A 3.7 or higher major average and an overall GPA of 3.5 or higher at the end of the junior year and permission of the department.  
*Two to four credit hours.*  
FACULTY

SP483Jj  **Senior Honors Thesis**  Noncredit.  
ALLBRITTON

SP491f, 492s  **Independent Study**  Individual projects in areas where the student has demonstrated the interest and competence necessary for independent work. Cannot substitute for formal course work toward the major. **Prerequisite:** Permission of the department chair.  
*Two to four credit hours.*  
FACULTY

SP493s  **Seminar: Resistant Fluidities in Caribbean and Latina Literature**  Presents students with a theoretical framework from which to critically understand the concept of fluidity—its possibilities and its costs—as wielded by contemporary Caribbean and Latina writers. Starting with a historical overview of the ways in which land has been hegemonically inscribed in the United States and the Caribbean, the seminar explores fluidity stemming from the presence of water in literature and art to less literal manifestations that engage music, gender, and spirituality, among other themes. **Prerequisite:** Senior standing and a 300-level Spanish literature, culture, or film course.  
*Four credit hours.*  
L, U. HEY-COLON