SPANISH (BA)

Chair: Dr. Richard D. Reitsma, PhD (reitsmar@canisius.edu)

Our primary mission is to instill an awareness of language as an essential element of our thought processes, perceptions, and self-expressions. As recent world events have demonstrated, deep cultural knowledge and linguistic competence are necessary if one wishes to understand other people and their communities. We seek to provide students with the skills and intellectual breadth needed to communicate effectively and to play an active role in today’s world. The Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/modern-languages-literatures-cultures/) offers a Spanish major and minors in French and Spanish, as well as instruction in Italian and Polish. Language study combines uniquely with virtually any major; but of particular interest and practicality are dual majors with International Business and Marketing, International Relations, Bilingual Education, and Biology. Skills in a foreign language are often the deciding factor in an employer’s choice between our graduates and equally qualified but monolingual peers. Language majors pursue rewarding careers in social work, international business, government service, teaching, interpreting, and scientific research, to mention but a few of the many exciting possibilities.

All students in Spanish classes are expected to participate in tertulias to practice the language in a more informal setting. Spanish classes include a fee (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/tuition-fees-aid/tuition-fees/#feestext) to cover tertulia costs. Additionally, over the course of the semester, each student in the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures participates in or attends two cultural events or activities outside regular class time. Please consult the department for a listing of these offerings.

Curriculum

An Ignatian Foundation

All undergraduate students must complete either the Canisius Core Curriculum (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/academics/core-curriculum/) or the All-College Honors Curriculum (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/academics/core-curriculum/all-college-honors-program/). Many schools refer to their college-wide undergraduate requirements as “general education” requirements. We believe that the core curriculum and the honors curriculum are more than a series of required classes; they provide the basis for a Jesuit education both with content and with required knowledge and skills attributes that are central to our mission.

Free Electives

Students may graduate with a bachelor’s degree with more but not less than 120 credit hours. Free electives are courses in addition to the Canisius Core Curriculum or All-College Honors Curriculum and major requirements sufficient to reach the minimum number of credits required for graduation. The number of credits required to complete a bachelor’s degree may vary depending on the student’s major(s) and minor(s).

Major Requirements

Single language majors are required to complete ten courses at the 200-level or higher in a primary language. The requirements are:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPA 211</td>
<td>Intermediate Spanish</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Intermediate-Level Courses

SPA 217 Introduction to Spanish Composition 3

Intermediate-High Level Conversation and Composition Courses

SPA 323 Topics in Conversation I: Peninsular Culture and Conversation 3

SPA 324 Topics in Conversation II: Latin American Culture and Civilization 3

SPA 332 Advanced Spanish Composition 3

Advanced Courses

Five SPA electives 15

SPA 490 Spanish Capstone Portfolio Project 1

Total Credits 31

If starting at 300-level or its equivalent, two additional electives must be completed in order to achieve the required 10 course total for the major (6 for the minor).

Study Abroad Requirements

Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures majors are required to fulfill an immersion experience in the language they are studying.

1. A study abroad experience for a minimum of four consecutive weeks in a formal, pre-approved program in the studied language is required (this could be a short-term or semester-long experience). The department chair may approve alternate immersive experiences as fulfilling this requirement in exceptional circumstances. These alternate immersive experiences may not carry language credit. Students are encouraged to consult with the chair.

2. Language majors who choose to spend a semester abroad at a foreign university may count up to three courses (9 credits) toward their Modern Language major as long as these courses are taught in the target language and have been pre-approved by the chair of the department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures.

3. Students who study abroad for a minimum of four consecutive weeks in a foreign university may count two additional courses toward their Modern Language major. Students who study abroad for a minimum of four consecutive weeks may count a maximum of 5 courses (15 credits total) toward their language major(s).

4. Dual majors in two languages are required to study abroad in both languages. The target languages must be one of the official languages of the country.

5. Credits for short-term and immersion programs are determined by the department chair and are based on the contact hours in the language.

6. As a general rule, students complete the 200-level sequence or the equivalent and one 300-level course at Canisius College prior to studying at a foreign university or completing their alternate immersion experience.

7. Consultation with a department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures academic advisor is required prior to study abroad.

8. Students must complete at least one course in the major upon return to Canisius College.

Cultural Requirement

Over the course of the semester, each student in the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures will participate in or attend two cultural events or activities outside regular class time. Please consult the department for a listing of these offerings.
Roadmap

Recommended Semester Schedule for Major Course Requirements

Please note that the following road map shows a typical progression for students that begin the SPA major with SPA 215. Students who start at a different level or who are double-majoring should meet with the chair to plan their course of studies. We have also provided a roadmap for students who are starting at the introductory level below.

Freshman

Fall
SPA 215

Spring
SPA 217

Sophomore

Fall
SPA 323

Spring
SPA 324

SPA 332

Junior

Fall
Study Abroad¹

Spring
SPA elective²

SPA elective²

Senior

Fall
SPA elective²

Spring
SPA elective²

SPA 490

¹ Students should meet with the chair to plan course schedules for their study abroad and how those courses count toward the student's SPA major.

² Students should meet with the chair to determine which courses may be counted as SPA electives for the major.

Recommended Semester Schedule for Major Course Requirements (if beginning at introductory level)

Freshman

Fall
SPA 103

Spring
SPA 104

Sophomore

Fall
SPA 215

Spring
SPA 217

Junior

Fall
SPA 323

Spring
SPA 324

SPA 332

Senior

Fall
Study Abroad

Spring
SPA elective²

SPA elective²

SPA 490

¹ Students should meet with the chair to plan course schedules for their study abroad and how those courses count toward the student's SPA major.

² Students should meet with the chair to determine which courses may be counted as SPA electives for the major.

Learning Goals & Objectives

Student Learning Goal 1
Spanish Language majors will demonstrate effective skills at the ACTFL advanced-low level according to two Communicative Modes: Interpersonal and Presentational. Students will:

- Objective A: Actively and accurately negotiate meaning in fluent interpersonal communications.
- Objective B: Accurately and fluently present oral information, concepts and ideas in a cohesive manner to an audience.

Student Learning Goal 2
Spanish Language majors will critically analyze cultural production in the target language. Students will:

- Objective A: Assess, interpret and assign meaning to numerous types of cultural production including literature, film, essay, and art.
- Objective B: Place various types of cultural production in a wider cultural and historical context.

Student Learning Goal 3
Spanish Language majors will design and carry out an original project in which the target language is the major research tool and vehicle of expression. Students will:

- Objective A: Create a project that demonstrates comprehension of cultural productions indicated by a clear thesis and a developed argument.
- Objective B: Demonstrate a mastery of information literacy tools and the integration of secondary sources in his/her work.

Minor

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPA 215</td>
<td>Intermediate Spanish</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPA 217</td>
<td>Introduction to Spanish Composition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPA 323</td>
<td>Topics in Conversation I: Peninsular Culture and Conversation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPA 324</td>
<td>Topics in Conversation II: Latin American Culture and Civilization</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPA 332</td>
<td>Advanced Spanish Composition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One SPA elective</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Credits</td>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Up to two of these courses can be replaced by two FRC/SPA electives or two approved courses from other departments or two approved courses from study abroad. Pre-approved Internships and Campus Ministry service trips may count toward a minor. All electives from other departments are subject to pre-approval by the chair of the DMLLC.
Courses

SPA 103 Introductory Spanish I  
Reading, writing, listening and speaking. Introduction to Hispanic culture.  
Almost exclusive use of Spanish in class.  
Offered: every fall.  
Prerequisite: minimum grade of C in SPA 103 or equivalent or permission of chair.

SPA 104 Introductory Spanish II  
Reading, writing, listening and speaking. Introduction to Hispanic culture.  
Almost exclusive use of Spanish in class.  
Prerequisite: minimum grade of C in SPA 103 or equivalent or permission of chair.  
Offered: fall & spring.

SPA 215 Intermediate Spanish  
Building on grammar and vocabulary learned in 103 & 104, this course  
continues the focus on grammar and vocabulary and increasing competence  
in the four linguistic skills and gaining an overview of Hispanic cultures.  
Emphasizing writing and speaking. Exclusive use of Spanish in class.  
Prerequisite: minimum grade of C in SPA 104 or equivalent or permission of chair.  
Offered: fall & spring.

SPA 217 Introduction to Spanish Composition  
The first of two composition courses designed as a thorough review of  
grammatical structures, with a focus on Spanish composition and translation  
at the intermediate level. Courses focuses on historical and contemporary  
realities of Latin America including indigenous populations, economics,  
environment, human rights, politics, art and music. Course will explore these  
issues via cultural icons such as Sor Juana, Frida Kahlo, Che, Residente, and  
others. Extensive use of GoogleDocs. Emphasizes the building of vocabulary,  
increasing competence in the four linguistic skills (reading, writing, listening,  
speaking) and gaining an overview of Hispanic cultures. Exclusive use of  
Spanish in class.  
Prerequisite: minimum grade of C in SPA 215 or equivalent or permission of chair.  
Offered: fall & spring.

SPA 323 Topics in Conversation I: Peninsular Culture and Conversation  
One of 2 non-sequential conversation courses. Contemporary  
communication skills emphasized in general exploration of contemporary  
culture of Spain. Exclusive use of Spanish in class. Weekly conversation with  
peers in Latin America or Spain via Skype (Dual Immersion).  
Prerequisite: minimum grade of C in SPA 217 or equivalent or permission of chair.  
Offered: fall.

SPA 324 Topics in Conversation II: Latin American Culture and Civilization  
One of 2 non-sequential conversation courses. Contemporary  
communication skills emphasized in general exploration of contemporary  
culture of Latin America. Exclusive use of Spanish in class. Weekly  
conversation with peers in Latin America via Skype (Dual Immersion).  
Prerequisite: minimum grade of C in SPA 217 or equivalent or permission of chair.  
Offered: spring.

SPA 332 Advanced Spanish Composition  
Distinguishing and producing effective writing based on short stories and  
short films. Emphasis on advanced structures of Spanish grammar. Exclusive  
use of Spanish in class.  
Prerequisite: minimum grade of C in SPA 217 or equivalent or permission of chair.  
Offered: spring.

SPA 336 Latin@is in the US: Latino Literature and Film  
The course will explore the Latino struggle of belonging, or not belonging,  
to the mythic U.S. melting pot. We will explore Latino literature primarily  
from the last half of the previous century to contemporary writers. We  
will problematize the term “Latin@” in terms of race, ethnicity, country  
of origin, and cultural variables. Furthermore, the unease of belonging to  
either the locus of the U.S. nor to the country/culture of origin/ancestry  
will be further explored in light of other marks of identity difference,  
including race, gender, sexuality, religion, and class. The difficulty of finding  
an identity, a locus, and the various modes of adaptation and adoption will  
be explored through the literary production of Latinos trying to articulate  
the state of (not) belonging for themselves as well as to give voice to their  
community. While the course will strive to give an historical perspective  
to the issues at hand, our focus will be more on the literary production of  
the 20th/21st centuries, when Latino literature blossomed in the context  
of Civil Rights and the social upheavals of the mid century. Knowledge of  
Spanish not required. Course is taught IN ENGLISH.  
Prerequisite: Successful completion of ENG 111 and 112 with grade of C or  
better, or equivalent.  
Fulfills College Core: Diversity, Field 3 (Literature and the Arts)  
Offered: occasionally.

SPA 346 Short Term Study Abroad Language Course  
Short term (summer, usually, or occasionally during January break) study  
abroad language course run by the Modern Languages, Literatures, and  
Cultures faculty. Students with various levels of language skills can be  
accommodated. Locations include Costa Rica, Mexico, Argentina, Cuba,  
and Spain. Consult with DMLLC faculty for specific information in any  
given year, including specific course fees. Fulfills DMLLC Study Abroad  
requirement. Participation must be approved by the chair. Homestays are  
offered in some countries. Excursions frequently included. Open to all  
majors, though occasionally some programs will require intermediate or  
better Spanish language skills --consult with instructor leading the program  
and/or the chair.  
Prerequisite: Some Spanish classwork preferred: completion of SPA 215 with  
grade of C or better, though lower levels of Spanish may also be considered  
if academically strong and mature student.  
Offered: occasionally.

SPA 348 Short Term Study Abroad Culture Course or Internship  
Short term (summer, usually, or occasionally during January break) study  
abroad course run by the Modern Languages, Literatures, and  
Cultures faculty. Locations include Costa Rica, Mexico, Argentina, Cuba,  
and Spain. Course may involve culture related coursework, an internship, or service  
learning. Consult with DMLLC faculty for specific information in any  
given year, including specific course fees. All work in Spanish, although  
students with various levels of language skills can be accommodated. Fulfills  
DMLLC Study Abroad requirement. Participation must be approved by  
the chair. Homestays are offered in some countries. Excursions frequently  
included. Open to all majors though occasionally some programs will require intermediate or  
better Spanish language skills --consult with instructor leading the program  
and/or the chair.  
Prerequisite: Some Spanish classwork preferred: completion of SPA 215 with  
grade of C or better, though lower levels of Spanish may also be considered  
if academically strong and mature student.  
Offered: occasionally.
SPA 399 Seminar in Argentina 3 Credits
Offered exclusively in Argentina during Winter Break for 3 weeks. Open to all majors in need of 100, 200, 300 or 400-level SPA courses. Satisfies the Study Abroad Requirement.
Prerequisite: A minimum grade of C in SPA 215 or permission of instructor.
Offered: occasionally during winter break, currently anticipated winter 2020.

SPA 400 Spanish Internship 1-3 Credits
Professional Internship. Open to ALL majors, though intermediate Spanish knowledge expected. Internships require an application and approval by the associate dean.
Prerequisite: C or better in SPA 217 or SPA 332, and C or better in SPA 323 or SPA 324. Or, permission of the department chair & associate dean.

SPA 405 Spanish Literary Myths 3 Credits
A focus on the construction of three Spanish and French literary myths: Don Quixote, Don Juan and Carmen. Students will study its original sources, development, transformation, and historic interpretation, as well as its contemporary versions based on literature, visual arts and music. Exclusive use of Spanish in class.
Prerequisites: C or better in SPA 217 or SPA 332, and C or better in SPA 323 or SPA 324. Or, permission of the department chair.
Offered: spring 2019.

SPA 410 Finding Your Way: The Camino Pilgrimage 3 Credits
The El Camino study tour is a 10-day walk following one of the oldest medieval pilgrimage routes to St. James Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela, in Northeast Spain. Participants will experience the history, politics, and culture that contributed to the construction of the pilgrimage and will be able to place it in a contemporary, European context. Lectures, readings and films, and physical preparation for the 65-mile journey needed to obtain an official certificate of the pilgrim. Strict selection process (including, but not limited to: physical ability to complete the walk, commitment to the values of the Camino & those of the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures: multiculturalism and openness). Students may go on the walk without credit, or opt for 1 credit (section A). In addition, students have the option to stay for classes for an additional week (for 2 credits, Section B) or for 2 additional weeks (for a total of 3 credits, section C). The 1-2 additional week(s) involve language classes, homestays, and independent research project(s) (ANY topic/major, English/Spanish). Open to all students regardless of major or language ability. Consult instructor (Dr. Stefanski) for fees/additional information and the chair for questions regarding Study Abroad credit.
Prerequisite: permission of instructor required.
Offered: occasionally in spring with the walk in May/June.

SPA 415 Roman, Arab and Jewish Spain: Journey in Time 1 Credit
This study tour takes students to Southern Spain and its historic cities of Mérida, Sevilla, Córdoba, and Granada. They delve into aspects of the culture of Spain that distinguish her from other nations and geographic regions. The formation of this unique and unrepeatable identity is rooted in the historic and cultural foundations with emphasis on Roman, Arab, and Jewish Spain. The impact of these three cultures on the Iberian Peninsula marked the beginning of the formation of Spain’s national identity in terms of language, religion, law, literature, architecture, infrastructure, agriculture, and gastronomy.
Prerequisite: None. Corequisite: None.
Offered: occasionally.

SPA 420 Personal Narrative: Understanding Reality and the Self in Contemporary Spanish Narrative. 3 Credits
Prerequisites: C or better in SPA 217 or SPA 332, and C or better in SPA 323 or SPA 324. Or, permission of the department chair.
Offered: occasionally in spring.

SPA 436 Detective Fiction: Murderous Seduction 3 Credits
Explores the detective novel and film in Spain and Latin America focusing on socio-political interpretations & cultural contexts, the characteristics of the genre, motivations for writing/reading such fiction, and the classification of this fiction as low/high-brow. We will also explore the deconstruction of the genre and the detective novel as self-parody. Exclusive use of Spanish in class.
Prerequisites: C or better in SPA 217 or SPA 332, and C or better in SPA 323 or SPA 324. Or, permission of the department chair.
Offered: occasionally in fall.

SPA 444 Magic Realism in Fiction & Film from Latin American Origins to a Global Phenomenon 3 Credits
The course will explore the origins of magic realism, attempt to define it, and consider the function of magic realism as political protest (and contrast it with science fiction and fantasy). We will also explore what makes magic real by examining the issue of perspective, faith, and marginalization and responses to colonialism/postcolonialism and other forms of oppression. While magic realism began as a form of discourse specific to the Caribbean’s multi-ethnic, postcolonial, revolutionary ambience, it has become a worldwide phenomenon, used to define ethnic, racial, gender, sexual, or even national identity in the post-colonial environment since the last half of the 20th century. Magic realism attempts to manipulate western forms of narrative (the novel) to articulate a non-Western reality, as a form of communication. In Gabriel Garcia Marquez words, it is an attempt to “render our reality believable”. Other questions we will explore include how magic realism has evolved from a post-colonial mode of discourse, to a narrative form employed by other oppressed or underrepresented groups, including women, homosexuals, and the poor. This intercource between opposing forces (articulated in terms of race, class, culture, sexuality, etc.) is the new direction of magic realism.
Prerequisite: ENG 111 & ENG 112.
Fulfills College Core: Field 3 (Literature and the Arts), Global Awareness
Offered: occasionally.

SPA 453 Almodóvar and La Movida: The Films of Pedro Almódóvar 3 Credits
Exploration of the transgressive, revolutionary, titillating films of Pedro Almodóvar and the birth of a new Spain after the death of Franco, tracing the trajectory and development of his cinematic narrative technique from his earliest films to his more recent films, exploring the excoriation of class, gender, sexuality, politics, and identity in his oeuvre. Exclusive use of Spanish in class.
Prerequisites: C or better in SPA 217 or SPA 332, and C or better in SPA 323 or SPA 324. Or, permission of the department chair.
Offered: occasionally in fall.

SPA 455 Spanish Short Fiction 3 Credits
A study of Spanish short-short literary fiction, Almodóvar’s cinematography and graffiti art as expressions of Postmodern high and low cultures. Exclusive use of Spanish in class.
Prerequisites: C or better in SPA 217 or SPA 332, and C or better in SPA 323 or SPA 324, or permission of the department chair.
Offered: occasionally in spring.
SPA 456 Cuban Cinema of the Revolution 3 Credits
This course explores how film is politically charged in Cuba. How do directors work around and within the Cuban government’s censorship to critique the Revolution as well as balance that critique with a love for the country and its people? Addresses how countryside and Havana are not just architecture or geography, but characters in their own right. Explores issues of race, gender, sexuality, class, and religion within Cuba and the exile community. No prerequisite for non SPA credit. Exclusive use of Spanish in class (exceptions can be made for those going on the trip, upon consultation with instructor and approval of chair).
Prerequisites: C or better in SPA 217 or SPA 332, and C or better in SPA 323 or SPA 324, or permission of the department chair.
Offered: occasionally.

SPA 457 Cuba Immersion Experience 3 Credits
Delving deep into the history, culture, economics, and politics of Cuba, this course explores the complex character of the largest Caribbean island, and its complicated relationship to the US. This course is a follow up to SPA 456: Cuban Cinema of the Revolution. Students should take SPA 456, though some exceptions may be made at the discretion of instructor. The course runs three weeks in Havana and the provinces in late December through first weeks of January. Course will include site visits, lectures and visits on history, politics, society, medicine, gender and sexuality, labor, religion, and education. Home stays included.
Prerequisites: C or better in SPA 217 or SPA 332, and C or better in SPA 323 or SPA 324, or permission of Chair.
Offered: occasionally.

SPA 459 The Body Erotic/The Body Politic: Sexuality as Political Discourse in Latin America and Spain 3 Credits
Explores how ‘deviant’ sexuality (homosexuality, lesbianism, incest, and miscegenation) are used as political discourse in contexts where political dialogue is restricted. Examines how art deals with issues of the sexual body in terms of the political body, exploring the political uses of the body as well as the sexualization of the political. Exclusive use of Spanish in class.
Prerequisites: C or better in SPA 217 or SPA 332, and C or better in SPA 323 or SPA 324. Or, permission of the department chair.
Offered: occasionally in fall.

SPA 460 Lorca and his Époque 3 Credits
Prerequisites: minimum grade of C in SPA 217 or SPA 332, and C or better in SPA 323 or SPA 324; or permission of chair/instructor.
Offered: occasionally in spring.

SPA 490 Spanish Capstone Portfolio Project 1 Credit
Graduating majors will collect a portfolio of their work during their time at Canisius. Students will summarize their experience of studying Spanish through a 5-10 page reflective paper (written in the target language) discussing the progress they have made in skills (reading, writing, speaking, listening) and knowledge (culture). Students will also summarize how their knowledge of Spanish will impact their futures (graduate school, year of service, career, community, personal life). In this reflection, students should also synthesize the three areas of extracurricular experience and their impact on their skills and cultural knowledge: A) Study Abroad; B) Service Learning, Internships/Volunteer sites; C) Cultural Activities. Students should also critique the program, and suggest improvements to curriculum. The final project will conclude with an oral presentation of the above, with Q&A, for peers and faculty. This course will be required of all graduating majors entering AY 17/18 (graduation 2021 and later). Current students are strongly encouraged to register.
Prerequisite: successful completion of all other requirements in the major (may be concurrently registered in final elective).
Offered: every fall and spring semester.

SPA 499 Independent Study 1-6 Credits
Study and work with a faculty supervisor. Project to be determined by faculty agreement. Independent studies require an application and approval by the associate dean.
Prerequisites: C or better in SPA 217 or SPA 332, and C or better in SPA 323 or SPA 324. Or, permission of the department chair.