

SPANISH - SPA

SPA 103 Introductory Spanish I 3 Credits

Introductory Spanish aiming at developing reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. Introduction to Hispanic culture. Course aim is for almost exclusive use of Spanish in class. Course restricted to freshman, sophomores, and juniors only, or by permission of department chair.

Prerequisite: no prior Spanish experience or placement exam results.

Fulfills College Core: Global Awareness

Offered: every fall.

SPA 104 Introductory Spanish II 3 Credits

Introductory Spanish aiming at reinforcing and enhancing reading, writing, listening and speaking skills learned in SPA 103. Introduction to Hispanic culture. Course aim is for almost exclusive use of Spanish in class. Course restricted to freshmen, sophomores, and juniors only, or by permission of department chair.

Prerequisite: minimum grade of C in SPA 103 or equivalent (placement exam) or permission of chair.

Fulfills College Core: Global Awareness

Offered: every spring, and occasionally fall.

SPA 215 Communicating in Spanish 3 Credits

Building on grammar and vocabulary learned in 103 & 104, this intermediate course continues the focus on grammar and vocabulary and increasing competence in the four linguistic skills and gaining an overview of Hispanic cultures. Emphasizing communication skills. Exclusive use of Spanish in class.

Prerequisite: minimum grade of C in SPA 104 or equivalent (placement test) or permission of chair.

Fulfills College Core: Global Awareness

Offered: fall & spring.

SPA 217 Intro Comp Panorama SocioCultural Latinoamericano 3 Credits

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. Course 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.

Fulfills College Core: Global Awareness

Offered: every fall & spring.

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

One of 2 non-sequential conversation courses. Contemporary communication skills emphasized in general exploration of crucial moments in the history of Spain and its contemporary culture. Exclusive use of Spanish in class. Weekly conversation with peers in Latin America or Spain via Dual Immersion (using Apps such as WhatsApp, Zoom, or Skype).

Prerequisite: C or better in all prior courses in Spanish (217 usually required), or, permission of the department chair.

Fulfills College Core: Oral Communication

Offered: every spring.

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

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 Dual Immersion (using Apps such as WhatsApp, Zoom, or Skype). Service Learning frequently required.

Prerequisite: C or better in all prior courses in Spanish (217 usually required prior), or, permission of the department chair.

Fulfills College Core: Justice, Oral Communication

Offered: every fall.

SPA 332 Advanced Spanish Composition 3 Credits

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: C or better in all prior courses in Spanish (217 usually required prior), or, permission of the department chair.

Offered: every fall.

SPA 336 Latin@s in the US: Latino Literature and Film 3 Credits

The course will explore the Latino struggle of belonging, or not belonging, to the mythic U.S. melting pot. We will explore Latin@ 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 neither 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 Latin@ 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. This course fulfills core attributes Field 3 (Literature and the Arts) and Diversity and counts for the SPA minor but generally not for the major. Chair approval required for the course to count in the major.

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 3 Credits

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 Mexico, 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 the 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 (or no prior Spanish study) may also be considered if academically strong and mature student; Permission of instructor.

Offered: occasionally.

SPA 348 Short Term Study Abroad Culture Course or Internship 3 Credits

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 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: usually every 3-4 years in Spring, all SPA 400 level electives are offered on a rotating cycle of 3-4 years.

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 open-mindedness). 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 unrepeatably 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: Requires Instructor Permission.

Offered: usually Spring, every other year, during Spring break or in May.

SPA 420 Personal Narrative: Understanding Reality and the Self in Contemporary Spanish Narrative. 3 Credits

An examination of cultural themes (self in relation to others, as well as to our cities, travels, and animals) in the essayist work of the best contemporary Spanish writers: Lucía Etxebarria, Javier Marías, Juan José Millás, Rosa Montero, Soledad Puértolas, Rosa Regás, and Manuel Vincent. Emphasis on vocabulary building and idiomatic structure of the language. Exclusive use of Spanish in class. Or, permission of the department chair.

Prerequisites: C or better in SPA 217 or SPA 332, and C or better in SPA 323 or SPA 324.

Offered: usually every 3-4 years in Spring, all SPA 400 level electives are offered on a rotating cycle of 3-4 years.

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. Or, permission of the department chair.

Prerequisites: C or better in SPA 217 or SPA 332, and C or better in SPA 323 or SPA 324.

Fulfills College Core: Field 3 (Literature and the Arts), Justice

Offered: usually every 3-4 years in Fall, all SPA 400 level electives are offered on a rotating cycle of 3-4 years.

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 world-wide 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 intercourse between opposing forces (articulated in terms of race, class, culture, sexuality, etc.) is the new direction of magic realism. This course fulfills core attributes (Field 3: Literature and the Arts, Global Awareness) and counts for the SPA minor but generally not for the major. Chair approval required for the course to count in the major.

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 Almodóvar 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.

Offered: usually every 3-4 years in Fall, all SPA 400 level electives are offered on a rotating cycle of 3-4 years.

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: usually every 3-4 years in Spring, all SPA 400 level electives are offered on a rotating cycle of 3-4 years.

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: usually every 3-4 years in Fall, all SPA 400 level electives are offered on a rotating cycle of 3-4 years.

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 instructor and Chair; usually requires successful completion of SPA 456 with C or better.

Offered: occasionally during winter break.

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: usually every 3-4 years in fall, all SPA 400 level electives are offered on a rotating cycle of 3-4 years.

SPA 460 Lorca and his Époque 3 Credits

An examination of Spain's Generation of '27 as a cultural vanguard of the 20th century. Emphasis on multidisciplinary oeuvre by Federico García Lorca and his closest circle of friends: Salvador Dalí, Luis Buñuel and Manuel de Falla. Exclusive use of Spanish in class.

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: usually every 3-4 years in Spring, all SPA 400 level electives are offered on a rotating cycle of 3-4 years.

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.