Spanish, M.A.

Degree Offered

- Master of Arts

Nature of the Program

The core of the graduate program in Spanish consists of 30 hours of course work in Peninsular Spanish and Latin American literatures and cultures, with an emphasis on the development of these literatures in socio-cultural and historical contexts. Additional coursework includes research methodology, Hispanic linguistics, and foreign-language pedagogy. The program may be completed either by taking comprehensive exams, or by writing and defending a Master's thesis. The program is intended for students who seek specialized knowledge in order to pursue a teaching career in Spanish, as well as for students who plan to prepare for doctoral studies in Hispanic literatures, cultures, or linguistics.

Available Financial Aid

Graduate teaching assistantships are available to students admitted to any of our three M.A. programs for teaching different languages, including Arabic, Chinese, French, German, English as a Second Language, Italian, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish. The assistantships carry full university tuition remission and a nine-month stipend (August–May); there are also limited opportunities to teach during the university's summer session.

In addition to the graduate teaching assistantships, a limited number of meritorious tuition waiver awards are sometimes available from the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences through the department. These awards are based on academic performance and financial need.

Graduate Teaching Assistants

The department values the contributions made by our graduate assistants and strives to help them become effective teachers. Graduate assistants normally teach two courses (six class-hours per week). They work under the direct supervision of the course coordinator in the language area, but they are fully responsible for their courses (including evaluating their students' work). The coordinator will conduct orientations and organizational meetings with graduate assistants and provide course materials (such as syllabi). In addition, the coordinator will periodically observe individual classes in order to assess the graduate assistants' performance and to provide encouragement and assistance.

All graduate teaching assistants must register for one of our language teaching methods classes (LANG 421, LANG 521, or LANG 621, depending on the language they are teaching). In addition, graduate assistants must register for LANG 690 each semester of employment. Students who have already received an M.A. in World Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics from West Virginia University may be ineligible for an assistantship in this department.

Additional Points of Information

ADVISING

All graduate students will have a primary advisor (to be assigned by the chairperson). Students should consult with their advisor when they register for courses or add and/or drop courses. In addition, the Associate Chair of Graduate Studies is available to answer questions regarding the degree program, requirements, comprehensive examinations, graduation, etc. Students may consult with the chairperson regarding departmental matters.

STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Qualified teaching assistants in French may compete for the Marguerite Eynard McBride Award, which funds an academic year in France. Year-long exchange programs for graduate students are also in place for France and Spain. The department also sponsors study abroad during the summers in Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Spain, and Taiwan that graduate students may participate in if they meet the program's requirements. Grants are available on a competitive basis through the department and through the Office of International Programs to assist students who wish to study abroad.

FACULTY

CHAIR

- Amy S. Thompson - Ph.D. (Michigan State University)
  Applied Linguistics

ASSOCIATE CHAIRS

- Pablo Garcia Loaeza - Ph.D. (Indiana University Bloomington)
  Undergraduate Studies, Spanish Language, Latin American Colonial Literature
- Sandra Stjepanović - Ph.D. (University of Connecticut)
  Graduate Studies, Linguistics, Syntax, Psycholinguistics, Semantics
PROFESSORS
• Daniel Ferreras - Ph.D. (Michigan State University)
  French and Spanish, Comparative Romance Literature, French/Spanish 19th and 20th Century Novel, Theory of the Fantastic
• Pablo García Loaeza - Ph.D. (Indiana University Bloomington)
  Spanish Language, Latin American Colonial Literature
• Valéérie Lastinger - Ph.D. (University of Georgia)
  French, 18th-century French Literature, French Women Writers
• Janice Spleth - Ph.D. (Rice University)
  French and Francophone Literature and Culture
• Amy S. Thompson - Ph.D. (Michigan State University)
  Applied Linguistics
• Ángel Tuninetti - Ph.D. (Washington University)
  Latin American Literature and Culture

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS
• Manal AlNatour - Ph.D. (University of Arkansas)
  Arabic Studies, Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies
• Susan Braidi - Ph.D. (University of Delaware)
  ESL/Linguistics, Applied Linguistics, Second Language Acquisition, Syntax
• Cynthia Chalupa - Ph.D. (Ohio State University)
  Fin de Siècle German and Austrian Literature, Poetry, Foreign Language Pedagogy
• Deborah Janson - Ph.D. (University of California)
  German, 18th-21st-century German Literature, Enlightenment, Romanticism, GDR and Post-Wende Literature, Ecofeminism
• Jonah Katz - Ph.D. (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
  Phonetics, Phonology, Theoretocal and Experimental Linguistics, Music Cognition
• Twyla Meding - Ph.D. (University of Virginia)
  French, 16th and 17th-century French Literature, The Pastoral Novel
• Tania de Miguel Magro - Ph.D. (The State University of New York, Stony Brook)
  Spanish Literature and Culture, Spanish Language, Spanish Golden Age Literature
• Sergio Robles Puente - Ph.D. (University of Southern California)
  Spanish Phonetics, Phonology, and Sociolinguistics
• Sandra Stjepanović - Ph.D. (University of Connecticut)
  Linguistics, Syntax, Psycholinguistics, Semantics
• Ching-Hsuan Wu - Ph.D. (The Ohio State University)
  Chinese, Applied Linguistics

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS
• William Justin Morgan - Ph.D. (University of Alabama)
  Spanish, Applied Linguistics
• Nicole Tracy-Ventura - Ph.D. (Northern Arizona University)
  Applied Linguistics
• Adrienne Washington - Ph.D. (University of Pittsburgh)
  Linguistics
• Sonia Zarco-Real - Ph.D. (University of Connecticut)
  Peninsular literature and Hispanic transatlantic studies

TEACHING PROFESSORS
• Lisa Di Bartolomeo - Ph.D. (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)
  Russian and Polish Language and Literature, Slavic Folklore, Culture and Cinema, Science Fiction, the Holocaust

TEACHING ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS
• Annastella Vester - Ph.D. (University of California, Los Angeles)
  Italian, Contemporary Italian Literature, 18th and 19th-century Italian

TEACHING ASSISTANT PROFESSORS
• Heiko ter Haseborg - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
  Education, Applied Linguistics
• Yilin Liao-Carlson - Ph.D. (Purdue University)  
  Chinese
• Rafael Osuna Montanez - Ph.D. (University of Connecticut)  
  Spanish

PROFESSORS EMERITI
• María Amores - Ph.D. (Penn State University)  
  Spanish, Foreign Language Acquisition
• Ahmed Fakhri - Ph.D. (University of Michigan)  
  ESL/Linguistics, Second Language Acquisition, Applied Linguistics, Discourse Analysis
• Sandra Dixon - Ph.D. (Brown University)  
  Spanish, Spanish American Literature, Brazilian Literature
• Pablo González - Ph.D. (University Complutense de Madrid)  
  Spanish American Literature and Culture
• Michael Lastinger - Ph.D. (University of Georgia)  
  French, 19th Century French Literature, Critical Theory
• Kathleen McNerney - Ph.D. (Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico)  
  Spanish, Catalan Language and Literature, Spanish Literature and Culture, Women Writers

VISITING INSTRUCTOR
• Hilary Woodrum - M.A. (West Virginia University)  
  French

INSTRUCTORS
• Yumiko Adachi - M.A. (University of Wisconsin-Madison)  
  Japanese Linguistics
• Karen Allen - M.A. (West Virginia University)  
  ESL
• Livia Cascao - M.A. (West Virginia University)  
  ESL
• Lindsey DeBolt - M.A. (West Virginia University)  
  ESL
• Tracy Dingess - M.A. (West Virginia University)  
  ESL
• Arleana Mago - M.A. (Mississippi State University)  
  Spanish
• Beatrice Malvisi - M.A. (University of Pittsburgh)  
  Italian
• Lindsey Pereira da Silva - M.A. (West Virginia University)  
  ESL
• Jennifer Simpson - M.A. (West Virginia University)  
  ESL
• Kristen Williams - M.A. (West Virginia University)  
  ESL

LECTURERS
• Lisa Dunn - M.A. (West Virginia University)  
  Spanish
• Veronica Evans - M.A. (West Virginia University)  
  Classics, Italian
• Michael Mackert - M.A. (University of Delaware)  
  Linguistics
• Irina Manukova - M.S. (Georgian Politechnical University)  
  Russian
• Patricia Patton - M.A. (West Virginia University)  
  ESL
Admissions

M.A. IN SPANISH

In addition to the university requirements for admission (http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/graduateeducationatwestvirginiauniversity/#classificationstext), applicants to the master’s program must have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 (cumulative as well as within the major) and should possess an undergraduate degree in Spanish (or an acceptable related area). In the graduate application, applicants will be asked to supply a personal statement, an academic writing sample in English or Spanish, a resume, and three letters of recommendation. The personal statement should be a 300 word response in which you discuss your academic background, your past accomplishments, why you want to study in our program and your future goals. The academic writing sample must be in English or Spanish, and may be a paper that you have prepared for an academic course. In general, the writing sample should be 10-15 pages, although longer samples are also welcome. Letters of recommendation should be from professors who know and can comment on your academic work.

Admission to our M.A. program is competitive. The graduate admissions committee will examine your file and will make a decision based on your academic performance in undergraduate studies, letters of recommendation from your professors who know your academic work, your personal statement and your writing sample.

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

Students applying for fall admission may be considered for a teaching assistantship. Interested applicants should please fill out the WLLL TA Application (https://worldlanguages.wvu.edu/files/d/fff42445-0e06-43d1-9c73-b479347025ad/wlll-ta-application-with-personal-statement.pdf) and upload it as part of the personal statement in your graduate application. Please also submit the supporting documents indicated in TA application. You will first be considered for admission to the program. If admitted, you will be considered for an assistantship. Applicants who wish to be considered for an assistantship should submit a completed application by February 1st.

We normally do not award assistantships to start in a Spring semester. If you are admitted to one of our M.A. programs in Spring and would like to be considered for an assistantship to start the following Fall, you can fill out the WLLL TA application and email it to the Associate Chair of Graduate Studies by February 1st.

List of Admission Requirements:

• See the steps to apply for admissions and access the application here (https://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu/how-to-apply/)
• Transcripts from all institutions attended
• Three letters of recommendation from professional or academic references
• Resume
• Statement of purpose (personal statement)
• Writing Sample

International Applicants:

• See the steps to apply for admissions and access the application here (https://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu/how-to-apply/)
• International applications should view additional requirements here (http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/graduateeducationatwestvirginiauniversity/#internationaltext) and here (https://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu/how-to-apply/apply-for-2020-2021/international-graduate-applicant/) 
• Language proficiency is required in order to hold a graduate teaching assistantship. See here (https://elli.wvu.edu/testing-resources/english-proficiency-gtas/).

Application Deadlines:

• For admission to the fall semester, completed applications must be received by February 1st
• For admission to the spring semester, completed applications must be received by October 1st

Certain application requirements may be waived based on a preliminary review of an application by the program.

Major Code: 14D7

Degree Requirements

• Credit Hours: Students are required to complete a minimum of 30 credit hours at the graduate level. No more than 12 hours of coursework done at the 400 level will be counted toward the degree.
• Grade Point Average: Students must earn a minimum overall GPA of 2.75, and a GPA of 3.00 in coursework applied to their graduate program.
• Graduation Requirement: In addition to completing 30 hours of coursework, students must pass comprehensive examinations or successfully defend a thesis.
  • Comprehensive Examinations: The comprehensive examinations are intended to evaluate students' knowledge, including the ability to synthesize and evaluate ideas in their area of emphasis. The examinations are based on standardized reading lists and coursework.
• **Thesis:** A student may request to write a thesis and prepare an oral defense. For more information about this option, see the document "Thesis Guidelines ([https://worldlanguages.wvu.edu/files/d/433511fa-1ec2-448a-8e79-2980e865ed8a/thesis_guidelines-rev10-17.pdf](https://worldlanguages.wvu.edu/files/d/433511fa-1ec2-448a-8e79-2980e865ed8a/thesis_guidelines-rev10-17.pdf))."

• **Benchmarks:**
  - All students should complete a plan of study by the end of their first semester.
  - Students will be evaluated in writing at the end of the Spring term on a yearly basis. If adequate progress is not made, students may be placed on probation or dismissed from the program.
  - Students who choose the thesis option should typically defend their thesis topic by the midterm of their second semester, have the thesis proposal approved by the end of the second semester, and submit and defend their thesis during the semester in which they intend to graduate. The student’s thesis committee may revise these deadlines.
  - Students who choose the examination option should complete examinations during the semester in which they intend to graduate.

• **Additional Requirements:**
  - No more than three hours of independent study will apply to the degree (unless approved by the departmental chairperson).
  - Students must satisfy the foreign language requirement by the time they graduate:
    - Students who are native speakers of English and who are pursuing the major in Spanish are considered to have satisfied this requirement.
    - International students whose native language is not English are considered to have satisfied this requirement by virtue of their TOEFL or IELTS score.

• **Learning Outcomes:**
  - Demonstrate conceptual knowledge of the structure of the Spanish language.
  - Proficiently communicate in Spanish both orally and in writing.
  - Demonstrate knowledge of the historical, cultural, and social contexts related to the Hispanic world.
  - Identify literary and cultural periods and movements in Spain and Latin America.
  - Critically analyze and synthesize written and cinematographic works in Spanish.
  - Communicate research results in the field both in oral and written formats.

### M.A. Major in Spanish Curriculum

**CORE COURSES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 501</td>
<td>Structure of Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 610</td>
<td>Methods of Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select 2 courses from the following list:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 643</td>
<td>Contemporary Spanish Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 651</td>
<td>Medieval and Golden Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 653</td>
<td>Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Literature</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select 2 courses from the following list:

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 637</td>
<td>Early Spanish-American Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 640</td>
<td>19th Century Latin American Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 641</td>
<td>20th- and 21st-Century Latin American Literature</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ELECTIVES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LANG 621</td>
<td>Teaching Foreign Language in College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 611</td>
<td>Literary Criticism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 630</td>
<td>Latin American Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 631</td>
<td>Latin American Short Story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 638</td>
<td>Mexican Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 639</td>
<td>Gaucho Culture and Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 655</td>
<td>Spanish Literature 1936-1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 656</td>
<td>Spanish Literature after 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 673</td>
<td>Hispanic Literature and Film</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 674</td>
<td>Afrohispanic Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 697</td>
<td>Research (up to 6 credits)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 30
No more than six hours of thesis credits (697/698) can be applied to the degree.

Degree Progress

M.A. IN SPANISH

• All students should complete a plan of study by the end of their first semester.
• Students will be evaluated in writing at the end of the Spring term on a yearly basis. If adequate progress is not made, students may be placed on probation or dismissed from the program.
• Students who choose the thesis option should typically defend their thesis topic by the midterm of their second semester, have their thesis proposal approved by the end of the second semester, and submit and defend their thesis during the semester in which they intend to graduate. The student’s thesis committee may revise these deadlines.
• Students who choose the examination option should complete the examinations during the semester in which they intend to graduate.

Major Learning Outcomes

SPANISH

Upon completion of M.A. in Spanish, students will be able to:

• Demonstrate conceptual knowledge of the structure of the Spanish language.
• Proficiently communicate in Spanish both orally and in writing.
• Demonstrate knowledge of the historical, cultural, and social contexts related to the Hispanic world.
• Identify literary and cultural periods and movements in Spain and Latin America.
• Critically analyze and synthesize written and cinematographic works in Spanish.
• Communicate research results in the field both in oral and written formats.

COURSES

SPAN 521. Dialectology and Sociolinguistics. 3 Hours.
This course covers the variation of the Spanish language from geographical and social perspectives. Students will learn about variation at multiple levels of the grammar including its phonology, morphology, lexicon and syntax. The first part of the course will concentrate on the diatopic variation while the second part will look at the role of external forces and socially induced changes.

SPAN 590. Teaching Practicum. 1-3 Hours.
PR: Consent. Supervised practice in college teaching of Spanish. Note: This course is intended to insure that graduate assistants are adequately prepared and supervised when they are given college teaching responsibility. It will also present a mechanism for students not on assistantships to gain teaching experience. (Grading will be P/F.).

SPAN 591. Advanced Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation of advanced topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

SPAN 592. Directed Study. 1-6 Hours.
Directed study, reading, and/or research.

SPAN 593. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
A study of contemporary topics selected from recent developments in the field.

SPAN 594. Seminar. 1-6 Hours.
Special seminars arranged for advanced graduate students.

SPAN 595. Independent Study. 1-9 Hours.
Faculty supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

SPAN 610. Methods of Research. 3 Hours.
Fundamentals of literary and cultural research, writing and publishing, both in form and content. Topics include: selection and definition of a corpus of study; formulation and articulation of a research hypothesis; research and evaluation of secondary sources; formats for literary/cultural research projects; online research engines; alternative secondary sources; professional conference presentations; and academic article submissions.

SPAN 611. Literary Criticism. 3 Hours.
Introduction to the main tendencies of contemporary literary theory as applied to Spanish literature; literary theory and practice. Review and evaluation of the main critical approaches from a practical standpoint.

SPAN 630. Latin American Culture. 3 Hours.
A study of history, culture, politics, economics, and development of the Latin American continent.
SPAN 631. Latin American Short Story. 3 Hours.
SPAN 633. Latin American Novel Since 1960. 3 Hours.
SPAN 637. Early Spanish-American Literature. 3 Hours.
In depth readings in Spanish-American literature of the colonial period in their historical context.
SPAN 638. Mexican Literature. 3 Hours.
In-depth readings of literary works from Mexico.
SPAN 639. Gaucho Culture and Literature. 3 Hours.
In-depth study of the culture and literature of the Gaucho in the historical and political context of Argentina and Uruguay. Taught in Spanish.
SPAN 640. 19th Century Latin American Literature. 3 Hours.
In-depth study of the main literary works and movements in Latin America from Neoclassicism to Modernism. Taught in Spanish.
SPAN 641. 20th- and 21st-Century Latin American Literature. 3 Hours.
In-depth study of the main literary works and movements in Latin America from early 20th century to the present. Taught in Spanish.
SPAN 643. Contemporary Spanish Literature. 3 Hours.
Introduction to the major tendencies, authors, and works of Spanish Peninsular Literature from the late 19th Century to nowadays; presentation and analysis of the main literary movements of the period.
SPAN 651. Medieval and Golden Age. 3 Hours.
In-depth reading in Spanish literature of the Middle Ages Renaissance, and Baroque periods, in narrative, drama, and poetry, within its historical context. Non-canonical works will also be included and studied.
SPAN 652. Cervantes. 3 Hours.
PR: 24 hours of Spanish or consent.
SPAN 653. Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Literature. 3 Hours.
Introduction to the major tendencies, authors, and works of the 18th and 19th Centuries Spanish Peninsular Literature; presentation and analysis of the main literary movements of the period, from the Enlightenment to Naturalism.
SPAN 654. Spanish Literature 1898-1936. 3 Hours.
Survey of the major trends and representative authors and works of the Modernist period in Spain.
SPAN 655. Spanish Literature 1936-1975. 3 Hours.
In-depth study of Spanish literature published between 1936, the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, and 1975, the end of the Franco dictatorship. Focus on all genres and their historical context.
SPAN 656. Spanish Literature after 1975. 3 Hours.
Survey of the major trends and representative authors and works of Spanish literature since the end of the Franco dictatorship.
SPAN 672. Spanish Women Writers. 3 Hours.
SPAN 673. Hispanic Literature and Film. 3 Hours.
The reading, discussion, and analysis of literature written by Hispanic authors of African descent.
SPAN 674. Afrohispanic Literature. 3 Hours.
The reading, discussion, and analysis of literature written by Hispanic authors of African descent.
SPAN 690. Teaching Practicum. 1-3 Hours.
PR: Consent. Supervised practice in college teaching of Spanish. Note: This course is intended to insure that graduate assistants are adequately prepared and supervised when they are given college teaching responsibility. It also provides a mechanism for students not on assistantships to gain teaching experience. (Grading will be P/F.).
SPAN 691. Advanced Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation of advanced topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.
SPAN 692. Directed Study. 1-6 Hours.
Directed study, reading, and/or research.
SPAN 693. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
A study of contemporary topics selected from recent developments in the field.
SPAN 694. Seminar. 1-6 Hours.
Special seminars arranged for advanced graduate students.
SPAN 695. Independent Study. 1-9 Hours.
Faculty supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.
SPAN 696. Graduate Seminar. 1-3 Hours.
PR: Consent. Each graduate student will present at least one seminar to the assembled faculty and graduate student body of his or her program.
SPAN 697. Research. 1-9 Hours.
PR: Consent. Research activities leading to thesis, problem report, research paper, or equivalent scholarly project, or a dissertation. (Grading may be S/U).
SPAN 698. Thesis or Dissertation. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. This is an optional course for programs that wish to provide formal supervision during the writing of student reports (698), or dissertations (798). Grading is normal.

SPAN 699. Graduate Colloquium. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. For graduate students not seeking coursework credit but who wish to meet residency requirements, use of the University’s facilities, and participate in its academic and cultural programs. Note: Graduate students who are not actively involved in coursework or research are entitled, through enrollment in their department’s 699/799 Graduate colloquium to consult with graduate faculty, participate in both formal and informal academic activities sponsored by their program, and retain all of the rights and privileges of duly enrolled students. Grading is P/F; colloquium credit may not be counted against credit requirements for masters programs. Registration for one credit of 699/799 graduate colloquium satisfies the University requirement of registration in the semester in which graduation occurs.

SPAN 791. Advanced Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation of advanced topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

SPAN 930. Professional Development. 1-6 Hours.
Professional development courses provide skill renewal or enhancement in a professional field or content area (e.g. education, community health, geology). These tuition waived continuing education courses are graded on a pass/fail grading scale and do not apply as graduate credit toward a degree program.