

**DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH
SENIOR HONORS THESIS**

Eligibility - Any Spanish major with a 3.7 average or better in the major and an overall GPA of 3.5 or better at the end of the junior year is eligible to apply for consideration for writing a senior honors thesis.¹ The senior honors thesis is a year-long independent research project that can replace the senior seminar requirement.

Description - The thesis is to be a substantial and original study of a carefully defined literary, cinematic, or cultural object. It will be written in Spanish, supported by critical sources, and will conform to the MLA Style Manual.

Proposal - The student needs to apply to the Chair with the support of a thesis director from the faculty of the Spanish Department by the end of April of the junior year. Upon approval, the student will then submit and defend a well-developed proposal (in Spanish) to the Department by the Friday after fall break in the student's senior year. Written under the supervision of the faculty member who has agreed to serve as director of the thesis, the proposal must include a well-defined thesis, an overview of the works to be analyzed, a carefully detailed methodology and bibliography, and a realistic timeline. Shortly after the proposal is submitted, there will be an oral defense in Spanish, which will be open to all members of the Department.

Thesis Committee - If the Department approves the proposal, the student and the thesis director will form a Thesis Committee with two additional faculty members (readers) from the Department. Readers will meet with the thesis director at the end of the spring semester to assign a grade to the thesis.

Calendar - The Fall, January, and Spring terms will be devoted to the writing of the thesis. A completed draft will be due on April 15. The Thesis Committee may ask the student to make revisions before a final grade is assigned.

Grade - The thesis must receive a final grade of A- or higher for Honors. The grade will be computed by averaging the grades given by the director and the readers.

Credits - The student will register in Spanish 483f and 484s or Spanish 483f, 484j, and 484s for up to a total of eight credits. If the student is making satisfactory progress, non-graded credits (CR) will be posted for the Fall and January terms. Once the thesis is completed and assigned a grade at the end of the Spring semester, this grade will then replace the CR posted for those terms. If a student's thesis does not receive the required minimum grade of A-, the grade assigned will replace the CR posted for the terms, and the Registrar will change the registration to 491/492 (Independent Study). If for whatever reason a student does not bring the honors thesis to satisfactory completion after having received non-graded credits, the grade of CR will remain in the student's transcript and the Registrar will change the registration to 491/492 (Independent Study). If the members of the Thesis Committee consider that a student is not making satisfactory progress towards the completion of the thesis, they reserve the right, at any time, to ask the student to withdraw from the honors thesis program.

Defense - Upon completion of the thesis, and before the end of classes, there will be an oral defense in Spanish, which will be open to all members of the Department of Spanish and invited guests. The student will submit a clean, bound copy of the thesis to the Chair of the Department of Spanish.

¹ The grades in all Spanish courses taken for credit in the major, either on campus or abroad on a Colby or non-Colby program, will be computed when determining the average in the major.