

Spanish, Catalog 2025-26

MAJOR, MINOR

- **PROFESSOR:** Alison Ridley (Chair, Modern Languages)
- **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR:** Ángel Díaz Miranda
- **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR:** Juan Manuel Portillo
- **LANGUAGE ASSISTANT:** Estrella Aparicio Serrano

Students majoring in Spanish at Hollins will be able to express themselves proficiently in oral and written Spanish, understand and appreciate the cultures and values of the Spanish-speaking world, and exhibit strong analytical skills. Spanish majors are prepared for careers in a variety of fields such as business, marketing, government, law, international relations, NGOs, and education. They also have the solid academic background necessary to enroll in graduate programs in Hispanic studies and comparative literature. Our faculty members offer a diverse curriculum in language, literature, and Hispanic cultures. During Short Term, many majors and minors carry out internships or travel abroad.

Spanish majors are required to study abroad in a Spanish-speaking country. Hollins has affiliated programs in Argentina, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Chile, and three sites in Spain: Seville, Alicante, and Barcelona, through Spanish Studies Abroad. We also have an affiliated program in Oaxaca, Mexico, through ARCOS. These programs offer students a wide variety of courses in literature, culture, art history, political science, international relations, business, film, and history. Internships may be arranged at the Spanish Studies Abroad Argentina and Spain sites. See the [Global Learning Hub](#) website for more information.

HISPANIC HOUSE, LANGUAGE ASSISTANT AND TUTOR

La Casa Hispánica (La Casa) is a residence for students interested in the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures. Students practice their Spanish language skills; host events related to the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries; and share their knowledge with the greater Hollins community.

Each year a native Spanish speaker (a Fulbright graduate student from a Spanish-speaking country) comes to Hollins through the Institute of International Education to serve as the Modern Languages Department's Spanish language assistant. In that role, the assistant offers conversation sessions to students enrolled in elementary, intermediate, and advanced language classes in order to help them hone their speaking skills in Spanish. The individual also lives in La Casa where they offer additional support to students learning the

language and share their cultural insights with the other residents. The assistant is an invaluable resource for students.

Finally, a dedicated undergraduate tutor works with students in elementary and intermediate Spanish classes helping them with tricky grammar points, reviewing material from their classes, and practicing the language with them in a comfortable setting.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR IN SPANISH:

(32 credits)*

Eight courses above SPAN 111: Intermediate Spanish I.

- 3 courses at the 300 level (12)
- SPAN 470: Senior Seminar (4), or SPAN 480: Senior Thesis (4), or SPAN 490: Senior Honors Thesis** (4, 4) during the senior year
- 4 electives that can include 112 or 121 and any of our 200- or 300-level classes (16)

Other requirements:

- A study abroad experience in a Spanish-speaking country. Students who are not able to study abroad for financial or medical reasons are encouraged to speak with the Spanish faculty to determine if an alternate activity that involves the intensive use of the Spanish language can take the place of study abroad.
- An e-portfolio of major work that must be completed by the last day of finals prior to graduation. Students will receive instructions about the portfolio when they declare a Spanish major. There will also be an informal group exit interview the day after final exams.
- All majors must take at least one 300- or 400-level course during the senior year

*The eight courses must include two culture courses, two language courses, and two literature courses. See individual course descriptions below for designations. One SPAN course taught in English can count towards the major (see course descriptions for which classes are taught in English). Designated courses on our approved study abroad programs can also count toward these requirements.

**Students who complete a year-long senior honors thesis are only required to complete two 300-level classes.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MINOR IN SPANISH:

(24 credits)

Six courses above SPAN 111: Intermediate Spanish I.

- 2 300-level courses (8)
- 4 electives that can include 112 or 121 and any of our 200- or 300-level classes (16)

Minors are strongly encouraged to study abroad in a Spanish-speaking country

*The six courses must include at least one culture, one literature, and one language course. See individual course descriptions below for designations. One SPAN course taught in English can count towards the minor (see course descriptions for which courses are taught in English). Designated courses on our approved study abroad programs can also count toward these requirements.

A language placement test given before fall and spring orientation determines placement in Spanish courses. Qualified first-year students may take courses at the 200 level.

It is recommended that students round out the Spanish major with complementary courses in areas such as art, history, economics, business, the sciences, and non-Hispanic languages and literatures.

SPAN 230, 231, 232, and 300-level literature courses may be taken more than once for credit, provided the content is different. Only independent studies approved by the chair of the Modern Languages Department will count toward the major or minor.

Students graduating with a major in Spanish will be able to: 1) express themselves articulately in oral and written Spanish; 2) demonstrate in-depth knowledge and understanding of at least one Hispanic culture; and 3) develop critical thinking skills in a second language. Senior majors will demonstrate they have achieved these three goals in one of the following ways: 1) by completing the Senior Seminar (SPAN 470), handing in a senior portfolio, and participating in an exit interview; or 2) by writing and defending a senior thesis (SPAN 480 or 490), handing in a senior portfolio, and participating in an exit interview.

COURSES IN SPANISH:

SPAN 101: ELEMENTARY SPANISH I (4); SPAN 102: ELEMENTARY SPANISH II (4)

This year-long course is an introduction to conversational Spanish, Hispanic cultures, writing, and grammar. In addition to three hours per week in class, students practice conversational skills for one hour each week with the Fulbright Spanish language assistant. No previous Spanish required. SPAN 101-102 fulfills the ESP language requirement (LAN)

for students who have not studied Spanish previously and the CORE World Languages requirement. SPAN 101 offered every fall term; SPAN 102 offered every spring term. (LAN or WL)

SPAN 110: ACCELERATED ELEMENTARY SPANISH (4)

This elementary-level course condenses one year of Spanish into one semester and is designed for students who have studied Spanish previously but who need a comprehensive review of grammar and vocabulary at the introductory level. Students will learn about Hispanic cultures through readings, films, discussions, and events sponsored by the department. In addition to traditional class time, students spend one hour each week with our Spanish language assistant. Prerequisite: Placement or permission. Offered every fall term. (Partially fulfills LAN or WL)

SPAN 111: INTERMEDIATE SPANISH I (4) ; SPAN 112: INTERMEDIATE SPANISH II (4)

This year-long course is a review of grammar, an expansion of verbal and writing skills, and includes reading of literary selections. In addition to three hours per week in class, students practice conversational skills for one hour per week with the Fulbright Spanish language assistant. SPAN 111-112 fulfills the ESP language requirement (LAN) for students who studied Spanish in high school and the CORE World Languages requirement. Prerequisite: Placement, SPAN 102, SPAN 110, or permission. SPAN 111 offered every fall term; SPAN 112 offered every spring term. SPAN 112 is a designated language course in the Spanish major and minor. (LAN or WL)

SPAN 121: ACCELERATED INTERMEDIATE SPANISH (4)

This course is a review of grammar, an expansion of verbal and writing skills, and includes literary selections. In addition to three hours per week in class, students practice conversational skills for one hour per week with the Fulbright Spanish language assistant. Fulfills the ESP language requirement (LAN) for students who studied Spanish in high school and the CORE World Languages requirement. Prerequisite: Placement, excellent performance in SPAN 102 or SPAN 110, or permission. SPAN 121 is a designated language course in the Spanish major and minor. Offered fall and spring terms. (LAN or WL)

SPAN 216: HIP HOP: AMERICAS (4)

This course introduces students to the study of minoritarian American cultural production as it is traversed by the problematic aspects and the politics of ethnicity and identity in America after the Civil Rights Generation of the 1960s. This course will examine historical and cultural accounts of both African-American and Latino/a voices in Hip Hop. Latinos/as

historically have been marginalized and remain outside of the racial-binary discourse constructed in the United States. Hip Hop culture reproduces this erasure. As these voices are incorporated into our study of Hip Hop music, dance, movies, and street art, students will understand how crucial the Latino/a presence has been in Hip Hop cultural productions. After establishing these facts, the course will move into the analysis of new trends in Hip Hop music and culture produced and consumed in Latin America, Spain, and the United States. Designation: Culture course. Prerequisite: Placement in a 200-level SPAN class, SPAN 112, SPAN 121, or permission. (WL)

SPAN 220: SPECIAL TOPICS: SHORTS AND SHORTS (4)

In this course, students will read a variety of short stories and view movie shorts from around the Spanish-speaking world. The goal will be to increase students' knowledge of Hispanic cultures and literatures while improving their oral, aural, and writing skills in Spanish. Designation: Literature/Culture course. Prerequisite: Placement in a 200-level SPAN class, SPAN 112, SPAN 121, or permission. (WL or SMN)

SPAN 222: HISPANIC CULTURES: ARTIFACTS (4)

Focus on the study of Hispanic cultures through visual media and material artifacts. The course will highlight the study of Hispanic paintings, monuments, films, and other current artistic production in their historical and cultural context. Topics explored include colonization and post-colonization, immigration, gender and physical roles, war, dictatorships, poverty, marginalization, trauma, exile, memory, and youth culture.

Designation: Culture course. Prerequisite: Placement in a 200-level SPAN class, SPAN 112, SPAN 121, or permission. (WL)

SPAN 230: CONVERSATION AND COMPOSITION: FILM (4)

Students will develop writing and speaking skills at an advanced level. This course uses Hispanic film as the springboard for conversation and composition. In addition to three hours per week in class, students practice conversation skills for one hour per week with the Fulbright Spanish language assistant. Designation: Language/Culture course.

Prerequisite: Placement in a 200-level SPAN class, SPAN 112, SPAN 121, or permission. (o, GLO, WL)

SPAN 231: CONVERSATION AND COMPOSITION: TOPICS (4)

Students will develop writing and speaking skills at an advanced level. The focus of this class is on controversial and/or timely topics that will generate discussion. In addition to three hours per week in class, students practice conversation skills for one hour per week

with the Fulbright Spanish language assistant. Designation: Language course. Prerequisite: Placement in a 200-level SPAN class, SPAN 112, SPAN 121, or permission. (WL)

SPAN 236: SPANISH CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION (4)

An introduction to the geography, history, art, literature, and society of Spain. Student research will result in a series of oral presentations in Spanish. Quizzes are also given. Designation: Culture course. Prerequisite: Placement in a 200-level SPAN class, SPAN 112, SPAN 121, or permission. (o, MOD, WL)

SPAN 238: LATIN AMERICAN CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION (4)

introduction to the geography, history, and cultures of Latin America, as well as an overview of its social, political, and economic importance. Students will develop a critical understanding of Latin America through the study of cultural productions from a variety of disciplines such as literature, essays, film, art, music, and philosophy. Student research results in one substantial oral presentation, several short presentations, and a final project. Designation: Culture course. Prerequisites: Placement in a 200-level SPAN class, SPAN 112, SPAN 121, or permission. (o, GLO, WL)

SPAN 243: “NOCTURNIDAD Y VUELO”: SURVEY OF MODERN HISPANIC LITERATURE (4)

This course offers an introduction to the literary and cultural production of Spain and Latin America, from the 18th to the 20th centuries, situating cultural products of the Hispanic world in their contexts of creation and consumption. Students will read and analyze literary texts (short stories, essays, poems) as well as visual works (paintings and films). The emphasis of the course is transatlantic and interdisciplinary. The discussions will focus on both the points of overlap and the divergences between the thought and culture of Latin America and Spain. Designation: Literature/Culture course. Prerequisite: Placement in a 200-level SPAN class, SPAN 112, SPAN 121, or permission. (WL)

SPAN 219: LATINX LITERATURE (4)

This course is a survey of U.S. Latinx literature that introduces students to the major trends in the tradition. While Latinxs are people of Latin American descent who live in the U.S., the term describes a broad range of racial, cultural, and political backgrounds. Latinxs have played a central role in the U.S. since its inception, influencing the history, politics, and culture of the United States. Latinx literature draws on literary traditions that span more than 400 years, but our course will focus on more contemporary forms of the tradition and its canon. Our course emphasizes the historical and aesthetic networks established in the Latinx literary canon that continue into the present, while also exploring the relationship

between genre and socio-historical issues. Cross-listed with ENG 219. Designation: Literature course. Taught in English. Prerequisite: One semester of college work or permission. (DJP)

SPAN 223: MOBILE BORDERS / MOVING BORDERS (4)

This course is conceived as a journey guided by the idea of “the border.” Its framework and jumping-off point will be Latin-American history and culture. Students will venture beyond geographical or national boundaries and explore class, gender, ethnicity, linguistic, legal, age, technological, and interspecies borders, among others. Our inquiry will include the study and discussion of written documents from literature and journalism, as well as films, maps, music, and art. In addition to written reports and exams, the class will build a collective reflection, documented in a blog or podcast, that will serve as a travel journal. Students will continually study how borders—even at their most radical imposition of separation—are only recognizable because there are common elements on both of its sides; it’s in that commonality where the potential for critique and change resides.

Designation: Culture/Literature course. Prerequisite: Placement in a 200-level SPAN class, SPAN 112, SPAN 121, or permission. (WL)

SPAN 234: LATIN AMERICAN ART AND CULTURE AFTER 1968 (4)

This mid-level course exposes students to the histories, theories, and forms of modern art in Latin America after 1968. The course explores the development of artistic movements in the region after 1968, the year of global political demonstrations and revolution. We will research how avant-garde art practices have engaged a variety of nation-building programs—either as validations or refutations. During this course students will become familiar with scholarship and critical frameworks formulated in Latin America, as well as how the cultural products were received in the United States. Designation: Culture course.

Prerequisite: Prerequisite: Placement in a 200-level SPAN class, SPAN 112, 121, or permission. (WL)

SPAN 239: HISPANIC MEDIA (4)

This course approaches relevant contemporary debates as they are presented by media from Spain, Latin America and the Hispanic communities in the United States. Students will gain a critical insight of the ways in which media not only portray aspects of culture and society, but shape their perception by the public and, in many cases, follow political agendas and ideological tendencies. There will be group presentations, several writing assignments, and a final project. Designation: Culture course. Prerequisite: Placement in a 200-level SPAN class, SPAN 112, SPAN 121, or permission. (WL)

SPAN 240: LATIN AMERICAN SOUNDSCAPES (4)

This course will explore the specificities of sound within the context of Latin American cultures. From the sounds of ceremonial and ritualistic practices, to the repetitive and often impersonal and machinal sounds of factories, to the frantic and chaotic sounds of traffic during rush hour in a Latin American city, to the serenity of a garden within its confines, students will engage in immersive experiences of sound in their private, public, aesthetic, and political dimensions. Some of the questions that will be considered are: How are spaces shaped by sound and conversely, how is sound shaped by spaces? What differences in sound emerge when spaces are inhabited, used, and traversed by humans? What is the importance of sound in a political demonstration or in the celebration of a sports championship? Ultimately, every manifestation of sound is a communal experience and warrants the same in-depth study as textual and visual communication. Designation: Culture course. Prerequisite: Placement in a 200-level SPAN class, SPAN 112, SPAN 121, or permission. (WL)

SPAN 251: SURVEY OF SPANISH LITERATURE I (4)

A study of major literary works and authors from the 11th through the 17th centuries. Representative works include *El poema de Mío Cid*, *El libro de buen amor*, *La Celestina*, *Lazarillo de Tormes*, and *Don Quijote*. Designation: Literature/Language course. Prerequisite: Placement in a 200-level SPAN class, SPAN 112, SPAN 121, or permission. (PRE; DJP or WL)

SPAN 290: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 OR 4)

Independent study conducted below the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. Designation: Literature, culture, or language course depending on the topic. Offered any term.

SPAN 306: SPANISH LITERATURE OF THE GOLDEN AGE (4)

Each time this course is offered, a different genre, theme, or author is studied. Designation: Literature course. Prerequisite: A 200-level SPAN class taught in Spanish or permission.

SPAN 327: HISPANIC AND LATINE WOMEN (4)

This course focuses on topics related to Hispanic and Latine women, including *marianismo*, motherhood, domestic violence, trauma, memory, poverty, public and private spaces, and matricide. These topics are studied through literature, film, art, newspaper articles, and scholarly articles. Literature/Culture course. Prerequisite: A 200-level SPAN class taught in Spanish or permission.

SPAN 341: 20TH- AND 21ST-CENTURY TRANSATLANTIC HISPANIC RELATIONS (4)

This course examines the transatlantic experience focusing on common themes that affect both Spain and Hispanic America and authors, artists, directors, and cultural mediators who have experienced life on both sides of the ocean either as exiles or expatriates. Each time this course is offered, a different theme, genre, or set of authors may be studied. May be repeated for credit if the course addresses a different theme, genre, or authors from the prior enrollment. Designation: Literature/Culture course. Prerequisite: A 200-level SPAN class taught in Spanish or permission.

SPAN 346: TWENTIETH- AND TWENTY-FIRSTCENTURY SPANISH LITERATURE (4)

Each time this course is offered, a different genre, theme, or author is studied. May be repeated for credit if the course addresses a different theme, genre, or authors from the prior enrollment. Designation: Literature course. Prerequisite: A 200-level SPAN class taught in Spanish or permission.

SPAN 348: TWENTIETH AND TWENTY-FIRST -CENTURY LATIN-AMERICAN LITERATURE (4)

Each time this course is offered, a different genre, theme, or author is studied. May be repeated for credit if the course addresses a different theme, genre, or authors from the prior enrollment. Designation: Literature course. Prerequisite: A 200-level SPAN class taught in Spanish or permission. (AES)

SPAN 362: ADVANCED SPANISH TRANSLATION (4)

This course focuses on the history of translation and translation theory, as well as the challenges in producing accurate translations due to idioms, false cognates, and differing vocabularies from one Spanish-speaking country to another. We will focus on the importance of contextual translations over literal, word-for-word translations. The course also includes segments on translation in various professions, including business, medicine, and the law. The majority of the class will be dedicated to Spanish to English translation, but some English to Spanish translation will also be included. Designation: Language course. Prerequisite: A 200-level SPAN course taught in Spanish or permission.

SPAN 375: ADVANCED SPANISH GRAMMAR (4)

In addition to a comprehensive review of Spanish grammar, students will be introduced to some of the more complex points of the Spanish language. Topics will include syntax,

morphology, and lexicon. Open to first-year students with permission. Designation: Language course. Prerequisite: A 200-level SPAN course taught in Spanish, or permission.

SPAN 332: U.S. INTERVENTIONS IN LATIN AMERICA (4)

Ever since President James Monroe declared a sort of protectorate over the hemisphere in the early 19th century, a policy now known as the 'Monroe Doctrine,' the United States has intervened in the political affairs of nations across Latin America, often in the service of American commercial interests or to support right-leaning forces against leftist leaders. The course will engage the history and the national cultural productions that stem from the uneven relationship. Issues of imperialism, right-left politics, communism, socialism, fear and avant-garde movements will be discussed. The readings will be in English or English translation, and the course will be conducted in English. Designation: Culture course. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing.

SPAN 320: SHORTS AND SHORTS (4)

Please see the description for SPAN 220 above. SPAN 320 is a 300-level version of SPAN 220 and the two courses meet at the same time. Students enrolled in SPAN 320 will complete all the requirements for SPAN 220 as well as additional work as assigned by the instructor. This work might include longer or additional papers, more in-depth research, additional presentations, being a discussion leader, or serving as a mentor to students enrolled at the lower level. The instructor will make clear what the additional responsibilities are in the syllabus for the course. Designation: Language/Culture course. Prerequisite: A 200-level course taught in Spanish or permission. (SMN)

SPAN 330: CONVERSATION AND COMPOSITION: FILM (4)

Please see the description for SPAN 230 above. SPAN 330 is a 300-level version of SPAN 230 and the two courses meet at the same time. Students enrolled in SPAN 330 will complete all the requirements for SPAN 230 as well as additional work as assigned by the instructor. This work might include longer or additional papers, more in-depth research, additional presentations, being a discussion leader, or serving as a mentor to students enrolled at the lower level. The instructor will make clear what the additional responsibilities are in the syllabus for the course. Designation: Language/Culture course. Prerequisite: A 200-level course taught in Spanish or permission. (o, GLO)

SPAN 331: CONVERSATION AND COMPOSITION: TOPICS (4)

Please see the description for SPAN 231 above. SPAN 331 is a 300-level version of SPAN 231 and the two courses meet at the same time. Students enrolled in SPAN 331 will complete all the requirements for SPAN 231 as well as additional work as assigned by the

instructor. This work might include longer or additional papers, more in-depth research, additional presentations, being a discussion leader, or serving as a mentor to students enrolled at the lower level. The instructor will make clear what the additional responsibilities are in the syllabus for the course. Designation: Language course.
Prerequisite: A 200-level course taught in Spanish or permission.

SPAN 336: SPANISH CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION (4)

Please see the description for SPAN 236 above. SPAN 336 is a 300-level version of SPAN 236 and the two courses meet at the same time. Students enrolled in SPAN 336 will complete all the requirements for SPAN 236 as well as additional work as assigned by the instructor. This work might include longer or additional papers, more in-depth research, additional presentations, being a discussion leader or serving as a mentor to students enrolled at the lower level. The instructor will make clear what the additional responsibilities are in the syllabus for the course. Designation: Culture course.
Prerequisite: A 200-level course taught in Spanish or permission. (o, MOD)

SPAN 338: LATIN AMERICAN CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION (4)

Please see the description for SPAN 238 above. SPAN 338 is a 300-level version of SPAN 238 and the two courses meet at the same time. Students enrolled in SPAN 338 will complete all the requirements for SPAN 238 as well as additional work as assigned by the instructor. This work might include longer or additional papers, more in-depth research, additional presentations, being a discussion leader or serving as a mentor to students enrolled at the lower level. The instructor will make clear what the additional responsibilities are in the syllabus for the course. Designation: Culture course.
Prerequisite: A 200-level course taught in Spanish or permission. (o, GLO)

SPAN 351: SURVEY OF SPANISH LITERATURE (4)

Please see the description for SPAN 251 above. SPAN 351 is a 300-level version of SPAN 251 and the two courses meet at the same time. Students enrolled in SPAN 351 will complete all the requirements for SPAN 251 as well as additional work as assigned by the instructor. This work might include longer or additional papers, more in-depth research, additional presentations, being a discussion leader, or serving as a mentor to students enrolled at the lower level. The instructor will make clear what the additional responsibilities are in the syllabus for the course. Designation: Literature/Language.
Prerequisite: A 200-level course taught in Spanish or permission. (PRE, DJP)

SPAN 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 OR 4)

Independent study conducted at the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. Designation: Literature, culture, or language course depending on the topic. Offered any term.

SPAN 399: INTERNSHIP (4)

Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. May be proposed for any term.

SPAN 470: SENIOR SEMINAR (4)

This seminar provides a capstone experience for Spanish majors. It affords an in-depth study of a particular writer or theme and fosters analytical skills through discussion and writing. At the end of the semester, students will organize a colloquium or presentation. Designation: Literature, culture, or language course depending on the topic. Senior Seminar is usually taught as a stacked course, and it carries the ESP and/or CORE designations assigned to the course with which it is stacked. Prerequisite: Senior majors or permission.

SPAN 480: SENIOR THESIS (4)

Students have the option of writing a thesis, which will be directed by the department. The thesis serves as a capstone experience. Designation: Literature, culture, or language course depending on the topic. Prerequisite: Senior majors or minors by invitation. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. Offered both terms.

SPAN 490: SENIOR HONORS THESIS (4, 4)

A student may be invited to write a thesis for departmental honors. For honors candidates, the thesis spans the academic year and culminates in a substantial thesis and a formal defense. Prerequisite: Senior majors by invitation only. Designation: Literature, culture, or language course depending on the topic.