

SPANISH

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The Department of Spanish and Portuguese provides instruction in the languages, literatures, and cultures of the Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian worlds. Courses in Portuguese and the requirements of the Portuguese major are described under Portuguese; the names of faculty teaching Portuguese courses are included in the faculty roster.

The major in Spanish is a liberal arts major that offers a wide range of courses in the language, literatures, and cultures of the twenty Spanish-speaking countries in Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Today, Spanish is the second language of the United States, one of the three most widely spoken languages in the world, and one of the five diplomatic languages of the United Nations. The program in Spanish offers students the opportunity to acquire thorough linguistic proficiency as well as in-depth knowledge of both cultural and literary topics. The major explores literature, history, philosophy, art, and cultural studies, and provides excellent preparation for careers in law, diplomacy, medicine, business, the arts, academics, journalism, and education.

A second language, Catalan, is taught within the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Students with background knowledge in Catalan should contact Lourdes (lourdes.sabe@yale.edu) Sabé (lourdes.sabe@yale.edu) to arrange for a placement test.

COURSE NUMBERING

Courses numbered SPAN 1100–1999 include beginning and intermediate language courses designed to help students develop fluency in understanding, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish. Courses numbered SPAN 2200–2999 seek to provide students with a broad but solid introduction to the fields of Hispanic literatures and cultures while strengthening their linguistic competence. Courses numbered 3000–4999 allow students to perfect their linguistic and critical skills through study of a specific problem or issue, e.g., a literary genre, a type of literary or cultural representation, or a specific writer or text. Students desiring more information about either language or literature offerings should consult the director of undergraduate studies (DUS).

PREREQUISITE

Prerequisite to the major is SPAN 1400, SPAN 1450, SPAN 1500, or the equivalent through advanced placement or study abroad. Equivalent preparation to SPAN 1400, SPAN 1450, SPAN 1500, or may be demonstrated by the test scores indicated below under "Language Courses and Placement Procedures."

LANGUAGE COURSES AND PLACEMENT PROCEDURES

Students with no previous formal or informal Spanish study ordinarily enroll in SPAN 1100. Students who take SPAN 1100 are strongly encouraged to continue with SPAN 1200 in the following term. Students wishing to take intensive beginning Spanish may, with the instructor's permission, enroll in SPAN 1250, which covers the same material as SPAN 1100 and 1200, but in one term. SPAN 1500 is designed for

heritage speakers and is available only to them. Admission to SPAN 1500 is based on the results of the departmental placement examination; interested students should contact the instructor.

All students, including native speakers, who have previously studied Spanish formally or informally must take the departmental placement examination to enroll in a Spanish course. The only exception to this rule is made for students who have demonstrated advanced ability in the language by (1) receiving a score of 5 on either of the Spanish Advanced Placement tests; (2) receiving a score of 6 or 7 on the Advanced-Level International Baccalaureate examination; or (3) attaining a proficiency level of C1 in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. These students may enroll directly in any L5 course.

Information about the departmental placement examination and registration procedures for Spanish L1–L4 language courses is available on the department website.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

Students are held to the requirements that were in place when they declared their major. However, with approval from the DUS, the following requirements, updated for the academic year 2024-2025, may be fulfilled by students who declared the major in a prior term.

See [Link to the attribute indicating courses taught in Spanish.](#)

Beyond the prerequisite, ten term courses are required. SPAN 2200 is a required introductory course. Additionally, two courses numbered SPAN 2200-2999 are required, as are three courses numbered SPAN 3000 or higher. SPAN 4900, The Senior Project, is one of the ten required courses. The remaining three elective courses must be numbered SPAN 2000 or higher, or be a first-year seminar taught in Spanish. A maximum of one course taught in a language other than Spanish may also count toward the major requirements, with the approval of the DUS.

Intensive major Students in the intensive major fulfill the requirements for the standard major, and take two additional courses numbered SPAN 3000 or higher.

Credit/D/Fail No course taken Credit/D/Fail may be applied toward the requirements of the major.

Outside credit Courses taken at another institution or during an approved summer or term-time study abroad program may count toward the major requirements with DUS approval.

SENIOR REQUIREMENT

Seniors complete the senior requirement, an essay or its equivalent in another medium, in SPAN 4900 in the spring of their senior year under the individual direction of a faculty adviser. Students expecting to complete their degree requirements in December complete the senior requirement in SPAN 4900 in the fall of their senior year. Deadlines and guidelines for the senior requirement can be found on the Spanish and Portuguese department website.

ADVISING

Two majors Students electing Spanish as one of two majors should consult the DUS about a specialized course of study.

Courses in the Graduate School Juniors and seniors majoring in Spanish may, with permission of the instructor and the director of graduate studies, enroll in graduate courses in Spanish.

STUDY ABROAD

Students at the intermediate level of language study are encouraged to apply to the eight-week summer language courses offered by Yale Summer Session in New Haven and Bilbao, Spain, or in Quito, Ecuador. Advanced students may apply for the five-week Yale Summer Session courses offered in Valencia, Spain, and in Quito, Ecuador. More information about these programs is available on the Yale Summer Session website. For information about the Year or Term Abroad program, see Academic Regulations, section K, Special Academic Programs. Students who wish to count courses taken abroad toward the major should consult with the DUS before going abroad.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite 1 course from SPAN 1400, 1450, 1500, or equivalent

Number of courses 10 term courses (including senior requirement)

Specific course required SPAN 2200

Distribution of courses 2 courses numbered SPAN 2200-2999, 3 courses numbered SPAN 3000 or higher; 3 electives numbered SPAN 2000 or higher or a first-year seminar taught in Spanish, with a max of one course taught in a language other than Spanish, with DUS approval

Senior requirement SPAN 4900

Intensive major 2 addtl courses numbered SPAN 3000 or higher, totaling 12 term courses

*Courses**** SPAN 1100a, Elementary Spanish I** Staff

For students who wish to begin study of the Spanish language. Development of basic skills in understanding, speaking, reading, and writing through a functional approach to the teaching of Spanish grammar. Includes an introduction to the cultures (traditions, art, literature, music) of the Spanish-speaking world. Audiovisual materials are incorporated into class sessions. Conducted in Spanish. To be followed immediately by SPAN 120. L1 1½ Course cr

SPAN 1200a, Elementary Spanish II Staff

Further development of understanding, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Class sessions incorporate short authentic texts in Spanish, audiovisual materials, and film. Cultural topics of the Spanish-speaking world (traditions, art, literature, music) are included. Conducted in Spanish. After SPAN 110 or in accordance with placement results. Admits to SPAN 130 or 145. L2 1½ Course cr

SPAN 1300a, Intermediate Spanish I Staff

Development of language proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing through communicative activities rather than a sequence of linguistic units. Authentic

Spanish language texts, films, and videos serve as the basis for the functional study of grammar and the acquisition of a broader vocabulary. Cultural topics are presented throughout the term. Prerequisites: Conducted in Spanish. Admits to SPAN 140. L3
1½ Course cr

SPAN 1400a, Intermediate Spanish II Staff

Continuation of SPAN 130. Development of increased proficiency in the four language skills. Greater precision in grammar usage, vocabulary enrichment, and expanded cultural awareness are achieved through communicative activities based on authentic Spanish-language texts, including a short novel. Conducted in Spanish. Admits to L5 courses. L4 1½ Course cr

*** SPAN 1500a, Spanish for Heritage Speakers** Staff

SPAN 142 is exclusively designed for Spanish heritage language speakers. In this course, we analyze a wide array of compelling multimodal texts and genres (e.g., visual arts, music, film, literature, mythological narratives) to shed light on and celebrate the cultural productions and worldviews of four communities at the center of contemporary discussions pertaining to social justice and representation in Latin America and Latinx USA: women, indigenous communities, Afro-Latinos/as, and immigrants. The tasks and projects created around these texts will further advance your literacy and your command of mechanical aspects of the language while fostering a deeper understanding of various cultures in the Spanish-speaking world. After SPAN 130 or in accordance with placement results. L4 1½ Course cr

*** SPAN 2010a, Policies and Politics in the Spanish-Speaking World** Lucia Rubio

This course is a content-based course that looks to further increase your language proficiency and critical cultural awareness by engaging you with a wide array of compelling texts and media (e.g., legal texts, journalistic and opinion pieces, film, podcasts, literature) from various communities in Latin America and Spain. Through critical analyses of these texts and media, as well as through conversations with native speakers of Spanish in different countries, this course gives you an insider's perspective of some of the most pressing political, social, and cultural issues in the Spanish-speaking world today. This course is organized into the following 4 thematic units: local perspectives from Latin American & Spanish cities; when quality education speaks a minority/minoritized language; healthcare as culture, healthcare as right; and let us write a Latin American constitution for all. Prerequisite: SPAN 140 or SPAN 142 or SPAN 145 or L5 placement L5

*** SPAN 2015a / LAST 2245a, Language and Culture through Art** Rosamaria Leon

Taught in Spanish, this course enhances communication skills and media literacy through the experiential analysis of art. Students engage directly with objects at the Yale Art Gallery, using curatorial study to explore how gastronomy, music, and visual arts shape history and collective memory. These experiences are complemented by riveting readings, illuminating guest speakers, and creative projects designed to benefit the community. By promoting critical citizenship, the course prepares students to debate the role of art in Latin America and Spain. Through a remote exchange with students in Peru, participants master the academic Spanish and analytical tools necessary to thrive in a globalized society. Prerequisite: AP with score of 5/ IB score of 7, Placement in L5 through Spanish Department placement exam or by having completed L4. L5, HU

* **SPAN 2020a / LAST 2223a, Spanish in Film: Visual Narratives of Latin America and Spain** María José Gutiérrez Barajas

SPAN 2020 is an advanced language course designed to engage you with the intricate cultural tapestries of Latin American and Spanish cinema. Through engaging films, discussions, and assessments, this course provides you with a unique opportunity to increase your language proficiency and critical cultural awareness while deeply reflecting on how cinematic practices within the Spanish-speaking world serve as a mirror to diverse identities, pressing social issues, and significant historical contexts. The films in this course are organized around three main perspectives or “miradas”: the past, the present, and the future. Our class discussions and analyses, therefore, aim to shed light on i) how past events shape people's experiences in Latin America and Spain, ii) how they respond to the challenges posed by an ever-changing present, and iii) what actions they can take in response to some of the challenges that may lie on the horizon. The multifaceted perspective this class adopts helps us better appreciate how cinema can function as an essential cultural artifact within the broader framework of Spanish and Latin American studies. SPAN 1400, SPAN 1450, SPAN 1500, or L5 placement L5

* **SPAN 2040a, Linguaging in Latino America** Jorge Méndez-Seijas

This interdisciplinary seminar explores the dynamic nature of the languages and identities that shape and are shaped by Latino communities in the United States. Critical sociolinguistics, literature, art, history, and politics are some of the disciplines that guide our discussions as we try to better understand how different groups of Latinos/as have developed some of their linguistic and cultural products, practices, and perspectives. While engaging with the intricacies of language use, identity, and power dynamics in Latino America, this course seamlessly integrates a series of activities and assignments intended to help students hone their knowledge of Spanish while further expanding their multiple literacies. Prerequisite: SPAN 1400, SPAN 1450, SPAN 1500, or L5 placement. L5, HU

* **SPAN 2050a / LAST 2222a, Legal Spanish** Mercedes Carreras

An introduction to Spanish and Latin American legal culture with a focus on the specific traits of legal language and on the development of advanced language competence. Issues such as human rights, the death penalty, the jury, contracts, statutory instruments, and rulings by the constitutional courts are explored through law journal articles, newspapers, the media, and mock trials. Enrollment limited to 18. A maximum of one course in the 200-230 range may count as an elective toward the Spanish major. L5

* **SPAN 2100a / LAST 2227a, Entrelíneas: Creative Writing in Spanish** Mayte López

An entry point to the writing of fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction, with a focus on developing the techniques and abilities essential for crafting imaginative texts and honing self-expression. Through in-class tasks, substantive discussions on composition and craft, and analyses of contemporary Latinx, Latin American, and Spanish works, you will advance your language proficiency, sharpen your writing skills, and nurture your unique voice as a writer. Throughout the course, you'll complete regular writing exercises with the assistance of prompts. At the end of each unit, the course transitions to a workshop format where students receive constructive feedback on their writing from both their peers and the instructor. These discussions will enhance our collective understanding of the choices available to us as writers and the various techniques and strategies at our disposal. The syllabus is divided into three units, one for each

genre: fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction. By the semester's end, students create a comprehensive final portfolio, incorporating the last revisions of assignments from each course unit. This course is designed as a broad introduction to creative writing in Spanish. It can be taken on its own or alongside SPAN 2101, SPAN 1400, SPAN 1450, SPAN 1500, or L5 placement. L5, HU

*** SPAN 2155a / EVST 2232a, Ecological Mindfulness: Poetics and Praxis in the Spanish-Speaking World** Sarah Glenski

What is our relationship with nature? What constitutes ecological mindfulness? Does the practice of ecological mindfulness constitute a poetics? Is art a form of ecological mindfulness? These are some of the questions that we consider as we examine the concept of ecological mindfulness as an intersection of poetics and praxis. Throughout the semester, we explore a wide array of artistic expressions (essays, short stories, sound, poetry, photography, painting, etc.), which allows us to both appreciate and interrogate the many ways in which interactions with nature are depicted and performed in different Hispanophone cultures. Our analysis of these texts is complemented by carrying out and reflecting upon our own practice of ecological mindfulness. This course is taught in Spanish. Prerequisite: SPAN 140, or SPAN 142, or SPAN 145, or equivalent L5, HU

*** SPAN 3360a, Spanish American Vanguardist Literature** Anibal González-Pérez

Introduction to the Vanguardist period in Spanish American cultural history. The effects of political and social change in the early twentieth century on Spanish American writers and artists. Tensions between playfulness and engagement, cosmopolitanism and regionalism, and creativity and conscience in Vanguardist works. L5, HU

o Course cr

SPAN 4320a / ANTH 2264a / ARCG 2264a, Aztec Archaeology and Ethnohistory

Oswaldo Chinchilla Mazariegos

An anthropological and ethnohistorical examination of the Aztec civilization that dominated much of Mexico from the fourteenth century until the Spanish Conquest of 1521. SO

*** SPAN 4900a, The Senior Project** Aurelie Vialette

A research project completed under faculty supervision and resulting in an essay of considerable length, or its equivalent in another medium, in Spanish.

*** SPAN 4903a, Directed Readings and/or Individual Research** Aurelie Vialette

Individual study under faculty supervision. The student must submit a bibliography and a written plan of study approved by the faculty adviser to the director of undergraduate studies. No reading or research course credit is granted without prior approval from the director of undergraduate studies. The student must meet with the instructor at least one hour a week. A final examination or essay is required.