

## **Description of M.A. Program in Spanish at St. Louis University**

Modern and Classical Languages

Kathleen Llewellyn, Ph.D. Department Chairperson

Master of Arts in Spanish Graduate Program Directors

Kara McBride, Ph.D. and Elsy Cardona, Ph.D.

### **Master of Arts Spanish Faculty**

Dr. Olga Arbeláez, Latin American Literature

Dr. Elsy Cardona, Spanish Peninsular Literature

Dr. Teresa Johnson, Spanish Linguistics and Teaching

Dr. Julia Lieberman, Spanish Peninsular Literature

Dr. Oscar López, Latin American Literature

Dr. Kara McBride, Second Language Acquisition and Teaching

Dr. Ana Montero, Spanish Peninsular Literature

Dr. Nil Santiáñez, Spanish Peninsular Literature

The Master of Arts degree program in Spanish is specifically designed for students interested in pursuing concentrated studies in a combination of Spanish language and Hispanic cultures and literature. The curriculum is suited to those planning or already engaged in professional careers such as teaching or international affairs. The program also prepares students who wish to continue into a Ph.D. degree program in Spanish.

The program is offered year round both on the Saint Louis and Madrid campuses. The Madrid campus also offers classes during the summer. Students may fulfill all or part of the program requirements on either campus. If the program is completed exclusively in Madrid, it may be completed in three to five summers, or in a combination of summers and regular spring and fall semesters.

The Language Learning Center in St. Louis offers the latest in technological resources to further enhance the curriculum's diversity.

**Prerequisites**

An undergraduate major in Spanish or the equivalent.

**Required courses**

Two of the following four options are required:

- 1) SPAN 504 Methods and Technology for the Teaching of Spanish  
*or* SPAN 593 Spanish Phonology and Its Place in the Spanish Classroom  
*or* SPAN 593 Learning Texts: Tradition, Authenticity and Virtuality
- 2) SPAN 518 Contemporary Spanish Culture and Civilization  
*or* SPAN 593 Spanish Jewry
- 3) SPAN 519 Contemporary Latin-American Culture and Civilization  
*or* SPAN 538 Cultural Stereotypes: Latin America  
*or* SPAN 593 Las Tres Hispanidades
- 4) SPAN 520 Introduction to Literary Criticism

**Additional Requirements**

A final written exam over a reading list and a final oral exam over coursework.

A formal minor may be permitted.

**Graduate Courses Descriptions**

**SPAN 501 Teaching College Spanish (0)** Practice-centered teaching training for college-level Spanish courses. Discussion and application of course development, of current approaches to teaching and of evaluation techniques. Systematic incorporation of technology in the learning process. (**Available to Teaching Assistants only.** Offered every semester.)

**SPAN 503 Spanish Linguistics (3)**

Synchronic and diachronic analysis of the Spanish Language. Phonological development and morpho-syntactical, lexical and semantic change. Dialects. Discussion of special topics. (Offered occasionally.)

**SPAN 504 Methods and Technology for the Teaching of Spanish (3)** Study of effective classroom presentation techniques for areas which are major sources of difficulty for instructors and students. Designed specifically to test classroom application of new approaches to old language problems. (Offered every other year.)

**SPAN 507 Spanish Stylistics (3)**

This course presents a theoretical foundation of writing styles as models for extensive practice in descriptive, narrative and analytical modes of written expression. (Offered occasionally.)

**SPAN 518 Contemporary Spanish Culture and Civilization. (3)**

This course provides a study of the nature of Spanish society today, with special emphasis on those events that make Spain unique in relation to other Western countries. Topics of discussion will include elements of the economic, cultural, social and religious life of contemporary Spain. (Offered occasionally.)

**SPAN 519 Contemporary Latin American Culture and Civilization (3)**

A critical analysis of historical, cultural, political, religious, socio-economic and demographic considerations that have contributed to the Latin American ethos, value system, attitudes, behavior, art and ideas. (Offered occasionally.)

**SPAN 520 Introduction to Literary Criticism (3)**

This course introduces the main schools of contemporary literary criticism. Students then apply these theories to interpret specific works from a variety of genres in Hispanic literature. (Offered once a year.)

**SPAN 523 Studies in Contemporary Latin American Short Story (3)**

Trends, themes and techniques. Emphasis on Borges and Cortázar. (Offered occasionally.)

**SPAN 524 Short Stories: History, Histories (3)** This course explores the Latin American short stories written after 1950. This class's approach works to bridge literary texts with cultural production in order to allow for a comprehensive view of the contemporary historical life. The production of authors such as Uslar Pietri, Borges, Juan

**SPAN 526 Latin American "Modernismo" (3)**

A survey course that examines the literary expressions of the debate on Modernity and Modernization in Latin America in the period 1820-1920. Topics such as national identity, the creation of modern cities, the "education of women" and the role of minorities will be examined through an anthology of short stories, articles, poems, essays and comics. (Offered occasionally.)

**SPAN 527 Contemporary Latin American Poetry (3)**

Survey course that analyzes a representative group of Latin American poets. Main themes and formal characteristics of these authors will be discussed. (Offered occasionally.)

**SPAN 528 Early Latin American Novel (3)**

Survey course that examines the Latin American novels written between 1890 and 1940. The class presents an overview of the major movements that informed the novels of the period such as Naturalism, Indigenism, the Historicism, Futurism and other avant-garde trends. The issues of the construction of national identity and the formation of modern “civilized” societies will be addressed. (Offered occasionally.)

**SPAN 529 Boom, Mass Media and Utopia (3)** This course discusses the Latin American narratives and essays and the birth of media culture in Latin America. The cultural production discussed is implied in the political context of the so-called cold war. Main novels discussed belong to the so-called Boom of novel. (Offered occasionally)

**SPAN 531 Women Writing Women: Latin American Women Playwrights (3)** This course focuses on the work of Latin American women playwrights from 1980 until today. Particular attention will be given to the way women represent and perform other women on the stage. (Offered occasionally.)

**SPAN 532 The African Experience in Spanish America (3)** This course examines the literary contributions of Afro-Hispanic writers from Spanish America and Equatorial Guinea in order to discuss the complexity of the African experience in the Spanish-speaking world from the colonial period to the 21st Century. In addition to the discussion of race and class issues, the class focuses on the subject of Canon formation and Canon exclusion in order to bridge the real and imagined gaps between Afro-Hispanic literature and that written by canonized writers in Spanish America and Spain. (Offered occasionally)

**SPAN 533 Narratives on the End of Utopias (3)** This course examines recent Latin American trends that broke up the traditional canon of novel and literary conceptions based on Modernist culture. Categories based on hegemonic discourse and hierarchies are debated. (Offered occasionally.)

**SPAN 535 Counter Hegemony Discourses (3)** This course bridges Latin American literary and cultural productions that confront the use and abuse of local and international power. Voiceless people speak about their disenchanting life. (Offered occasionally.)

**SPAN 536 Written by Herself: Latin American Women Writers (3)** This course introduces the students to the work of Latin American women writers from the Colonial period to the 21st century. The discussion will focus on the history of women’s education, concepts of beauty, the role of women in society and the construction of women’s identity. (Offered occasionally)

**SPAN 537 Latin American Literature & Film (3)**

A survey course that examines the relationship between some masterpieces of contemporary Latin American literature and their adaptations into film by some of the major directors of Latin American cinema. (Offered occasionally.)

**SPAN 538 Cultural Stereotypes: Latin America (3)** This course is an interdisciplinary approach which confronts stereotypes about Latin American cultures. It involves a vast array of experiences that has established differences, stigmas, and marginalization of Latin Americans. (Offered occasionally.)

**SPAN 539 Contemporary Spanish Women Writers (3)**

This course introduces the students to the study of the narrative written by contemporary Spanish women authors. There will be a specific study, through selected texts, of the most representative movements and tendencies of the post-war narrative and of the various means chosen by the authors to express their literary universe from their condition as women. (Offered occasionally.)

**SPAN 543 *Cantar de Mio Cid, Libro de Buen Amor and La Celestina* (3)**

Close reading and discussion of three medieval Spanish masterpieces, which have remained modern throughout the ages. Insight into social, historical, literary and creative issues. (Offered occasionally.)

**SPAN 552 *Don Quixote* by Cervantes (3)**

Study of Cervantes' masterpiece, Parts 1 & 2, with special attention to its literary form and structure. The term Spanish Golden Age, and the concept of the modern novel will be followed by a close textual reading of *Don Quixote*. A range of critical essays will enrich the study of the primary text. (Taught in Spanish. Offered occasionally)

**SPAN 553 Studies in Golden Age Lyric Poetry (3)**

Seminar on the Renaissance and Baroque poets in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries: Garcilaso de la Vega, Fray Luis de León, San Juan de las Cruz, Luis de Góngora. (Offered occasionally.)

**SPAN 554 Golden Age Drama (3)**

Seminar on the Spanish theater of the 16th and Seventeenth centuries. Analysis of the works by Lope de Vega, Tirso de Molina, Juan Ruiz de Alarcón, Pedro Calderón de la Barca (Offered occasionally.)

**SP 555 Medieval Spanish Jewish Life under Islam and Christianity(3)** Cultural and literary exchanges among the three groups. The tragic events of 1391. Expulsion, 1492. Forced Baptisms of Portugal, 1497. Converso life in Iberia and the New World. Sephardi life in the Diaspora. (Taught alternatively in Spanish and English. Offered occasionally)

**SPAN 561 Studies in Nineteenth-Century Poetry and Drama (3)**

Poets: Bécquer, Espronceda. Dramatists: Duque de Rivas, García Gutiérrez, Zorrilla. (Offered occasionally.)

**SPAN 562 Nineteenth-Century Spanish Novel (3)**

Regionalism and naturalism illustrated in works by José María de Pereda, Emilia Pardo Bazán, Juan Valera, Benito Pérez Galdós, Blasco Ibáñez, Leopoldo Alas. (Offered occasionally.)

**SPAN 568 Contemporary Spanish Short Story (3)**

This course introduces the students to the general study of the Spanish short story of the twentieth-century after the Spanish Civil War from the seventies to the nineties. The focus will be the most significant tendencies of each period, and their principal authors will be studied. (Offered occasionally.)

**SPAN 570 Twentieth-Century Spanish Poetry (3)**

Machado, Salinas, Jiménez, Aleixandre, García Lorca, Blas de Otero, Hierro. Searching for meaning of life in a fragmented world. (Offered occasionally.)

**SPAN 571 Twentieth-Century Spanish Novel (3)**

Themes and styles of Camilo José Cela, Carmen Laforet, Ramon J. Sender, Juan Goytisolo, Elena Quiroga, A.M. Matute, and L. Martín Santos. (Offered every other year.)

**SPAN 572 Twentieth-Century Spanish Drama (3)**

Casona, Buero, Sastre, García Lorca, Arrabal. Probing into the human condition: especially human mortality. (Offered every other year.)

**SPAN 573 Spanish Literature and Film (3)**

This course explores the connection between the artistic expression of literature and film in modern Spain. Following the reading and discussion of specific literary works, students view and compare a film rendition of the same. (Offered occasionally.)

**SPAN 574 From the Poetry of Knowledge to the Poetry of the Turn of the Century**

**(3)** Study of how Spanish poetry has recorded the different political, social, and cultural changes in the country during the second half of the twentieth-century to the present. Movements studied include: the poetry of knowledge, the “novísimos,” “post-novísimos”, the poetry of experience, the new sentimentality, the poetry of silence, and the poetry of the turn of the century.

**SPAN 575 Spanish Novel after 1970 (3)**

This course introduces the students to the study of the Spanish novel after 1970. The class will begin with the years of transition from dictatorship to democracy. There will be a specific study of the most representative movements and tendencies of the Spanish novel after the seventies, with special emphasis on the period from 1975 until the end of the century. (Offered occasionally.)

**SPAN 577 Carpe Verbum: the Journey of Women Poets in Contemporary Spain (3)**

Historical analysis of Spain’s contemporary women poets’ struggle with the canon.

Literary interpretation of a representative selection of modern and contemporary Spanish women poets: Rosalía de Castro, Ernestina de Champourcín, Concha Zardoya, Carmen Conde, Gloria Fuertes, María Victoria Atencia, among others. (Offered occasionally).

**SPAN 593 Special Topics (1-3). Recent titles include:**

- Strangers in a Familiar Land: Marginalization and Exile in Latin America
- The Apparition of Sentimental Fiction in Spanish Lit: The Construction of Identity Across the Ages
- Spanish Phonology and Its Place in the Spanish Classroom
- Las Tres Hispanidades
- Afro-Hispanic Literature
- Early Latin American Short Story: 1839-1945
- Learning Texts: Tradition, Authenticity, and Virtuality
- 16th -17th Century Spanish Prose

**SPAN 595 Special Study for Examinations (0)**

**SPAN 598 Graduate Reading Course (1-3)**

Prior permission of professor and chairperson required.

**SPAN 5CR-90 Master's Degree Study (0)**

Last updated 9-13-10