

Modern and Classical Languages and Cultures

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Cultures cultivates students' understanding of diversity and global perspectives by introducing them to the rich cultural traditions and literary expression of the civilizations we study. By engaging multiple cultures, we prepare our students to be thoughtful and compassionate citizens of a global community, thus supporting the mission of the College. In keeping with the liberal arts tradition, our programs ensure that students not only improve their ability to communicate in the target language—both orally and in writing—but also develop skills of critical thinking and content analysis. Our majors prepare students to use their linguistic, cultural and critical skills in their careers, advanced studies, and other future endeavors. The Department embraces the central educational values of Assumption College and its pursuit of academic excellence.

LEARNING GOALS

- To develop good oral/aural communication skills in the target language
- To write effectively in the target language
- To think critically about literary and cultural texts using discipline-appropriate methods of analysis
- To better understand the cultures of our target languages

MAJOR IN SPANISH

The Major in Spanish is an integral part of a traditional education in the liberal arts. The Spanish Major is designed to contribute to the cultural and intellectual formation of students, as well as to prepare them for teaching on the elementary or secondary level, and for work in social services, medical fields, law, criminology, and as interpreters, translators, or representatives in business or government, or for continued work on the graduate level. Spanish majors are expected to achieve proficiency and fluency in the spoken and written language, to become knowledgeable about Hispanic cultures, and to read with critical appreciation and enjoyment representative works of the principal authors of Spain and Latin America. The selection of courses in this major will be made in consultation with the advisor with a view to a complete formation in the language, literature, and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. Spanish majors are strongly advised to spend a semester or an academic year in a Spanish-speaking country.

Required Courses (10)

A total of 10 major-level courses (those numbered 202 or higher) is required for a major. Students are expected to include language skills, literature, and culture study in their program.

The following are the minimum around which an individual program of study should be developed. These must include at least:

- a minimum of three courses numbered 210–299
- a minimum of three courses at the 300–level

Students who are considering a major in Spanish are advised to fulfill the Introduction to Literature requirement by taking SPA 204. All courses for the major must be in Spanish.

SPANISH AND EDUCATION MAJORS

The Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Cultures works closely with Assumption's Department of Education to prepare students for the teaching of foreign languages. Such students should consider a major in one or more foreign languages and an Education Major. The departmental major in Spanish provides students with 27–33 hours of coursework in the field of

knowledge competency required for certification by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Students preparing to teach foreign languages at the elementary or secondary level are strongly encouraged to consider these major program options. However, no classroom course of study can replace the actual affiliation and development of language and culture skills in the target culture. Consequently, Spanish/education students are advised to meet with a member of the foreign language department as soon as possible to build study abroad into their academic plans.

Application for the Education Major must be made to Assumption's Department of Education by the spring of the Sophomore year, and students should plan their courses of study working closely with a member of the Education Department Coordinator and a member of the Modern and Classical Languages and Cultures Department.

STUDY ABROAD

Students in the major are strongly advised to undertake an immersion experience in a Latin American country as an integral part of their education. They may select from a variety of Assumption-approved study abroad programs with sites in Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, and Central America. Students may also consider internships in a study abroad setting with the approval of the Dean of Studies. The Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Puerto Rico Missions, may offer students the opportunity to plan internships in conjunction with the departments of Sociology and Anthropology, Foreign Languages, History, or Theology.

Course Descriptions

SPANISH (SPA)

All courses, whether lower-division or upper-division, are conducted largely or entirely in Spanish, unless otherwise specified.

SPA 101 SPANISH I

This beginning course offers students the opportunity to acquire communicative skills in Spanish and to develop an awareness and appreciation of Hispanic cultures. The course provides an integrated approach in which listening, speaking, reading and writing are developed. Basic thematic vocabulary and grammatical structures are covered. This course is intended for students with no prior coursework in Spanish. Prerequisites: None

Staff/Three Credits

SPA 102 SPANISH II

This course is the second part of the beginning sequence offering students the opportunity to expand their knowledge of vocabulary and grammatical structures. The course provides an integrated approach in which listening, speaking, reading and writing are developed. The course fosters awareness of Hispanic cultures through short readings and a variety of oral and written activities. Prerequisites: SPA 101, or one or two years of high school

Staff/Three Credits

SPA 201 SPANISH III

Continued development of communicative competency in Spanish language and Hispanic culture including a variety of media. Prerequisite: SPA 102, or two or three years of high school Spanish, or equivalent. Media fee \$15. (Fall and Spring)

Staff/Three credits

SPA 202 SPANISH IV

Integration of all skills. Reading skills using contemporary selections are developed through a process approach. Cultural topics present insights into the characteristics of Hispanic people, art, and literature. Prerequisite: SPA 103 or equivalent. (Fall and Spring)

Staff/Three credits

SPA 203 SPANISH V

This course helps develop oral language competency in Spanish, while increasing vocabulary and reviewing grammatical structures. The main objective is to enable students to understand lectures in the language, converse on everyday topics, read material of average difficulty, and express points of view on current issues with acceptable correctness. Prerequisite: SPA 104 or equivalent. (Fall and Spring)

SPA 204 INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE: SPANISH LANGUAGE

Designed for students to become active readers of literature and develop skills. The students are introduced to the form and structure of various genres of literature through the close reading and analysis of selections from Spanish and Spanish-American prose fiction, poetry, and drama. Prerequisite: SPA 120 or equivalent. This course fulfills the Core requirement in Literature. (Fall and Spring)

Staff/*Three credits*

SPA 220 SPANISH COMPOSITION

Designed to develop skills in descriptive, narrative, and expository writing in Spanish, this course emphasizes the process of writing. It deals with strategies for generating and organizing ideas through pre-writing, composing, writing, and editing. Writing activities help expand and refine grammatical structures, range of vocabulary, and rhetorical techniques. Not open to students who have completed SPA 301. Prerequisite: SPA 140 or equivalent. (Spring)

Grijalva, Loustaunau, Staff/*Three credits*

SPA 225 BUSINESS SPANISH: MANAGEMENT

This course enhances the student's ability to function effectively in an increasingly important commercial language locally, throughout the United States, and abroad. The course provides the student with a solid foundation in Spanish in the vocabulary and discourse used when dealing with the legal constitution of different types of companies; management; banking and accounting; property and equipment; the modern business office and communications; and human resources. The course will also develop the student's geographic literacy and cultural understanding of the Spanish-speaking world, as these are essential to being able to conduct business successfully in Spanish. The course, to be conducted primarily in Spanish, will include translating and interpreting activities, cross-cultural communication skills used frequently in the world of business and of special importance for managers and leaders who must make informed decisions. Prerequisite: SPA 104 or equivalent.

Kercher/*Three credits*

SPA 226 BUSINESS SPANISH: MARKETING

This course enhances the student's ability to function effectively in an increasingly important commercial language locally, in the United States, and abroad. It provides the student with a solid foundation in Spanish in the vocabulary and discourse used when dealing with goods and services, marketing, finance, foreign market entry, and import-export. The course also develops geographic literacy and cultural understanding of the Spanish-speaking world, as these are central to being able to conduct business successfully in Spanish. The course, to be conducted primarily in Spanish, will also include translating and interpreting activities, language skills frequently used in the world of business and of special importance for managers and leaders who must be able to communicate effectively and make well-informed decisions. Please note that SPA 125 and 126 are not sequential. Prerequisite: SPA 104 or equivalent.

Kercher/*Three credits*

SPA 230 SURVEY OF SPANISH LITERATURE

A survey of Spanish literature. Students will be introduced to the study of peninsular literature through the reading and analysis of representative selections from the major works. Prerequisite: SPA 140. This course satisfies the Humanities requirement in the Core curriculum.

Staff/*Three credits*

SPA 231 SURVEY OF LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE

A critical study of literary periods and movements in Latin America. Reading and analysis of representative selections from major works. Prerequisite: SPA 140. This course satisfies the Humanities requirement in the Core curriculum.

Grijalva/*Three credits*

SPA 252 SPORTS AND THE HISPANIC WORLD

Understanding sport culture through literature, film and essays is one of the finest ways to gain insights into the Spanish-speaking world. Sports, like family, are considered "safe" topics with which to initiate conversation and contact in diverse settings. This course looks not only at soccer, but also at numerous other sports -- such as cliff diving, baseball, polo, wrestling, cycling, swimming, jai alai, tennis, and bullfighting. It explores sports which are unique to specific countries and those which are popular across the Spanish-speaking world. Prerequisite: SPA 204 Introduction to Literature, may be taken concurrently.

SPA 253 FOOD IN THE HISPANIC WORLD

This course focuses on food in its cultural, historical, political, economic, and social dimensions as a way to gain insights into the Spanish-speaking world and also develop students' competencies in the Spanish language. Topics will include traditional foods and food-related customs, contemporary culinary trends, popular culture, agriculture practices, and national food policies. We will examine how food and culinary practices express, shape, and revise regional and national identities in countries where Spanish is spoken, and form part of a global world. A selection will be made from among the diversity of culinary traditions and food-related topics in the more than twenty countries in which Spanish is spoken. Prerequisites: SPA204 Introduction to Literature, may be taken concurrently.

Leone / *Three credits*

SPA 302 ADVANCED SPANISH ORAL EXPRESSION

A systematic study of various forms of public discourse through discussion and debate on controversial issues. Designed for students with a sophisticated command of Spanish who seek to increase their fluency and develop cultural awareness. Prerequisite: any Spanish 200-level or higher.

Guerrero-Watanabe/*Three credits*

SPA 316 EMERGING MODERNITIES IN THE HISPANIC WORLD

This course focuses on the social and political events, artistic production, literary texts and culture of modern Latin America. Course materials include readings, films, music and the internet in order to develop a more complete understanding of the complex modes of cultural production that arose during this time period. Prerequisite: any Spanish 200-level or higher. This course satisfies the Humanities requirement in the Core curriculum.

Guerrero-Watanabe/*Three credits*

SPA 317 BORDER IDENTITIES IN SPAIN

This course focuses on the multiplicity of identity in contemporary Spain in the context of political and social changes of the twentieth- and twenty-first centuries. Reading theory and culture, understood as texts and practice, we will examine literature, films, and mass media to consider the identities of nation, class, gender, sexuality, and ethnicity. Prerequisite: any Spanish 200-level or higher. This course satisfies the Humanities requirement in the Core curriculum.

Leone/*Three credits*

SPA 318 REBELLION AND REINVENTION IN MEXICO

This course explores contemporary Mexican literary and cultural production in response to socio-political rebellion and cultural reinvention. The course materials focus on four key moments in Mexican history: the Revolution of 1910, the student movement of 1968; the Zapatista rebellion of 1994; and the current implications of mass migration and the narco wars. Students analyze textual, visual, and musical works by a variety of authors from the 20th and 21st centuries in order to learn how these authors represent cultural, social, and political affirmation in a country known for its economic and political repression. We will consider the role of literature and art in the understanding of civic action and social power. The course is taught in Spanish. Prerequisite: Any Spanish 200-level or higher. This course satisfies the Humanities requirement in the Core curriculum. Loustanau/*Three credits*

SPA 370 WOMEN WRITERS IN CONTEMPORARY SPAIN

This course focuses women's contributions to literature and culture in twentieth- and twenty-first century Spain. The course takes a thematic approach to women's experiences in Spain. Students analyze textual and visual works by a variety of women authors from the post-civil war period and Franco dictatorship (1939-1975) and from the democratic period (1980s to the present) in order to explore how these authors represent cultural, social, and political identities in 20th and 21st century Spain. Prerequisite: any Spanish 200-level or higher. This course satisfies the humanities requirement in the core curriculum.

Leone/*Three credits*

SPA 380 LATIN AMERICAN CHRONICLES

In this course students will learn about how urban life, violence, and modern cities have been represented by journalist-literary writers in Latin America. We will discuss the relationship between literature and journalism, and between chronicles and other literary genres. In addition, students will examine some works of the "New Journalism" in the United States and its influence over Latin American writers. Intensive Spanish writing will be a major requirement. Prerequisite: any Spanish 200-level or above. This course satisfies the Humanities requirement in the Core curriculum.

Grijalva/*Three credits*

SPA 384 MAGICAL REALISM AND THE LITERATURE OF THE FANTASTIC

Magical realism refers to a specific set of narrative works by Latin American writers in the second half of the twentieth century. This course will develop a more comprehensive understanding of this literary movement by analyzing a key number of primary texts along with all the pertinent literary criticism and theory. The textual strategies and techniques that help define these works include the use of rich, detailed language designed to create a realistic setting and characters in the story. The element of magic or the supernatural then enters or manifests itself in this seemingly “real” literary landscape. Although the texts incorporate these bursts of the unexplained, the main body of the text always follows a mimetic approach to fictional production. Our study of these fantastic texts will begin with a discussion of possible pre-cursors of the movement, such as the Argentinians Jorge Borges and Julio Cortázar, and then move on to more seminal texts like *Cien años de soledad* by Gabriel García Márquez and *Eva Luna* by Isabel Allende. In the last few weeks, students will have the opportunity to analyze more recent texts to see how magical realism affects current modes of literary production. Prerequisite: any Spanish 200-level or higher. This course satisfies the Humanities requirement in the Core curriculum.

Guerrero-Watanabe/*Three credits*

Guerrero-Watanabe/*Three credits*

SPA 250 SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE (LEVEL 250–299)

Staff/*Three credits*

SPA 300 SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE (LEVEL 3001)

Staff/*Three credits*

SPA 410–419 INDEPENDENT STUDY IN SPANISH

Subject and/or authors studied to be chosen with approval of professor.

Staff/*Three credits*

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS (SEE SPA FOR COURSES IN SPANISH)

ANT 131 CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Introduction to the basic concepts and findings of contemporary socio-cultural anthropology. An understanding of diverse human lifestyles around the world will be approached by examining and comparing the culture and social organization of several societies. Content will vary from year to year. This course counts as a social science in the Core Curriculum requirements.

Staff/*Three credits*

ECO 252 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Using problems encountered by less developed countries, theories of development are presented. The course addresses problems of capital accumulation, resources and population issues, strategies for agricultural and industrial development, government’s role, and relationships between developing and developed economies. Latin American and Latino Studies majors will focus their case work and writing on Latin American economic issues.

Staff/*Three credits*

ECO 353 INTERNATIONAL TRADE

An examination of the theory of international trade and policies followed by governments with respect to trade of goods and services among countries. Theory examines the gains from trade under classical and modern assumptions, and the impact of various measures used by governments to either restrict or promote trade. Policy analysis focuses on U.S. trade policies and the role of the World Trade Organization. Current topics include trade and the environment, NAFTA, U.S.-China trade, and others as appropriate. Prerequisites: ECO 110 and Junior/Senior standing.

Kantarelis/*Three credits*

ECO 354 INTERNATIONAL FINANCE

This course covers open economy macroeconomics. Topics include: balance or payments accounting, exchange rate determination, monetary and fiscal policy, and macroeconomic modeling. After examining standard theories and models, the course will explore case studies from recent history in numerous countries. The case studies will focus on: debt and balance of payments crises, speculative currency attacks, European monetary union, International Monetary Fund policy, and the value of the U.S. dollar. Students will engage in research projects. Prerequisites: ECO 110–111 and Junior/Senior standing.

GEO 222 REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY OF SOUTH AMERICA

Although many place names are important, the actual study of Regional Geography does not emphasize the rote knowledge of all rivers, mountains, and cities. The overall concept of the region, its development, its relationship to the stability of the entire continent, and its potential are the most important elements on which to focus. There are place names to know but only in the context of why they are important to their country or to the region. Thus, the conceptualization of how places are located in space is important, but more important is the understanding of those places' roles in industry, resources, politics, agriculture, and economics. Emphasis is on country by country review of natural resources, industry, physical structure, economic viability, its role in South America, and its potential for development in the new millennium.

Hickey/*Three credits*

HIS 250 COLONIAL LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY

This course is intended as a survey of colonial Latin American history. It traces the historical origins of Latin American society, focusing on the conflict of the clash of cultures. Themes include an examination into Iberian and pre-Columbian societies; conquest and subordination of Amerindian civilizations by Spain and Portugal; the structure and distribution of power, land, and labor in post-conquest Latin America; and the order and instability of colonial society. A major theme is the nature of inter-ethnic conflict between the European, African, and Indigenous peoples which made up the complex social fabric of the colony. Not open to students who have completed HIS 256.

Christensen/*Three credits*

HIS 251 MODERN LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY SINCE 1821

This course is intended as a survey of Modern Latin American history beginning with independence from Spain, and following through the explosive impact of the Mexican Revolution of 1910. The course ends with an examination of the present-day struggle for democracy and economic stability in Latin American nations, such as Mexico, Argentina, Peru, Columbia, and the countries of the Central American republics. The themes of the course focus on the causes and consequences of structural instability in Latin America since 1800. Special emphasis is placed on the collapse of the region's traditional liberal/export model of national development in the 1930s and current political and economic crisis.

Christensen/*Three credits*

HIS 389 SPECIAL TOPICS IN HISTORY

This course permits the study of selected topics in history. The topic normally changes every time the course is offered. The course fulfills a Latin American and Latino Studies elective when the topic is in this area.

Staff/*Three credits*

LAS 200 INTRODUCTION TO LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

A comprehensive introduction to Latin America and the Caribbean, this course provides a foundation for understanding the cultures and societies of the region. The course focuses on the diversity of cultures, indigenous peoples and those who came later, past and present interactions between this region and the rest of the world, and literature, art, and music. This course counts as a social science in the Core Curriculum requirements.

Kercher, Loustaunau, Grijalva/*Three credits*

LAS 390 INTERNSHIP

This internship provides students with an experiential learning opportunity while developing an academically oriented project. Students may opt to collaborate with the Latino Education Institute, or other agencies within the Latino community. Prerequisite: a minimum of one course with Latin American content at level 200.

Guerrero-Watanabe/*Three credits*

LAS 395 SPECIAL TOPICS

This course is an in-depth study of a specific topic on Latin American history, politics, society, culture, or artistic expression.

Staff/*Three credits*

LAS 399 INDEPENDENT STUDY

This is an individually supervised study of a relevant topic on Latin America. Available only to highly qualified majors who wish to develop a special interest, and have demonstrated ability for independent work. Permission of the program director is required. Prerequisite: a minimum of one course with Latin American content at level 200.

Staff/Three credits

LAS 400 LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES SEMINAR

An advanced research-oriented course, the seminar examines specific areas or topics from an interdisciplinary perspective. Because of this integrated approach, the course draws upon materials from more than one discipline. The content varies according to interest and the professor's choice. Recent topics include: Creating a Nation: Mexico; Engaging the Andes: Peru and Ecuador; and Human Rights and Violence in Latin America; among others. The seminar is required of all Latin American and Latino Studies majors. Minors are encouraged to complete their study with this course. Prerequisites: Two courses with Latin American content in any related discipline at 200-level or higher and Senior/Junior standing. With permission of the program director, students who have demonstrated suitable preparation may enroll in this course.

Staff/Three credits

MGT 301 BUSINESS AND SOCIETY

Investigates selected components of the micro-environment which surrounds any organization, and which have a growing impact on managerial processes and decision-making. Specifically examines changing business values, the impact of rapidly changing technology, business ethics, government-business relations, and rapidly shifting societal expectations. Also explores selected issues such as business responsibility with regard to pollution control, energy conservation, health and safety of employees, and employment of minorities. Prerequisites: MGT 100 and Junior/Senior standing (Fall).

Pastille/Three credits.

MGT 311 DIVERSITY IN THE WORK FORCE

The purpose of this seminar is to explore issues and the challenges of managing an increasingly diverse work force. The course focuses on preparing students to work and to manage in multicultural organizations. Special emphasis is placed on topics related to the impact of gender, race, and ethnicity, and other differences on interpersonal relations and group behavior within a managerial organizational context. Prerequisite: MGT 100 or permission of instructor.

LeBlanc /Three credits.

MUS 125 WORLD MUSIC

A survey of musical traditions from around the world, including and examination of the cultures and philosophies that shape them. Topics include instrumentation, form, texture, rhythm, melody, and performance practice in the music of Native Americans, Africa, Central and Southeastern Europe, India, Indonesia, Japan, and Latin America. This course satisfies the Core requirement in Art, Music and Theater.

Clemente/Three credits.

SOC 216 RACIAL AND ETHNIC RELATIONS

This course explores how race and ethnicity structure social relations and identities in the United States. Students will become familiar with the history of race and ethnicity in the U.S. and why it continues to be a central aspect of social life. The course will also focus on a variety of debates regarding the persistence of institutionalized racism and white privilege in the post-Civil Rights era. The process of how class, gender, and sexuality structure various racial and ethnic groups will be explored as well. Current issues on race and ethnicity addressed in this class include: racial profiling, immigration, increasing diversity in the U.S., affirmative action, Ebonics, reverse discrimination, post-September 11th forms of discrimination, and unequal access to employment, housing, and mortgages by race.

Farough/Three credits

SOC 236 SOCIAL JUSTICE IN A GLOBAL COMMUNITY

This course connects Assumption College to the Worcester community and to the global community. The content challenges students to see social issues in wider context, to see how world-wide phenomena and policies have an international impact. Issues the course covers include: global economics and inequality, diversity and multi-culturalism, ethnicity and migration patterns, and international social problems such as AIDS, genocide, and slavery. Through examination of these issues students learn to apply sociological theories and concepts. Same as ANT 236.

Perschbacher/Three credits.