Spanish Language and Literature (SPN)

Major and Minor in Spanish Language and Literature

Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature, College of Arts and Sciences

Chairperson: Daniela Flesler

Director of Undergraduate Studies: Paul Firbas

Office: 1055 Humanities Building
Phone: (631) 632-6935

Web address: http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/hispanic/

Minor of particular interest to students majoring in Spanish: Latin American and Caribbean studies (LAC)

Spanish Language and Literature (SPN)

Spanish studies involve 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 minorning 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.

Requirements for the Major and the Minor 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 211, SPN 212, and SPN 310/SPN 311 completed through Challenge examinations). All courses in Spanish must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher.

Completion of the major requires 36-42 credits, depending on language placement. See http://www.stonybrook.edu/llrc/placement_challenge_exams/placement_exam.html for placement exam information. A double major requires 30-36 credits. (See notes 1 and 2, below).

• Required Basic Spanish Language Courses: SPN 211 Intermediate Spanish I and SPN 212 Intermediate Spanish II (6 credits, or the equivalent proficiency satisfied through permission of the department, or through the placement or the challenge exam).
• Required Basic Courses: (24 credits)
  • SPN 311 Spanish Conversation and Composition (or SPN 310 Spanish Grammar and Composition for Students of Hispanic-American Background) (See Note 3, below.)
  • SPN 312 Introduction to Literary Studies
  • SPN 321 Advanced Spanish Grammar and Composition
• 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 397 Introduction to Spanish Literature I
• SPN 395 Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics
• Advanced Courses in Hispanic Linguistics, Literature, and Culture (15 credits)

Five additional courses in upper-division SPN courses chosen in consultation with the Departmental advisor. (HUL 324 and HUS 390 are 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.

• Upper-Division Writing Requirement

Beginning Fall 2014, all students who complete SPN 321 will have satisfied the upper-division writing requirement for the major as well as the university WRTD requirement.
Notes:

1. Those students with enough language proficiency to satisfy requirement A will complete a total of 36 credits. The students who need to take SPN 211 and 212 will complete a total of 42 credits.

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.

3. Students of Spanish-speaking background may take the Challenge examination for SPN 310/311.

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 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.


A. Basic Spanish Language Courses: SPN 211, SPN 212 (6 credits, or the equivalent proficiency satisfied through permission of the department, or through the placement or the challenge exam).

B. Required Basic Courses

- SPN 311 Spanish Conversation and Composition
- OR SPN 310 Spanish Grammar and Composition for students of Hispanic-American background
- SPN 312 Introduction to Literary Studies
- SPN 321 Advanced Spanish Grammar and Composition

C. Advanced Elective Courses

- Three other upper-division SPN courses, two of which must be at the 400 level.

Note: Students with enough language proficiency to satisfy requirement A will complete a total of 18 credits. Students who need to take SPN 211 and 212 will complete a total of 24 credits.

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 section titled “Special Academic Opportunities.”

Sample Course Sequence for the Major in Spanish

A course planning guide for this major may be found here. The major course planning guides are not part of the official Undergraduate Bulletin, and are only updated periodically for use as an advising tool. The Undergraduate Bulletin supersedes any errors or omissions in the major course planning guides.

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HUS

Spanish Literature and Culture

Courses in English

HUS 254: Latin America Today
An introduction to a global perspective on contemporary Latin American culture. Latin America’s political, historical, and cultural developments of this century are studied.

DEC: J
SBC: DIV, GLO, HUM
3 credits

HUS 255: Modern Spain
An examination of major cultural and social developments in contemporary Spain in global context.

DEC: I
SBC: GLO, HUM
3 credits

HUS 261: Latin American Literature
A topics course given in English on a major Latin American author or literary movement in relation to European or American literature. May be repeated as the topic changes. May be used to satisfy comparative literature major requirements with permission of major department.

DEC: G
SBC: GLO, HUM
3 credits

HUS 271: United States Latino Literature and Culture
A topics course in English on the literature, cultures and histories of Latinos in the United States. May be repeated as the topic changes. May be used to satisfy comparative literature major requirements with permission of major department.

DEC: G
SBC: DIV, HUM, USA
3 credits

HUS 390: Latin American Cinema
A contextual approach to the national cinemas of Latin America in global context. Students develop their skill in film analysis as they examine the specific role of film in re-focusing the terms of ongoing debates on questions of national identity and the function of culture in society.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing. Advisory Prerequisite: One 200-level course in film or one course in Latin American literature, culture, or history

SPN

Hispanic Languages and Literature

SPN 111: Elementary Spanish I
An introduction to spoken and written Spanish, stressing pronunciation, speaking, comprehension, reading, and writing. Language laboratory supplements class work. Intended for students without any prior knowledge of the language. All entering students should take a placement exam to evaluate their proficiency. Please see https://llrc.stonybrook.edu/placement-exams for more information.

4 credits

SPN 112: Elementary Spanish II
An introduction to spoken and written Spanish, stressing pronunciation, speaking, comprehension, reading, and writing. Language laboratory supplements class work. All entering students should take a placement exam to evaluate their proficiency. Please see https://llrc.stonybrook.edu/placement-exams for more information.

Prerequisite: C or better in SPN 111 or placement into 112. See http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/llrc/placement_challenge_exams/placement_exam.html for more information.

SPN 210: Spanish Grammar and Composition for Students of Hispanic-American Background
A course designed to improve writing through the study of Hispanic-American literature and culture. May not be taken for credit in addition to SPN 211.

Prerequisite: fluency in Spanish equivalent to SPN 210.

DEC: S3
SBC: GLO, HUM, LANG
3 credits

SPN 211: Intermediate Spanish I
A comprehensive review of the Spanish language in its global context. The course is intended to develop greater competence in reading, writing, and speaking Spanish through continued study of grammar and interpretation of more advanced literary texts. Not intended for students of Spanish-speaking background.

Prerequisite: SPN 112 or placement into 211. See https://llrc.stonybrook.edu/placement-exams for more information.

DEC: S3
SBC: GLO, LANG
3 credits

SPN 212: Intermediate Spanish II
A comprehensive study of the Spanish language in its global context. The course is intended to develop greater competence in reading, writing, and speaking Spanish through continued study of grammar and interpretation of more advanced literary texts. Not intended for students of Spanish-speaking background.

Prerequisite: SPN 211

DEC: S3
SBC: GLO, HFA+ LANG
3 credits

SPN 310: Spanish Grammar and Composition for Students of Hispanic-American Background
A course designed to improve writing through the study of Hispanic-American literature and culture. May not be taken for credit in addition to SPN 311.

Prerequisite: fluency in Spanish equivalent to SPN 310.

DEC: S3
SBC: HFA+, LANG
3 credits

SPN 311: Spanish Conversation and Composition
A thorough review of Spanish grammar and of the active use of spoken and written forms. Not intended for students of Spanish-speaking background. May not be taken for credit in addition to SPN 310.

Prerequisite: SPN 212

DEC: S3
SBC: HFA+, LANG
3 credits

SPN 312: Introduction to Literary Studies
Reading of selected passages of prose and poetry in class, with special concentration on improving students’ written and oral skills, and introducing them to the basic elements
of literary analysis of Spanish and Latin American works.
Prerequisite: SPN 310 or 311
DEC: G & 3
SBC: HFA+, SPK
3 credits

SPN 321: Advanced Spanish Grammar and Composition
A review of advanced Spanish grammar with emphasis on improving writing skills and increasing mastery of Spanish syntax. Extensive practice in composition and translation.
Prerequisite: SPN 310 or SPN 311
DEC: S3
SBC: CER, HFA+, WRTD
3 credits

SPN 322: Practical Spanish
A course for students who wish to become more proficient in reading, writing, and translating Spanish, to be used in business, administration, and in other fields of everyday professional life. Emphasis is placed on the idiomatic peculiarities of the Spanish language and the relation of Spanish to the structure of English.
Prerequisite: SPN 310 or SPN 311
DEC: S3
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

SPN 323: Advanced Spanish Conversation
A course designed to develop and maintain complete fluency in the language. Not open to native-background speakers or students who have been in a Spanish-speaking country for a considerable length of time.
Prerequisite: SPN 310 or SPN 311
DEC: S3
SBC: HFA+, LANG
3 credits

SPN 391: The Culture and Civilization of Spain
The evolution of the culture and civilization of Spain as seen through its history, art, and literature in global context.
Prerequisite: SPN 312
DEC: I & 3
SBC: GLO, HFA+
3 credits

SPN 392: The Culture and Civilization of Spanish America
The evolution of the culture and civilization of Spanish America as seen through its history, art, and literature in global context.
Prerequisite: SPN 312
DEC: I & 3
SBC: GLO, HFA+
3 credits

SPN 393: Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics
The study of Spanish linguistics, including an analysis of the Spanish sound system and the structure of words and sentences. Topics include the origin and evolution of the Spanish language and the variations of Latin American and Peninsular Spanish.
Prerequisite: SPN 321
SBC: SBS
3 credits

SPN 394: Introduction to Hispanic American Literature and Culture I
Readings in Latin American literature from its native origins through colonial rule.
Prerequisite: SPN 312
DEC: J & 3
SBC: GLO, HFA+
3 credits

SPN 395: Introduction to Latin American Literature and Culture I
Readings in Latin American literature from its native origins through colonial rule.
Prerequisite: SPN 312
DEC: J & 3
SBC: GLO, HFA+
3 credits

SPN 396: Introduction to Latin American Literature and Culture II
Readings in Latin American literature from its native origins through colonial rule.
Prerequisite: SPN 312
DEC: J & 3
SBC: GLO, HFA+
3 credits

SPN 397: Introduction to Spanish Literature and Culture I
Readings in Peninsular literature from its origins through the 17th century.
Prerequisite: SPN 312
DEC: I & 3
SBC: GLO, HFA+
3 credits

SPN 398: Introduction to Spanish Literature and Culture II
Readings in Peninsular literature from the late colonial period to the present.
Prerequisite: SPN 312
DEC: I & 3
SBC: GLO, HFA+
3 credits

SPN 399: Communication, Media and Journalism in Spanish
Reading, analyzing, writing, producing and publishing news and media material in Spanish. Emphasis will be on the new digital media culture of globalized Latin American, Latino USA and Spain in relation to specific historical and social contexts, power relations, gender and ethnic politics and ethical issues. The intersection of Latin American journalism and literature (the cronica), the new testimonial documentaries and the tensions between storytelling and information will be central in our multimedia work. The final group project will involve a multimedia digital publication in Spanish related to current events in Spanish speaking communities. Taught in Spanish.
Prerequisite: SPN 312 or permission of the instructor
SBC: GLO, HFA+
3 credits

SPN 405: Issues in Hispanic Cultural Studies
Readings, viewings, and theoretical discussion of Spanish or Latin American culture with special focus on one or more issues (colonialism, imperialism, national identity, indigenism, subjectivity) as manifested in a specific cultural form or forms (testimonial literature, popular culture, cinema, novel, short story, poetry, television). May be repeated as the topic changes.
Prerequisite: SPN 395 or SPN 396 or SPN 397 or SPN 398
DEC: S3
SBC: ESI, HFA+
3 credits

SPN 410: Theory in Contexts
The critical analysis of texts as they relate to Spanish or Latin American political, social, and gender relations and institutions. Sample topics include gender and representation, Marxism and Freudianism, the body, carnival, orality, the picaresque. Semester supplements to this Bulletin contain specific description when course is offered. May be repeated as the topic changes.
Prerequisite: SPN 395 or SPN 396 or SPN 397 or SPN 398
DEC: S3
SBC: ESI, HFA+
3 credits

SPN 415: Hispanic Cultures in Contact
Contemporary perspectives on Hispanic cultures in contact with each other and with non-Hispanic cultures. Sample topics include the literature of exile, border literature, ethnicity and culture, Amerindian literatures, Latino/Latina literature, Spanish and Latin
American cultural contacts. May be repeated as the topic changes.  
Prerequisite: SPN 395 or SPN 396 or SPN 397 or SPN 398  
DEC: S3  
SBC: ESI, HFA+  
3 credits  

SPN 420: Topics in Spanish and Latin American Cinema  
May be repeated as the topic changes.  
Prerequisite: SPN 395 or SPN 396 or SPN 397 or SPN 398  
SBC: ARTS, HFA+  
3 credits  

SPN 435: Topics in Latin American Literature from the Colonial Period to the Present  
May be repeated as the topic changes.  
Prerequisite: SPN 395 or SPN 396 or SPN 397 or SPN 398  
DEC: S3  
SBC: ESI, HFA+  
3 credits  

SPN 444: Experiential Learning  
This course is designed for students who engage in a substantial, structured experiential learning activity in conjunction with another class. Experiential learning occurs when knowledge acquired through formal learning and past experience are applied to a “real-world” setting or problem to create new knowledge through a process of reflection, critical analysis, feedback and synthesis. Beyond-the-classroom experiences that support experiential learning may include: service learning, mentored research, field work, or an internship.  
Prerequisite: WRT 102 or equivalent; permission of the instructor and approval of the EXP+ contract (http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/bulletin/current/policiesandregulations/degree_requirements/EXPplus.php)  
SBC: EXP+  
0 credit, S/U grading  

SPN 445: Topics in Spanish Literature from the Middle Ages to the Present  
May be repeated as the topic changes.  
Prerequisite: SPN 395 or SPN 396 or SPN 397 or SPN 398  
DEC: S3  
SBC: ESI, HFA+  
3 credits  

SPN 447: Directed Readings  
Individually supervised studies in selected topics of Hispanic language, literature, and culture. May be repeated. Normally no more than three credits are allowed toward the major requirements; other credits are considered as electives.  
Prerequisites: Permission of instructor and department  
DEC: S3  
SBC: EXP+  
1-6 credits  

SPN 459: Write Effectively in Spanish  
A zero credit course that may be taken in conjunction with any 300- or 400-level SPN course, with permission of the instructor. The course provides opportunity to practice the skills and techniques of effective academic writing and satisfies the learning outcomes of the Stony Brook Curriculum’s WRTD learning objective.  
Prerequisite: WRT 102; permission of the instructor  
SBC: WRTD  
0 credit, S/U grading  

SPN 462: Contrastive Spanish-English Phonology  
A study of Spanish and English phonology and phonetics from a contrastive linguistics perspective. Its relation to the analysis of bilingualism.  
Prerequisite: SPN 393 or LIN 101 or HUL 324  
DEC: S3  
SBC: HFA+  
3 credits  

SPN 463: Contrastive Spanish-English Grammar  
In-depth investigation of particular areas of Spanish and English grammar for purposes of language teaching.  
Prerequisite: SPN 393 or LIN 101 or HUL 324  
DEC: S3  
3 credits  

SPN 465: Topics in Hispanic Linguistics  
Semester supplements to this Bulletin contain specific description when course is offered. May be repeated as the topic changes.  
Prerequisite: SPN 393 or LIN 101 or HUL 324  
DEC: S3  
SBC: HFA+  
3 credits  

SPN 475: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum in Spanish  
An opportunity for selected upper-division students to collaborate with the faculty in teaching a language class. Responsibilities may include preparing material for practice sessions and helping students with problems. Application for approval must be submitted to the director of undergraduate studies the previous semester.  
Prerequisites: U3 or U4 Spanish major; preferably U4 standing; permission of director of undergraduate studies  
DEC: S3  
SBC: EXP+  
3 credits, S/U grading  

SPN 495: Spanish Senior Honors  
A one-semester project for seniors. Arranged in consultation with the department, the project involves writing a paper, under the close supervision of an appropriate instructor, on a suitable topic. Students who are candidates for honors take this course.  
Prerequisites: 3.50 g.p.a. in major; Spanish courses in major; 3.00 overall g.p.a.; U4 standing; permission of department  
DEC: S3  
SBC: EXP+  
3 credits