SPANISH

Chair, Associate Professor Dean Allbritton
Associate Chair, Associate Professor Betty Sasaki
Professors Luis Millones; Associate Professors Dean Allbritton, María Bollo-Panadero, and Betty Sasaki; Assistant Professors Ana Almeyda-Cohen, Leticia Mercado, Tiffany Miller, Nicolás Ramos Flores, and Bretton White; Visiting Assistant Professors Sandra Bernal Heredia and Dámaris Mayans; Language Assistant Cristina Betés Ruano

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. Latinx 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 online Spanish placement exam during summer prior to making their course selections for the fall semester.

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. Latinx literatures and cultures. Majors must take two courses at the 200 level or above on content before 1800 and two on content 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.

Given the intercultural and multicultural focus of the department’s curriculum, majors are strongly advised to spend a semester or academic year studying abroad at the junior level. Students who study abroad will enroll in programs that offer university-level courses (not in a language acquisition program); all course work abroad must be conducted in Spanish. A minimum grade point average of 2.7 is required to retain the Spanish major and for permission to study abroad. All study-abroad plans for students majoring in Spanish must be approved in advance by the Spanish major advisor and the department chair. 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 132.
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 may apply for admission to the honors program by the end of their junior year. Permission is required; interested juniors should contact their potential thesis advisors and go over guidelines 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

SP125fs  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- and 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.  ALMEYDA-COHEN, RAMOS FLORES

SP126fs  Elementary Spanish II  The second of three consecutive courses designed to develop fluency and accuracy in the Spanish language. Through a continued interactive approach to teaching and learning, students begin to develop skills for more independent communicative proficiency. Task- and content-based assignments challenge students to integrate listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in a functional use of the language. Videos, audio, and web materials are incorporated.  Prerequisite: Spanish 125.  Four credit hours.  MAYANS, MERCADO, MILLER, RAMOS FLORES

SP126Hf  Spanish Language for Heritage Learners  Designed for students who come from a variety of Spanish speaking family backgrounds and have some knowledge of Spanish. The purpose of this course is to revitalize and gain confidence in the Spanish you have acquired; to master the language for formal and professional purposes; to improve strategic speaking, reading, and writing skills; to examine and recognize regional, social, and contextual variations; and to enhance your understanding and appreciation of Hispanic and Latinx cultures and sociopolitical realities.  Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.  Four credit hours.  MAYANS, MERCADO, MILLER, RAMOS FLORES

SP127fs  Intermediate Spanish I  The third of three consecutive courses designed to develop fluency and accuracy in the Spanish language. Through an intensive grammar review, students develop skills for independent and creative interactive communication. Designed to refine students’ major skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, as well as to provide insight into the literature and culture of Spanish-speaking countries. Video screenings and short readings in Hispanic literature and culture deepen student understanding of linguistic and cultural nuances and serve as the basis for in-class discussions and writing assignments.  Prerequisite: Spanish 126.  Four credit hours.  BERNAL HEREDIA, BOLLO-PANADERO, MAYANS, MERCADO

SP128fs  Conversation, Composition, and Culture  Designed specifically to develop oral skills and critical thinking in Spanish, with additional practice in writing and continued work in vocabulary building and grammar review. This course fosters communication skills through conversation, composition, and analysis of cultural production from the Hispanic and Latinx worlds. Working with a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts and cultural products, students will acquire the skills to critique and interpret while engaging in active thinking.  Prerequisite: Spanish 127.  Four credit hours.  ALLBRITTON, SASAKI

SP128Hs  Spanish Composition for Heritage Learners  This is an advanced composition and conversation course for heritage speakers. It is designed for students who have completed the Spanish Language for Heritage Learners or are placed at this level by the department. The course further develops the communicative abilities of heritage students, both verbal and written (including an academic register), and increases knowledge of a variety of forms of cultural production in the Spanish language. Students in this class will study and analyze topics pertinent to the Hispanic & Latinx communities.  Prerequisite: Spanish 126H.  Four credit hours.  MAYANS

[SP132]  Conversation and Composition in Salamanca  This course takes place in Salamanca, which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988. Students immerse themselves in day-to-day Spanish life by living with local families, taking part in activities inside the city, and exploring other historic sites in Spain. This course develops communicative and argumentative writing skills in Spanish through conversations with peers and locals and by analyzing a variety of texts and events. Students may not receive credit for this course and SP131. Estimated cost for Jan Plan 2020: $3200.  Prerequisite: Spanish 128.  Three credit hours.  MAYANS

SP135Afs  Introduction to Critical Analysis: Eco-Fiction and Eco-Thought  Introduction to critical analysis through a variety of eco-fiction and eco-thought provoking readings from Latin American, Spanish, and/or U.S. Latinx authors. We will explore human accountability to the environment and the presence of nonhuman beings in fiction. Students will learn how to examine cultural products such as literature, film, performance, and visual culture through close reading, thematic analysis, and strategies of interpretation. Students develop skills in writing critical essays and learn the basics of scholarly research.  Prerequisite: Spanish 128 or 132.  Four credit hours.  MILLONNES

SP135Bf  Introduction to Critical Analysis: Indigenous Latin America  Latin America is home to more than 45 million Indigenous peoples who, given historical legacies of colonialism, have had little voice in regional and national discourses despite their numbers. Though Indigenous peoples and their cultures have long attracted the attention of non-Indigenous authors and artists, the canon features very few (if any) Indigenous voices. This course studies Latin American and LatinX Indigeneities vis-?-vis cultural, literary, and film studies. Students will learn how to examine cultural products through close reading, thematic analysis, and strategies of interpretation, developing skills in writing critical essays and learning the basics of scholarly research.  Prerequisite: Spanish 128 or 132.  Four credit hours.  MILLER
SP135Cs  Introduction to Critical Analysis: Love and Death  Eros and Thanatos go hand in hand in literary creation. Eros is responsible for sexual attraction, love, and sex and is also worshiped as the god of fertility and creativity. Thanatos has been postulated as the drive to a non-violent death. Both impulses pervade some of the best literature in Spanish. In this course we will examine a number of texts by Spanish and Latin American authors which best illustrate this dynamic, through close reading, thematic analysis and strategies of interpretation. Students will develop skills in writing critical essays while also learning the basics of scholarly research. Prerequisite: Spanish 128 or 132. Four credit hours. L. PIERA ABAD

[SP197]  Reading and Writing Spanish Creative Nonfiction  Offers an exploration of several types of creative nonfiction narratives (essays of time & place, memoirs, profiles, graphic & literary journalism, documentaries, etc.) and topics (class, race, gender, inequality, ecology) from contemporary Spanish, Latin American, and Latinx writers. And a creative writing workshop with writing exercises and peer reviews. Students will learn about the role and impact of creative nonfiction in Spanish speaking communities, practice writing their own stories, and learning advance writing skills. This course will have hybrid teaching with at least one day of each week in-person and at least one day of the week online and/or a same day session first in-person and then online. Prerequisite: Spanish 135 and any W1 course. Three credit hours. L.

[SP198]  Reading and Writing Spanish Creative Nonfiction  Offers an exploration of several types of creative nonfiction narratives (essays of time & place, memoirs, profiles, graphic & literary journalism, documentaries, etc.) and topics (class, race, gender, inequality, ecology) from contemporary Spanish, Latin American, and Latinx writers. And a creative writing workshop with writing exercises and peer reviews. Students will learn about the role and impact of creative nonfiction in Spanish speaking communities, practice writing their own stories, and learning advanced writing skills. Prerequisite: Spanish 128 and any W1 course. Four credit hours.

SP231fs  Advanced Spanish  An in-depth analysis of Spanish grammar, focusing on the more complex and subtle linguistic and cultural dimensions of a variety of syntactical and lexical concepts. Students will achieve an advanced mastery of Spanish grammar and vocabulary. Prerequisite: Spanish 128, 131, or 132. Four credit hours. BOLLO-PANADERO, MERCADO

[SP234]  Diversity and Racism in Contemporary Spain  Focuses on the cultures and communities that make up contemporary Spain, with particular emphasis on the modern waves of immigration that have radically changed the country. Covering the latter years of the dictatorship and into the democracy (from 1970 forward), we examine how regionalism, multiculturalism, and diversity have been represented across a range of media and literature in Spain. Topics may include Latin American, African and Asian migration and diasporas, sex and sexuality, racial politics, and linguistic and cultural difference in Spain. Prerequisite: Spanish 135. Four credit hours. L.

SP236f  Medical Spanish: Health and Illness in Spain  Through a broad approach that encompasses the study of literature, film, medical journals, and real-life contexts, this course analyzes how medical institutions govern life, death, bodies, and minds. Students will analyze medical articles, public health policies, and responses to major pandemics and illnesses in the Spanish-speaking world, and in so doing will hone language skills that are useful for the medical profession. Topics may include cross-cultural pandemics and epidemics, narrative medicine in medical practices, cultural differences regarding illness and health, and the situational use of professional medical vocabulary in Spanish. Prerequisite: Spanish 135. Four credit hours. ALLBRITTON

SP237s  Conquest and Resistance in the Americas  The European expansion during the Early Modern period sought to transform the Americas by reproducing the material, spiritual, and biological landscapes of the Old World. Amerindian peoples whose lives and cultures were jeopardized confronted the Europeans deploying an array of resistance strategies. Students will engage with texts and materials from different areas and time periods to uncover and analyze the many ways in which energy and exhaustion came into play during conquest and resistance efforts across the Americas. This Environmental Humanities class explores the Energy/Exhaustion humanities theme. Prerequisite: Spanish 135. Four credit hours. MILLONES

SP239f  Latin America at the Movies  An introduction to the cinematography of Latin America covering a broad set of topics, countries and time periods. Students will explore how diverse themes-revolution, modernity, gender, race, labor, and neoliberalism-inform national history, particularly in Mexico, Argentina, Brazil and Cuba, nations that developed an energetic cinematography at various points in the 20th century. Students will gain experience in film analysis and how to articulate the relationship between content and artistic form. Prerequisite: Spanish 135. Four credit hours. A. ALMEYDA-COHEN

SP244s  Bad Women and B-Films in Contemporary Latin America  Explores the rich heritage of Latin American exploitation cinema (B-films) that transcends national borders and cultural differences. By watching a diversity of "low-brow" film genres and reading feminist and critical film theory, students will interrogate notions of acceptability, the popular, high art, and industry machinery. In particular, we will focus on how cinematic depictions of "bad" women open possibilities for gendered identities which disrupt conventional models of women's roles in Latin America. Students will gain experience in film analysis and how to articulate the relationship between content and artistic form. Prerequisite: A 200-level Spanish literature, culture, or film course. Four credit hours. A. ALMEYDA-COHEN
SP254s Aqui estamos: U.S. Latinx in the 20th and 21st Centuries Will examine the cultural productions and critical discourse surrounding U.S. Latinx subjects in the second half of the 20th century and beginning of the 21st. Students will examine issues of migration and identity in the U.S. context beginning in the 1950s along with political realities of Latin America and the Caribbean to expand ideas of Latinidad. Students will explore identity formation and negotiations of language, race, gender, sexuality, class, coloniality, and diaspora to reveal the present U.S. Latinx reality. Prerequisite: Spanish 135. Four credit hours. L, U. RAMOS FLORES

[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.

[SP269] 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 españolidad (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.

[SP276] U.S. Latina/Chicana Women Writers (in English) 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. A, I.

SP346f Race, Rights, and Land in the Americas Examines issues of race, rights, and land for subaltern subjects across the Americas. By focusing on Afro-diasporic peoples, students will better understand how systematic issues of race and the disenfranchisement of black bodies are not isolated to any one area, but a product of the legacy of slavery. We will explore how these issues are ever-present for Black subjects in the Americas through various examples from Brazil, Central America, the U.S. and Maine. By examining archival materials and artistic works, students take part in a range of projects that show the multifaceted nature of land rights for the Afro-Americans. Boundaries and Margins humanities lab. Prerequisite: A 200-level Spanish literature, culture, or film course. Four credit hours. L, U. RAMOS FLORES

[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: Spanish 135. Four credit hours. L.

SP356s Representations of Blackness in Early Modern Spain Framing this course squarely in the long but often obscured history of slavery in early modern Spain, we will examine and interrogate cultural expressions of race in sixteenth and seventeenth century Spanish cultural production, including literature, theater, visual art, music, and archival documents. More specifically, we will consider how these images and expressions, and voices present different responses?both affirming and contesting?to early modern anxieties about race, gender, religion, social class, and national identity. Prerequisite: A 200-level Spanish literature, culture, or film course. Four credit hours. L, I. SASAKI

[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 Spanish literature, culture, or film course. Four credit hours. A, I.

[SP364] 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. Prerequisite: A 200-level Spanish literature, culture, or film course. Four credit hours. I.

[SP366] Queer Spain The representation of queer lives and identities in recent Spanish history. We will engage with Spanish film, literature, and culture to consider and question the ‘origins’ of LGBTQ identity in Spain. Have we always imagined queerness as a coupling of people or movements to signify alterity and difference? Who gets to tell the story of queer lives in Spain, and whether such histories form a string of texts that resist silence and fear? Is Spanish queerness related to a transnational sense of queer identity? Thinking of queerness as a spectrum allows us to challenge the borders of sex and gender both within Spain and within our own cultures. Prerequisite: A 200-
level Spanish literature, culture, or film course.  

Four credit hours.

[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 Amerindians 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.

SP376f 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: A 200-level Spanish literature, culture, or film course.  

Four credit hours.  L.  MILLONES

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

SP498s Abia Yala: Indigenous Resistance, Revolution, and Decoloniality  This course examines the texts of resistance, revolution, and decolonial movements produced by and about Latin American Indigenous groups from pre-Hispanic times to the present day. Through literature, as well as multidisciplinary supplementary materials from the Western world and Latin America, we will examine continually relevant questions about Indigenous representation and self-representation. Given the organizing framework of this course, there will be an emphasis on issues of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, and class, and many times, we will examine the intersectionality of these forms of marginalization. Prerequisite: Senior standing and a 300-level Spanish literature, culture, or film course.  

Four credit hours.  MILLER