SPANISH

Departmental Guidelines

Educated people spend their lives pursuing growth in political, social and intellectual freedom. One kind of intellectual freedom requires us to break away from the notion that our native language is the most natural and apt means of expressing the full range of human experience. An education can start with the realization that all words are purely conventional devices. They are nonetheless tools that stir emotions, articulate ideas, and establish relationships with others. Learning another language contributes to our education by intimately exploring cultural and linguistic concepts that broaden our understanding.

Our basic courses offer the opportunity to begin acquiring the skills and knowledge necessary for the eventual mastery of a language. When students take full advantage of that opportunity, they can use the target language in all subsequent courses. The Department emphasizes the use of the target language in most of its courses because it believes that students can best appreciate another culture from within its own mode of expression.

With a view toward career opportunities, the Department encourages integrating language study with a variety of other academic areas, such as history, philosophy, international studies, environmental studies, biology, economics, political science, and English. Courses in cultural studies and literature, aside from their intrinsic worth, also present multiple perspectives on other cultures and areas of intellectual experience.

A student who wants to spend a summer, a semester, or a year abroad with programs approved by Denison should consult members of the Department and the Office of Off-Campus Studies (see Off-Campus Programs). On-campus opportunities to improve their command of the language are provided by the Language and Culture Program, language tables, international films, club meetings, and similar activities sponsored by the Department. There are as well subsidized field trips to museums and pertinent activities in cities across the country, and in some cases international travel.

Spanish Program Mission

Our mission is to enrich students’ views on life by learning Spanish and crossing cultures in an intellectually challenging context. By working closely with professors, and in and outside the classroom, students acquire proficiency in critically analyzing the complex issues of today’s world.

Spanish Program Vision

Our students become co-learners with each other and us, and competent in intercultural communication and the study of cultural discourses. They engage with a wide range of texts and develop analytic and evaluative skills to be active participants in an evolving world. They connect with the world in multiple significant ways: study abroad, student conferences, guest speakers, extracurricular activities, and community outreach. Our program is a rigorous, intellectually stimulating and fulfilling endeavor, responding to an ever-changing world. It integrates culture, language, and literature through, and across, multiple perspectives and methodologies. It also forges ties with many other departments throughout the university so that our discipline can facilitate research and the acquisition of knowledge across the curriculum.

Goals for the Major

In our courses students cultivate functional language abilities and develop knowledge of the cultures and literature of Spanish-speaking peoples. They do so through historical breadth and depth of inquiry, covering different Hispanic regions and exploring a variety of interdisciplinary approaches. Students will develop critical language awareness, interpretation and translation, historical and political consciousness, social sensibility, and aesthetic perception.

At the linguistic level the Spanish program subscribes to the Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century articulated by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

Communication

- Interpersonal
  Students engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions.
- Interpretive
  Students understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics from diverse media.
- Presentational
  Students present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics.

Cultures

- Practices and perspectives
  Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of the culture studied.
- Products and Perspectives
  Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the products and perspectives of the culture studied.

Connections

- Students reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through the language.
- Students acquire information and recognize the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the language and its cultures.

Comparisons

- Students demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the language studied and their own.
- Students demonstrate understanding of the concept of culture through comparisons of the cultures studied and their own, including the relationship between accepted practices, products and perspectives.

Communities

- Students use the language both within and beyond the school setting.
- Students show evidence of becoming life-long learners by using the language for personal enjoyment and enrichment.

Faculty

Professor Kirk Combe, Chair
The Language Lab

An important asset of the department is the Language Lab with its 27 Macs, zone-free Blu-ray player and document camera. It also has a VIA Connect PRO, which is a wireless collaboration and presentation solution that makes sharing and presenting easier for all computers in the room. The lab provides support for learning activities outside and inside the classroom, ranging from grammar drills to research and collaborative writing projects, as well as discussions of authenticated materials published on the Internet. The area is designed not only for individualized instruction but also for group work and small seminars using a variety of digital materials for class discussion.

Cultural Enrichment

Each semester the Department offers students exceptional opportunities for cultural enrichment in language study. These opportunities include, for example, off-campus trips to target-culture plays, movies and performances, as well as campus visits by native scholars and performers. In that way, experiences in target cultures become more readily available to our students. These opportunities are made possible through a most generous endowment bestowed on the Department of Modern Languages by the Patty Foresman Fund. The Department maintains a Modern Languages Facebook page where Denison community members can view upcoming events.

Spanish Major

Students majoring in Spanish must take a minimum of 9 courses above SPAN 213 - Communication Skills. Required courses are:

- SPAN 215 - Writing Workshop,
- SPAN 220 - Introduction to Hispanic Literature,
- SPAN 230 - Introduction to Hispanic Cultures.
- In addition, students must take 3 elective courses at the 300-level and 3 elective courses at the 400-level.

All students who wish to engage in Senior Research projects are expected to submit a petition to the department during their junior year (before a study abroad experience is undertaken). Students who declare a Spanish major should choose an advisor in the program to guide them through their educational career.

Spanish Minor

The minor in Spanish consists of at least five courses above the 213-level, including three required courses at the 200-level and two electives at the 300 or 400-level. The following courses are required: SPAN 215 - Writing Workshop, SPAN 220 - Introduction to Hispanic Literature and SPAN 230 - Introduction to Hispanic Cultures.

Additional Points of Interest

The Language Lab

Spanish Major

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- SPAN 215 - Writing Workshop,
- SPAN 220 - Introduction to Hispanic Literature,
- SPAN 230 - Introduction to Hispanic Cultures.
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The minor in Spanish consists of at least five courses above the 213-level, including three required courses at the 200-level and two electives at the 300 or 400-level. The following courses are required: SPAN 215 - Writing Workshop, SPAN 220 - Introduction to Hispanic Literature and SPAN 230 - Introduction to Hispanic Cultures.

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The Foresman Lounge

Located in the central hub of the department, it provides the Denison community with a space for a wide range of activities such as receptions, classes, and informal gatherings. This area has a kitchenette with a table and chairs for sharing lunch or a coffee with our faculty. It is also equipped with a wide range of technological devices with which to enrich students’ learning experiences. This room has a 52-inch flat screen TV connected to a zone-free Blu-ray player and a document camera. The lounge has a ceiling-mounted laser projector, which connects to a networked Mac computer, the Blu-ray player and document camera.

General Departmental Regulations

Students who plan to major in the Department are advised to begin course work in the first year. Those who want to fulfill the basic requirement in language by continuing one begun in secondary school will find it advantageous to begin their course work in the first year. The Department of Modern Languages strongly recommends that students complete their language requirement by the end of their sophomore year.

The Language and Culture Program

This exciting residential option gives students the opportunity to hone their language skills and to participate in special cultural events. Students who choose this residential option will live in a small community of their peers who share their enthusiasm for language and culture study. Extracurricular activities and programming in the Language House support language acquisition and permit a closer relationship with professors and language assistants from the Department of Modern Languages.

Study Abroad

Spanish major and minor students are highly encouraged to study in a Spanish-speaking country through an approved academic program. Courses must be approved by the departmental coordinator before going abroad in order to be considered for Spanish credit. The Spanish section will not evaluate a study-abroad course for transfer without evidence (syllabus, course description, reading list, etc.) of the content of the course. To receive Spanish language credit, study abroad courses must be pursued in Spanish, be content based, and be similar in quality and content to a Spanish course at Denison. Students are encouraged to take courses that enrich the Denison curriculum; neither technical courses nor orientation sessions can receive academic credit. Summer programs: Students may study in an approved summer program that is at least 6 weeks long and 45 hours, minimum. One course will transfer towards a major/minor from summer study.

Courses

SPAN 111 - Beginning Spanish I (4 Credit Hours)

Students learn about the Spanish-speaking world while they start developing their Spanish linguistic skills in four basic areas (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). Students do a variety of written and oral activities that include formal and informal presentations, skits, short essays, etc. The course is conducted in Spanish.

SPAN 112 - Beginning Spanish II (4 Credit Hours)

Students continue learning about the Spanish-speaking world while they solidify their Spanish linguistic skills at the ACTFL novice level in the four basic areas (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). Students do a variety of written and oral activities that include formal and informal presentations, skits, short essays, etc. The course is conducted in Spanish.

Prerequisite(s): SPAN 111 or placement.
SPAN 199 - Introductory Topics in Spanish (1-4 Credit Hours)
A general category used only in the evaluation of transfer credit.

SPAN 211 - Intermediate Spanish (4 Credit Hours)
Students further their knowledge of the Spanish-speaking world while developing a functional comprehension and use of spoken and written Spanish at the ACTFL novice-high/intermediate-low level. The course solidifies grammar structures and emphasizes the acquisition of cultural knowledge about the Spanish-speaking world through a wide variety of visual and written texts. Conducted in Spanish.
Prerequisite(s): SPAN 112 or placement.

SPAN 213 - Communication Skills (4 Credit Hours)
Students will enhance their proficiency in oral and written Spanish, in order to solidify a low-intermediate ACTFL level. Students will develop skills such as summarizing, comparing, contrasting and synthesizing. Students will practice communicational abilities through discussions, oral presentations, debates, reports and film reviews. Audiovisual materials, Internet based resources and cultural readings will be frequently used texts. Conducted in Spanish.
Prerequisite(s): SPAN 211 or placement.

SPAN 215 - Writing Workshop (4 Credit Hours)
Students develop their writing and analytical skills through an intensive writers’ workshop, which includes linguistic, literary, and cultural analysis through grammar, readings, discussions, and essay. Students develop their writing through expository, argumentative, and analytical essay as well as other genres such as chronicle, journal, autobiography, and literary translation. Students will write, edit, and evaluate their work and that of their peers following models presented through readings organized around thematic units. Conducted in Spanish.
Prerequisite(s): SPAN 213 or placement or permission of instructor.

SPAN 220 - Introduction to Hispanic Literature (4 Credit Hours)
What is literature? What is it good for? How is Hispanic literature different from literature written in English? Short stories, poems, plays and essays representative of various Spanish-speaking countries are read and analyzed in this class. Students will learn and practice the skills of close reading, informed discussion and analytical writing about literature. Students will develop an understanding of the nature of literary genres and literary concepts (themes, character, conflict, point of view, figurative language). Students will develop an appreciation of literature and the ability to interpret it by writing short analytical essays, doing oral presentations, reciting poetry and performing plays. Students will achieve an intermediate-mid ACTFL level. Conducted in Spanish.
Prerequisite(s): SPAN 215 or placement.

SPAN 230 - Introduction to Hispanic Cultures (4 Credit Hours)
Students are introduced to important cultural characteristics and productions from both Latin America and Spain. This course offers a historical framework to identify, analyze and contrast fundamental cultural themes, actors and events. Students will develop analytical and critical skills to understand similarities and differences between Spain and Latin America. Students will achieve an intermediate-mid ACTFL level. Conducted in Spanish.
Prerequisite(s): SPAN 215 or placement.

SPAN 299 - Intermediate Topics in Spanish (1-4 Credit Hours)
A general category used only in the evaluation of transfer credit.

SPAN 310 - Creative Writing (4 Credit Hours)
Students will enhance their skills in writing and composition through literary analysis, literary translation and practice of the craft of writing in different genres (drama, poetry, short story) in the Spanish language. Using the close reading of great works of Hispanic literature in the above-mentioned genres, students will learn to translate literary texts and to create literature of their own. Students will explore the process of writing, edit and evaluate their work and that of their peers.
Prerequisite(s): SPAN 220 or LACS 220 and SPAN 230 or LACS 230.

SPAN 314 - Translation Studies: Being Translingual and Transcultural (4 Credit Hours)
This course introduces students to the existing world of translation. Students work with written texts, transferring text from a source language into a target language (Spanish-English and English-Spanish). This is far more than replacing one word with another: the translator must also convey the style, tone, and intent of the text. Focus is on the actual process of translation: what the translator does and why. Students will work mostly with literary and journalistic texts. Students will gain an understanding of different cultural communication styles. Students will familiarize themselves with the relationship between language and power, and the role of the translator as the “in-between” agent.
Prerequisite(s): SPAN 220 or LACS 220, and SPAN 230 or LACS 230.

SPAN 315 - Grammar in Context (4 Credit Hours)
Students will conduct an in-depth analysis of the Spanish grammatical system, which includes core areas of linguistics such as morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. Students will analyze the Spanish grammatical system in a wide variety of written and oral texts. For example, contrastive analysis will be used as a method of problem solving. Spanish will be the medium of instruction as well as the content area. Written work and oral presentations in Spanish should be produced at the ACTFL intermediate-high level. Conducted in Spanish.
Prerequisite(s): SPAN 220 or LACS 220 or SPAN 230 or LACS 230.

SPAN 320 - Survey of Spanish Literature (4 Credit Hours)
Students will analyze Spanish Literature from the Middle Ages to the Twentieth Century within its historical, sociocultural and artistic contexts. This course offers an overview of main literary periods, authors and genres. Students will examine a variety of texts and the outstanding characteristics of their authors. Students will engage in critical analysis of texts through research essays, creative projects and oral presentations, at the ACTFL intermediate-high level. Conducted in Spanish.
Prerequisite(s): SPAN 220 or LACS 220 and SPAN 230 or LACS 230.

SPAN 322 - Transatlantic Myth Busters: The Black Legend (4 Credit Hours)
Was Inquisition an evil machine created by the Spanishiards to terrorize the world? Did the Spanish Empire rule over half of the world through fear and punishment? Is Spain a barbaric country? Students will address these and other questions that arose during the 16th and 17th centuries in Europe to analyze the expansion of the Spanish Empire. In this class, we will study different power relationships between Spain and Latin America and, Spain and Europe. Through historical, literary and cultural texts students will analyze the myth known as "The Black Legend" and learn about different social and political structures and discursive strategies that sustain power. Students will also explore how these have been transformed and survive nowadays.
Prerequisite(s): SPAN 220 or LACS 220 and SPAN 230 or LACS 230.
SPAN 325 - Survey of Latin American Literature (4 Credit Hours)
Students will analyze texts from Pre-Columbian times to the present within their historical, sociocultural and artistic contexts. This course offers an overview of main literary periods, authors and genres. Students will examine a variety of texts and the outstanding characteristics of their authors. Students will engage in critical analysis of texts through research essays, creative projects and oral presentations, at the ACTFL intermediate-high level. Conducted in Spanish.
Prerequisite(s): SPAN 220 or LACS 220, and SPAN 230 or LACS 230.
Crosslisting: LACS 325.

SPAN 330 - Cultures of Spain (4 Credit Hours)
Students will analyze how the different people of Spain conceive of and represent themselves, their attitudes, values and beliefs. Through a multidisciplinary approach, students will explore questions about national and regional identities, religious and ethnic communities, cultural movements and institutions, canon formation and popular culture. Following a historical perspective, students will examine the evolution of institutions, traditions and various artistic endeavors. Historical, cultural, philosophical texts will be the basis of this class. Students will hone the skills of interpreting, relating, categorizing, and critiquing cultural works and periods. Students will write analytical essays, present oral reports and take exams as part of the course evaluation. Students will achieve an ACTFL intermediate-high level. Conducted in Spanish.
Prerequisite(s): SPAN 220 or LACS 220, and SPAN 230 or LACS 230.

SPAN 335 - Cultures of Latin America (4 Credit Hours)
Students will analyze selected historical themes such as revolution, gender and sexual politics, Southern cone dictatorships, human rights, and memory. Students will work with a variety of texts: films, testimonies, performance art, and fine arts. Students will engage in critical analysis of texts through research essays, creative projects and oral presentations, at the ACTFL intermediate-high level. Conducted in Spanish.
Prerequisite(s): SPAN 220 or LACS 220 and SPAN 230 or LACS 230.

SPAN 359 - Advanced Topics in Spanish (1-4 Credit Hours)
A general category used only in the evaluation of transfer credit.

SPAN 361 - Directed Study (1-4 Credit Hours)

SPAN 362 - Directed Study (1-4 Credit Hours)

SPAN 363 - Independent Study (1-4 Credit Hours)

SPAN 364 - Independent Study (1-4 Credit Hours)

SPAN 415 - Seminar in Language (4 Credit Hours)
This course focuses on language and its applications. This means that we will discuss language as it relates to teaching and learning as well as to professional areas such as health, business or tourism. Moreover, we will explore the relationship between language and society. Students in this class will read and write different academic texts ranging from outreach texts to research proposals.
Prerequisite(s): SPAN 315 and one additional 300-level SPAN course.

SPAN 420 - Seminar in Peninsular Literature (4 Credit Hours)
Study and discussion in depth of a selected topic, writer or work from Peninsular literature. Students will summarize, compare and contrast, synthesize and evaluate the literary works of an author or a specific literary group of writers. Students will hone their research skills and will demonstrate them through oral presentations, in-depth discussions, creative work, research papers, poster sessions, webspaces, and wikis that meet the ACTFL intermediate-high/advanced-low level standards. This course will involve the writing of a research paper. Conducted in Spanish.
Prerequisite(s): Two 300 level SPAN courses.

SPAN 425 - Seminar in Latin American Literature (4 Credit Hours)
Study and discussion in depth of a selected topic, writer or work from Latin America literature. Students will summarize, compare and contrast, synthesize and evaluate cultural themes, actors and events. Students will hone their research skills and will demonstrate them through oral presentations, in-depth discussions, creative work, research papers, poster sessions, webspaces, and wikis that meet the ACTFL intermediate-high/advanced-low level standards. This course will involve the writing of a research paper. Conducted in Spanish.
Prerequisite(s): Two 300 level SPAN courses.

SPAN 430 - Seminar in Spanish Culture (4 Credit Hours)
Study and discussion in depth of a selected topic, writer or work from Peninsular Spain literature. Students will summarize, compare and contrast, synthesize and evaluate cultural themes, actors and events. Students will hone their research skills and will demonstrate them through oral presentations, in-depth discussions, creative work, research papers, poster sessions, webspaces, and wikis that meet the ACTFL intermediate-high/advanced-low level standards. Conducted in Spanish.
Prerequisite(s): Two 300 level SPAN courses.

SPAN 435 - Seminar in Latin American Culture (4 Credit Hours)
Students will study and discuss in depth a selected topic, artist or creative work in the culture of Peninsular Spain. Building up on cultural structures studied in previous courses, students will advance personal critiques and evaluations of creative works. Students will hone their research skills and will demonstrate them through oral presentations, in-depth discussions, creative work, research papers, poster sessions, webspaces, and wikis that meet the ACTFL intermediate-high/advanced-low level standards. Conducted in Spanish.
Prerequisite(s): Two 300 level SPAN courses.

SPAN 440 - Seminar in Hispanic Transatlantic Culture (4 Credit Hours)
Students will engage in an in-depth study of selected topics in the frame of the Atlantic World, which addresses the relations between the cultures of Peninsular Spain and Latin America from a transatlantic perspective. Students will question Western systems of thought, will interrogate structures of power and will develop new connections to the realities of the Hispanic World. Students will study and discuss in depth a selected topic, writer or work from Latin America literature. Students will summarize, compare and contrast, synthesize and evaluate cultural themes, actors and events. Students will hone their research skills and will demonstrate them through oral presentations, in-depth discussions, creative work, research papers, poster sessions, webspaces, and wikis that meet the ACTFL intermediate-high/advanced-low level standards. Conducted in Spanish.
Prerequisite(s): Two 300-level SPAN courses.

SPAN 451 - Senior Research (4 Credit Hours)

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