SPANISH

Chair, Associate Professor Betty Sasaki
Professors Luis Miliones; Associate Professors Dean Allbritton, María Bollo-Panadero, and Betty Sasaki; Assistant Professors Ana Almeyda-Cohen, Sandra Bernal Heredia, Tiffany Miller, Nicolás Ramos Flores, and Bretton White; Visiting Assistant Professors Charlie Hankin, Dámaris Mayans, and Monica Styles; Language Assistant Daniel Hormigo Conde

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, MILLER, RAMOS FLORES

SP126f  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. FACULTY

SP126H  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. U. BERNAL HEREDIA

SP127f  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, HANKIN, WHITE

SP128f  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. BERNAL HEREDIA, SASAKI, WHITE

SP128H  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. U. MAYANS

SP132j  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 Spanish 127. Estimated cost for Jan Plan 2020: $3200. Prerequisite: Spanish 128. Three credit hours. I. RAMOS FLORES

SP135s  Introduction to Literary Analysis  Four credit hours. L. STYLES

[SP135A]  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. L. MILLER

[SP135B]  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. L. MILLER

[SP135C]  Introduction to Critical Analysis: Love and Death  Eros and Thanatos go hand in hand in literary creation. Eros is

Generated September 25, 2021, on colby.edu
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.

[SP135D]  Introduction to Critical Analysis: Visibility and Mobility  Considers how cultural production can provide avenues to give voice to those with less power, including racial minorities, women, and LGBTQ artists. Our examination of these works will consider how forms of Hispanic cultural production constitute a means for gaining visibility and mobility for underrepresented groups. Students will learn how to examine cultural production through close-reading, thematic analysis, and strategies of interpretation across multiple literary genres as well as visual forms of cultural production. Students will also develop skills in writing critical essays while learning the basics of scholarly research. Prerequisite: Spanish 128 or 132. Four credit hours.  L.

SP135E  Introduction to Critical Analysis: Spanish in the USA  Explores the experiences of U.S. Latinx communities through sociopolitical, historical and linguistic phenomena. We will cover major and minor demographic varieties of Spanish in the USA, bilingualism, and contact situation, among other topics. Students will learn how to examine linguistic and cultural phenomena 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.  L.  MAYANS

SP135F  Introduction to Critical Analysis: Jews of Medieval Iberia  During the Middle Ages, in the Iberian Peninsula, Jews often excelled in all forms of cultural expressions. This course explores the works of the Sephardic Jews in their historical context, from their establishment in the Peninsula until their expulsion from the Iberian kingdoms, their cryptic survival, and eventual spread throughout the world. Students will learn how to examine cultural production through close reading, thematic analysis, and strategies of interpretation. Students will also develop skills in writing critical essays and learning the basics of scholarly research. Prerequisite: Spanish 128 or 132. Four credit hours.  L.

SP231F  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

[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.  I.

[SP236]  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.

[SP237]  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.  L, I.

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

[SP244]  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.

[SP254] 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.

[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.

SP297i Black Lives Matter in the Hispanic World Africans and Afro-descendants formed a part of the Hispanic world dating from before the arrival of the first slaves to North America in 1619, but the existence of Black peoples has not been fully recognized. Literary and historical analysis will explore the various ways Africans and their descendants have always been cultural citizens of Spain and Spanish America through autobiography, archival documents, slave narratives and contemporary prose. Continuities between racial discourses in the past and the present, and Black agency throughout time, demonstrate the various ways Black life has always mattered even when it has gone unnoticed. Prerequisite: Spanish 135. Four credit hours. A. I.

SP298s People, Language, and Society: Spanish Sociolinguistics Will introduce basic concepts of Spanish sociolinguistics including variation, Spanish in contact and language identity and ideologies in the Spanish-speaking world. Through a broad approach that pairs linguistic research and methodology with music, film, and other media production we will study how language reflects common social structures. Particular attention will be placed on the interaction between language and gender, education, social class, ethnicity, age and other forms of projecting group identity. Prerequisite: Spanish 135. Four credit hours. MAYANS

SP298Bs Baila: History, Culture, and Performance of Latin Dance Focuses on how dance as a form of corporal expression has reflected the social and political processes of diverse communities in Latin America and the Caribbean. Discussions will be framed by a range of concepts pertinent to Latin American contexts such as diaspora, colonialism, mestizaje, hybridity, migration, and globalization. Students will also learn fundamental dance skills and practice techniques of merengue, cumbia, bachata, cha-cha, salsa, reggaeton, and salsa. The class will consist of assigned readings, class discussions, audio and visual performance analysis, skill tests, and performances. Freedom and Captivity humanities lab. Prerequisite: Spanish 135. Four credit hours. BERNAL HEREDIA

[SP2XX] Race and Identity in Contemporary Latin America Through a range of visual and literary media, this course analyzes the complexities of race and identity in contemporary Latin American culture. Students will critically assess how geography and land contribute to issues of inequality and power, particularly as it applies to Indigenous and African communities in Latin America. Particular attention will be paid to racial disparities, Afro-Latin American cultures and diasporic connections, and discourses of privilege and power. Four credit hours.

SP343s Indigenous Textualities, Decoloniality, and Land Sovereignty Students will learn about Indigenous understandings of disseminating knowledge in Abiayala (Latin America) as they give back to LatinX migrant students in Maine. Through this civic engagement, students will explore non-Western Indigenous forms of knowledge and issues surrounding migration to the United States from Mexico and Central America while analyzing contemporary issues surrounding LatinX diasporas, land sovereignty, and Critical Indigenous Studies. Topics may include trans-indigeneity, alternative forms of "writing," oraliterature, digital humanities, hybridity, modernity, decoloniality, and ecocriticism. Prerequisite: A 200-level Spanish literature, culture, or film course. Four credit hours. MILLER

[SP346] 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-Americas. Boundaries and Margins humanities lab. Prerequisite: A 200-level Spanish literature, culture, or film course. Four credit hours. I.

SP348f The Afro-Americas: Race, Power, and Subjectivity Explores literature, film, and cultural productions by Afro-descendant subjects in the Americas. Focusing on Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Afro-Latinx populations, this course underscores the interconnected nature of Afro-descendant populations in the region and examines how Afro-descendant populations constantly negotiate
hegemonic cultural norms overtly and subversively. Using an intersectional approach, students will explore who is included and excluded in a national rhetoric, how race is constructed or rejected, who speaks or does not speak in history, and how gender is negotiated or silenced in national narratives. **Prerequisite:** A 200-level Spanish literature, culture, or film course. **Four credit hours.** RAMOS FLORES

[SP356] 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. **Boundaries and Margins humanities theme course. Prerequisite:** A 200-level Spanish literature, culture, or film course. **Four credit hours.**

[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.**

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

[SP376] 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.**

[SP397] Ancient Selfies: Self and Mirror-Text in Pre-Modern Spain Contemporary culture is flooded with visual self-representations: on social media, we build our own identities and consume those of others. But how did people represent themselves before technology and the selfie existed? This course explores how writers in early modern Spain employed the mirror-text, a selfie avant la lettre, to explore, interrogate, and portray both self and other. Students will gain knowledge of the sociohistorical context of the rise and fall of the Spanish Empire, acquire textual analysis skills with the aid of visual materials, and practice necessary skills to conduct scholarly research. **Prerequisite:** A 200-level Spanish literature, culture, or film course. **Four credit hours.**

SP397Af Writing with Sound: Music and Literature in Latin America Can literature make music? Does writing have rhythm? This advanced seminar in Spanish explores the cross-pollination or intermediality between music, sound, and literature in modern and contemporary Latin America. Broadly defined, intermediality refers to artistic works that cross between or reside in the interstices of seemingly separate media. We focus on sites where musicians find recourse in literature and writers find recourse in music to examine the social and political implications of sound and listening. We will pay particular attention to how histories of slavery and colonization influence the practice of writing across media. **Prerequisite:** A 200-level Spanish Literature, culture, or film course. **Four credit hours.**

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.**

[SP483J] Senior Honors Thesis **Noncredit.**
**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  Sex, Drugs, and Magic in Mexico and the Caribbean**  Explores narratives of desire, the supernatural, and illicit substances that emerge from Mexico, the U.S.-Mexico border, and the Caribbean. Looking at relevant cultural productions that challenge readings of sex, drugs, and occult practices as threats to progress and modernity, we address the historical and political systems that have dictated perceptions of the social dangers within Latin America. By studying narratives, essays, performances, and cinema while continually engaging issues of gender, sexuality, race, and religion, we will examine the intersectionality of these power differentials within Latin America. **Prerequisite:** Senior standing and a 300-level Spanish literature, culture, or film course.  **Four credit hours.**  ALMEYDA-COHEN