Spanish Language and Literature (SPN)

Major and Minor in Spanish Language and Literature
Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature, College of Arts and Sciences

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Other minors of particular interest to students minoring in Spanish: comparative literature (CLT), international studies (INT), Latin American and Caribbean studies (LAC)

Faculty

Lou Charnon-Deutsch, Professor, Ph.D., University of Chicago: 18th- and 19th-century Peninsular literature; feminist theory. Recipient of the State University Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1990, and the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1990.

Elena Davidak, Lecturer, Masters, Northern Iowa University: TESOL and Spanish Linguistics.

Jose Elias-Ulloa, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Rutgers University: Phonology, Latin American indigenous languages; Spanish in contact.

Paul Firbas, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Princeton University: Latin American texts of the colonial period and 20th century Andean literature.

Daniela Flesler, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Tulane University: Contemporary Peninsular literature and cultural studies.

Junyoung Verónica Kim, Visiting Professor, Ph.D., Cornell University: 20th and 21st C. Latin American Literature, Film and Cultural Studies.

Flora Klein-Andreu, Professor Emerita, Ph.D., Columbia University: Linguistic meaning; language evolution and variation; standardization; research methods.

Pedro Lastra, Professor Emeritus, University of Chile; (University Professor, University of Chile, 1960-1973): Colonial, modern, and contemporary Spanish-American literature.

James B. McKenna, Professor Emeritus, Ph.D., Harvard University: 20th-century Hispanic culture and literature.

Maria Luisa Nunes, Professor Emerita, Ph.D., City University of New York: 19th- and 20th-century Luso-Brazilian literatures; women’s studies.

Francisco Ordóñez, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Graduate Center C.U.N.Y: Spanish syntax, Spanish dialectology and comparative Romance linguistics.

Adrián Pérez Melgosa, Assistant Professor, Ph.D. University of Rochester: Comparative literature; cultural studies of the Americas; literary and film theory.

Gabriela Polit-Dueñas, Assistant Professor, Ph.D. New York University: Contemporary Spanish American literature; gender theory and literary criticism.

Rachel Price, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Duke University: Caribbean and Latin American Literature XIX, and XX century.

Malcolm K. Read, Professor, Ph.D., University of Wales: Sociology of culture; Marxist and psychoanalytic literary criticism.

Elias L. Rivers, Professor Emeritus, Ph.D., Yale University: 16th- and 17th-century literature of Spain; sociolinguistic theory of literature.

Victoriano Roncero-López, Professor, Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Universidad Complutense: 18th- and 17th-century literature of Spain.

Tatiana Rzhovsky, Lecturer, M.A. University of Illinois: Latin American literature; Latin American-Russian literary relations.

Liila Ruiz-Debbe, Senior Lecturer, Ph.D., Université de Genève, Switzerland: Applied linguistics and language pedagogy; second language acquisition and research.

Eric Salvá, Lecturer, Masters, SUNY Albany: TESOL and Spanish Linguistics.

Kathleen Vernon, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of Chicago: 20th-century Hispanic cinema; literature and cultural studies.

Adjunct Faculty

Estimated number: 3

Teaching Assistants

Estimated number: 23

Spanish studies involves language, literature, cultural history, and linguistics as applied to Spain, Spanish America, and Latino communities in the United States. The field combines the humanities and the social sciences to give the student an understanding of the diverse aspects of Hispanic culture.

Because so many facets of North American life—business, industry, commerce, communications media, the arts, science, and technology—have become truly international in scope, many career opportunities exist for persons with language skills and knowledge of other cultures. A student majoring in Spanish could begin preparation for a career in any of these fields as well as in teaching. A student minoring in Spanish could combine such studies with plans for governmental service, international business, the health professions, or a major in another language and literature.

The Department offers a major program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish language and literature and a minor in Spanish. Students wishing to major in Spanish should consult with a Departmental advisor to choose individual programs.

Placement

Entering students who wish to continue the study of Spanish started in high school should consult a departmental advisor to help them choose the appropriate course.
Courses Offered in Spanish
See the Course Descriptions listing in this Bulletin for complete information.

SPN 111, 112 Elementary Spanish I, II
SPN 210, 211 Intermediate Spanish I, II (Emphasis on Spain)
SPN 212 Intermediate Spanish II
SPN 213 Intermediate Spanish for Speakers of Spanish
SPN 310 Spanish Grammar and Composition for Students of Hispanic-American Background
SPN 311 Spanish Conversation and Composition
SPN 312-G Introduction to Literary Studies
SPN 321 Advanced Spanish Grammar and Composition
SPN 322 Practical Spanish
SPN 323 Advanced Spanish Conversation
SPN 391-I The Culture and Civilization of Spain
SPN 392-G The Culture and Civilization of Spanish America
SPN 393 Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics
SPN 395-396-J Introduction to Spanish-American Literature I, II
SPN 397-I, 398-I Introduction to Spanish Literature I, II
SPN 405 Issues in Hispanic Cultural Studies
SPN 410 Theory in Contexts
SPN 415 Hispanic Cultures in Contact
SPN 420 Topics in Spanish and Latin American Cinema
SPN 435 Topics in Latin American Literature from the Colonial Period to the Present
SPN 445 Topics in Spanish Literature from the Middle Ages to the Present
SPN 447 Directed Readings
SPN 462 Contrastive Spanish-English Phonology
SPN 463 Contrastive Spanish-English Grammar
SPN 465 Topics in Hispanic Linguistics
SPN 475 Undergraduate Teaching Practicum in Spanish
SPN 495 Spanish Senior Honors
Courses Offered in Spanish Literature and Culture Taught in English

See the Course Descriptions listing in this Bulletin for complete information.

HUS 254-J Latin America Today
HUS 255-I Modern Spain
HUS 361-G Latin American Literature
HUS 371-G United States Latino Literature
HUS 390-J Latin American Cinema

Requirements for the Major in Spanish Language and Literature (SPN)
The major in Spanish Language and Literature leads to the Bachelor of Arts degree. All courses offered for the major must be taken for a letter grade (except that S is acceptable for SPN 311 and 312 completed through Challenge examinations). All upper-division courses in Spanish must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher.

Completion of the major requires 36 credits.

A. Required Basic Courses
1. a. SPN 311 Spanish Conversation and Composition
   or SPN 310 Spanish Grammar and Composition for Students of Hispanic-American Background
   b. SPN 312 Introduction to Literary Studies
   (Note: Challenge examinations are only given for SPN 311. See Notes 1 and 2, below.)
2. SPN 321 Advanced Spanish Grammar and Composition
3. SPN 391 The Culture and Civilization of Spain
   or SPN 392 The Culture and Civilization of Spanish America
4. Three courses from:
   SPN 395 Introduction to Spanish-American Literature I
   SPN 396 Introduction to Spanish-American Literature II
   SPN 397 Introduction to Spanish Literature I
   SPN 398 Introduction to Spanish Literature II
5. SPN 393 Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics

B. Advanced Courses in Hispanic Linguistics, Literature, and Culture
Twelve additional credits in upper-division SPN courses chosen in consultation with the Departmental advisor. (HUL 324 is also acceptable. A maximum of three credits of SPN 447 is applicable toward this requirement.) At least three of the upper-division courses for the major must be 400-level. 300-level courses in the above list that are in excess of the required number may also count in this category.

C. Upper-Division Writing Requirement
To demonstrate their proficiency in writing English, Spanish majors must present a dossier consisting of a minimum of two papers of at least three to five pages each. This dossier must be submitted before the end of the second semester of their junior year to the director of undergraduate studies. The papers consist of translations of essays submitted as part of the work for upper-division courses. 300- or 400-level courses in the above list that are in excess of the required number may also count in this category. Papers are judged for clarity, accuracy, and appropriateness of style by a faculty committee. Students may resubmit in their senior year.

Notes:
1. Students of Spanish-speaking background may take the Challenge examination for SPN 310/311.
2. The Department requires transfer students to take at least 18 credits of Spanish courses in residence at Stony Brook to complete a Spanish major.

The Honors Program in Spanish
To be awarded honors, a Department major must 1) maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00 and a grade point average of at least 3.50 in Spanish courses taken for the major; and 2) write a senior thesis judged worthy of honors. Students eligible to write a senior thesis must find a member of the Department faculty to act as a thesis advisor and enroll in SPN 495. The thesis topic must be approved by the director of undergraduate studies, the chairperson, and the thesis advisor. The thesis is evaluated by the thesis advisor, another member of the Spanish faculty, and a third reader from outside the Department. Application to the honors program must be made during Prime Time the semester prior to registering for the program.

Spanish Secondary Teacher Education Program
See the Education and Teacher Certification entry in the alphabetical listings of Approved Majors, Minors, and Programs.

Requirements for the Minor in Spanish Language, Culture, and Literature (SPN)
All upper-division courses in Spanish offered to fulfill minor requirements must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher. At least nine credits of upper-division Spanish courses must be earned at Stony Brook to complete the minor.

Completion of the minor requires 24 credits.

A. Basic Language
1. SPN 311 Spanish Conversation and Composition
   or SPN 310 Spanish Grammar and Composition for Students of Hispanic-American Background
2. SPN 312 Introduction to Literary Studies

B. Advanced Courses
1. SPN 321 Advanced Spanish Grammar and Composition
2. Five other upper-division SPN courses, two of which must be at the 400 level

Study Abroad
Language majors and other interested students who would like to spend a semester or a year studying abroad should consult the director of undergraduate studies prior to going abroad. See also the Study Abroad entry in the chapter titled “Special Academic Opportunities.”