THE MAJOR IN SPANISH

Students who major in Spanish can expect to acquire linguistic fluency along with in-depth knowledge of the cultures of Spain and Latin America. Through the study of the major writers and historical events of the Spanish-speaking world, our program offers training in literary analysis and linguistic expression, as well as a deep appreciation of Hispanic civilizations.

The major consists of nine courses above the 102 level. In exceptional circumstances, the Department may decide to accept RLSP 101-102 for the Spanish major. One of the nine courses must be the 400-level senior seminar taken during the student’s final year at the College; another must be a course that substantially focuses on literature or cultural texts produced before 1800. Students entering at the 200-level may, with the permission of the Department, choose as part of their major program one course not conducted in Spanish but offered by faculty in Romance Languages or another Department or Program, such as Latino/a Studies, Comparative Literature, History, etc., provided that the subject matter relate to and broaden their study of Spanish. Students entering at a very advanced level may, in some cases and with the permission of the Department, include two such courses in their major program. Working with a member of the Spanish faculty, the student will formulate a curricular plan that will ensure balance and coherence in courses taken prior to declaring a major in Spanish. This is especially imperative for students who are planning to spend a part or all of their junior year in Latin America or Spain.

THE DEGREE WITH HONORS IN SPANISH

Students majoring in Spanish may apply to be admitted to the Honors Program in Spanish upon demonstrating the following: (1) fluency of spoken and written language; (2) potential for successful independent research, as demonstrated by strong performance in advanced-level coursework; (3) interest and motivation; and (4) overall quality and feasibility of the proposal. Two routes are available to those who wish to apply for the degree with honors.

The first of these involves the writing of a senior thesis.

By May 15th of their junior year, candidates will have found a thesis advisor, and given the Department a three- to five-page proposal and a preliminary bibliography. (In some cases, and upon consultation with the Department, candidates will have the option to choose a second reader in addition to their primary advisor; for example, when the thesis is interdisciplinary enough in nature that it requires the expertise of an additional reader).

This proposal will be discussed by the Department; by June 1st, the candidate will be informed whether they can proceed with the thesis, and if so, what changes need to be made to the focus and scope of the project. The summer before the senior year will be spent compiling a more detailed bibliography and reading.

Upon their return to Williams, candidates will devote to their theses two semesters of independent study (beyond the nine courses required for the major) and the winter study period of their senior year (493-W31-494). The thesis will be written in Spanish and will usually not be shorter than fifty pages. By the end of the Fall semester, students will normally have a clear outline of the project, have done substantial research, and produced the draft of at least the first half of the project. During January this draft will be suitably rewritten and edited with a view to a final version, while the candidates will also begin work on remaining chapters.

Candidates will submit what they have written to the department on the last day of Winter Study.

On the Tuesday of the first week of the spring semester candidates will make a presentation of the project at a departmental colloquium in Spanish. The thesis will be promptly discussed and evaluated to determine whether or not the student should continue in the honors program. The second semester of independent thesis work will be spent writing more chapters, as well as revising, rewriting, and polishing the project where necessary. The completed thesis in its final form will be due on April 25th. At the end of the Spring term, the student will present and defend the final project before members of the Department and others by invitation. The grade will be awarded once members of the Department have consulted after the defense.

The second route is a group of three clearly related courses (offered by the Department of Romance Languages or by other departments, such as
History, Art, Philosophy, English, etc.), only one of which may be counted in the nine courses comprising the major. One of the courses will be an Independent Study (plus senior year WSP 30) in the spring of the senior year, at the end of which the student will write an essay that synthesizes the content of the three related courses. Students may apply for this route by November 2 of the senior year.

In the case of both routes to the degree with honors, the department’s recommendation for graduation with honors will be based on the originality and thoroughness of the finished project.

THE CERTIFICATE IN SPANISH

The Certificate in Spanish Language and Culture consists of a sequence of seven courses for which the student must earn a cumulative grade average of B or higher. Those so interested should express their intent to the chair of the department by March 1 or earlier.

For students with no prior Spanish background, the course sequence will consist of Spanish 101-102, Spanish 103 and 104, and three courses in Spanish above the 104 level, with at least one of these courses at the 200-level or higher taken at Williams. If the student starts out the sequence at Spanish 103, in addition to the three courses in Spanish beyond the 104 level (including a 200-level course or higher), two electives may be taken in other departments. One elective should be in Spanish or Latin-American cultural history (art, literature, drama, music) and the other in Spanish or Latin-American intellectual, political, or social history. Spanish 200, 201, or 208 can be counted for the elective requirement.

Electives may be considered from a variety of departments and programs. However, students should consult with the chair of Romance Languages before making any enrollment decisions.

PLACEMENT

Students come to study Spanish at Williams with a wide range of backgrounds and prior experiences. Some will have studied Spanish for many years in high school and earlier. Others will have grown up speaking Spanish with family and friends but had little opportunity to study the language at school. Others have lived in Spanish-speaking countries or otherwise studied in immersive contexts. And for others, Spanish is a brand-new language that they are eager to begin learning.

Whatever your previous experience with Spanish, ¡Bienvenida! ¡Bienvenido! We are glad to have you with us. In order to figure out the most appropriate point of entry, we ask that all students who wish to begin their study of Spanish in the new academic year take the department's placement exam when it is offered during First Days. The only students who don’t need to take the placement exam are those who qualify as “true beginners,” those with no previous experience of Spanish and for whom 101-102 is obviously the right choice. Everyone else should take the placement test. After you do, the Registrar's Office will notify you of the level and/or course the Spanish faculty have recommended for you. You should feel free to reach out to the department chair, your recommended instructor, or any other faculty member if you have questions or concerns about your placement.

STUDY ABROAD

Spanish majors, as well as non-majors interested in further exposure to the language and the culture, are strongly encouraged to study in Spain or Latin America for either a semester or a full year. We recommend that you start planning for study abroad as early as possible, and that you speak to our faculty early on to go over the many possible destinations and programs available to you. In recent years, Williams students have studied in such varied and far-flung locations as Buenos Aires, Havana, Lima, Barcelona, and Madrid. Those who are interested in Madrid may wish to consider the Hamilton College program, with which we maintain consortial ties. Credit for up to four courses can be granted at the discretion of the Department for study overseas. Those four courses count towards the certificate or the major in Spanish. Students interested in study abroad should consult with a member of the department at their earliest convenience.

FAQ

Students MUST contact departments/programs BEFORE assuming study away credit will be granted toward the major or concentration.

Can your department or program typically pre-approve courses for major/concentration credit?

Yes, in some cases, provisional approval can be granted (students should be sure to contact the department for details).

What criteria will typically be used/required to determine whether a student may receive major/concentration credit for a course taken while on study away?

Course title and description, and complete syllabus, including readings/assignments. If it is a program we are familiar with, the course title and description are enough. If it is a new program/new type of course we need all the available materials (syllabus, assignments, etc.).

Does your department/program place restrictions on the number of major/concentration credits that a student might earn through study away?

Yes. Four maximum.

Does your department/program place restrictions on the types of courses that can be awarded credit towards your major?

Yes. They have to be courses that focus on language, culture, history, or politics of the target language/culture.

Are there specific major requirements that cannot be fulfilled while on study away?
Yes. Our Senior Seminars are required for the major.

Are there specific major requirements in your department/program that students should be particularly aware of when weighing study away options? (Some examples might include a required course that is always taught in one semester, laboratory requirements.)

No.

Give examples in which students thought or assumed that courses taken away would count toward the major or concentration and then learned they wouldn’t:

This hardly ever happens but could happen if a student doesn't seek out pre-approval from a faculty member.

RLSP 16 (W) The Ayn Rand Cult
Crosslistings: COMP16 / ANSO16 / RLSP16
Primary Crosslisting
The broad, "underground" influence of publicist-novelist Ayn Rand stands as one of the more curious sociocultural phenomena to have emerged out of post-War America. Examples: A youthful Alan Greenspan was a dedicated disciple of Rand's in the 1940s and 50s; Michael Milken was reported to have kept twenty-six copies of Atlas Shrugged in his jail cell while serving time for securities fraud; Congressman Paul Ryan and Exxon CEO (and current Secretary of State) Rex Tillerson both are avowed fans of Ayn Rand; each year to this day, Rand's books sell hundreds of thousands of copies; and, in a crowning instance of "canonization," the U.S. Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp in Rand's honor (as part of its "Great American Authors" series) in April 1999. This course will examine the nature and origins of the Rand phenomenon through reading of relevant works of journalism, fiction, and philosophy. Titles to be studied: Jeffrey Walker, The Ayn Rand Cult; Mary Gaitskill, Two Girls: Fat and Thin; Gene H. Bell-Villada, The Pianist Who Liked Ayn Rand (selections) and On Nabokov, Ayn Rand and the Libertarian Mind; and John Locke, Second Treatise of Government. We will also view two films: the movie version of The Fountainhead (1949) and the 1996 documentary Ayn Rand: A Sense of Life. Note: No books by Rand will be read in this class! It is a course not "about" Rand but rather about the cultural sociology and anthropology of Randism.

Requirements/Evaluation: class attendance and participation, short weekly journal entries, and a final 10-page paper

Prerequisites: some previous acquaintance with Rand's novels

Enrollment Limit: 30

Enrollment Preferences: by seniority (i.e. first seniors, then juniors, then sophomores, etc.)

Materials/Lab Fee: approximately $90 for books

Distributions: (D1)

Winter 2019
LEC Section: 01 MWR 10:00 am - 12:50 pm Gene H. Bell-Villada

RLSP 30 (W) Honors Essay: Spanish
To be taken by candidates for honors other than by thesis route.

Class Format: honors essay

Distributions: (D1)

Winter 2019
HON Section: 01 TBA Jennifer L. French

RLSP 31 (W) Senior Thesis: Spanish
To be taken by students registered for Spanish 493-494.

Class Format: thesis

Distributions: (D1)
RLSP 99 (W) Independent Study: Spanish
Open to upperclass students. Students interested in doing an independent project (99) during Winter Study must make prior arrangements with a faculty sponsor. The student and professor then complete the independent study proposal form available online. The deadline is typically in late September. Proposals are reviewed by the pertinent department and the Winter Study Committee. Students will be notified if their proposal is approved prior to the Winter Study registration period.

Class Format: independent study
Distributions: (D1)

RLSP 101 (F) Elementary Spanish
This course focuses on grammar, elementary composition, practice in conversation, and reading of easy modern prose. It is taught by the intensive oral method.

Class Format: the class meets five hours a week students will complete workbook and lab exercises weekly
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on participation, regular homework exercises, quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam
Extra Info: students registered for RLSP 101-102 are required to attend and pass the sustaining program during the winter study period; credit granted only if both semesters (RLSP 101 and 102) are taken
Extra Info 2: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: This course is for students who have no previous background in Spanish.
Enrollment Limit: 20
Distributions: (D1)

RLSP 102 (S) Elementary Spanish
This course focuses on grammar, elementary composition, practice in conversation, and reading of easy modern prose. It is taught by the intensive oral method.

Class Format: the class meets five hours a week; students will complete workbook and lab exercises weekly
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on daily preparation and participation, regular homework assignments, and frequent tests
Extra Info: students registered for RLSP 101-102 are required to attend and pass the sustaining program during the winter study period; credit granted only if both semesters (RLSP 101 and 102) are taken
Extra Info 2: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: RLSP 101; this course is for students who have studied less than two years of Spanish in secondary school
Enrollment Limit: 20
Distributions: (D1)

RLSP 103 (F) Intensive Intermediate Spanish
This course is a continuation of Spanish 101-102. It is designed to help students improve their proficiency in each of the major skill-groups (listening, speaking, reading and writing) while providing an introduction to the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. Classroom activities and homework are designed to increase vocabulary and improve your ability to handle daily life in a Spanish-speaking country, to express your views on complex subjects such as art and politics, and to increase your knowledge of the cultural traditions of Latin America and Spain. Film screenings and readings in Hispanic literature, culture and politics will provide material for in-class discussion and some writing assignments. This course provides the linguistic and cultural training that is necessary to engage the diverse Spanish-speaking communities of Latin America, Spain and the US; it will help to prepare students for further literary and cultural studies as well as provide skills that are increasingly essential in fields such as medicine, law, and education. 

Conducted in Spanish.

Class Format: class meets four hours a week

Requirements/Evaluation: regular attendance and active in-class participation, workbook exercises and weekly compositions, quizzes, midterm and final exams

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: RLSP 101-102 or by Spanish placement exam

Enrollment Limit: 20

Expected Class Size: 20

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2018
LEC Section: 01 MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Kathryn Ringer-Hilfinger
CON Section: 02 F 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Kathryn Ringer-Hilfinger
LEC Section: 03 MWF 11:00 am - 11:50 am Gene H. Bell-Villada
CON Section: 04 W 2:10 pm - 3:00 pm Gene H. Bell-Villada

RLSP 104 (S) Upper Intermediate Spanish
This course is a continuation of Spanish 103. It focuses on the review of grammar as well as on refining writing and speaking skills. A variety of written and audiovisual journalistic media will enable students to deepen their understanding of Hispanic cultures.

Class Format: class meets four hours a week

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly 1- to 2-page compositions, regularity of class participation, oral reports, frequent quizzes, a midterm and a final exam

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

Prerequisites: RLSP 103 or by Spanish placement exam

Enrollment Limit: 22

Expected Class Size: 22

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2019
LEC Section: 01 MWF 8:00 am - 8:50 am
CON Section: 02 W 1:10 pm - 2:00 pm
LEC Section: 03 MWF 9:00 am - 9:50 am
CON Section: 04 W 2:10 pm - 3:00 pm

RLSP 105 (F) Advanced Grammar, Composition, Conversation
In this course students will refine their knowledge of Spanish grammar and vocabulary towards further fluency in speaking and writing. The focus of the class is grammar through active engagement with relevant cultural, literary, and political materials centered for the most part on Spain. Students will produce regular grammar and composition exercises as well as oral reports.

Class Format: seminar; students are required to participate in the TA sessions once a week in addition to two class sessions
Requirements/Evaluation: regular grammar and composition assignments, a mid-term, a final exam, occasional quizzes, oral reports; active participation and regular attendance required

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: RLSP 104, or results of the Williams College Placement Test, or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 22

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students, potential majors

Expected Class Size: 22

Distributions: (D1)

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**RLSP 107 (F) Advanced Grammar and Conversation**

This course focuses on the development of Spanish linguistic accuracy and oral communication skills. Emphasis is on increasing oral fluency through exposure to media, interaction with native speakers, and participation in a variety of communicative activities. In addition, students will perform regular exercises to improve writing and syntax skills. Throughout the course, they will read journalistic and literary texts in order to stimulate oral and written response and to analyze complex grammatical structures within authentic target language contexts.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on homework, class participation, quizzes, a midterm and final exam and a series of communicative projects

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: RLSP 104, placement exam results, permission of instructor or Department Chair

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Spanish majors and certificate students, current and potential

Expected Class Size: 19

Department Notes: if you have taken RLSP 105 you can not take RLSP 107

Distributions: (D1)

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Fall 2018

SEM Section: 01 TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am Leyla Rouhi

CON Section: 02 W 1:10 pm - 2:00 pm Leyla Rouhi

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**RLSP 200 (S) Advanced Grammar and Composition through Literature (WI)**

This course is designed for advanced students who wish to further polish and refine their grammatical, lexical, and writing skills in Spanish. The course may be taken immediately after 105, by placement exam results, or even after students have begun to sample the Department's literature and culture offerings at the 200- and 300-level. Classic works of short fiction by celebrated Latin American authors such as Gabriel García Márquez and Julio Cortázar will be discussed; selected Latin American films will be viewed as well. For written and oral assignments: weekly essays, in-class presentations, and language-laboratory activities. *Conducted in Spanish.*

Class Format: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: a weekly essay based on the stories read in class, written lab exercises, participation in the grammatical and literary discussions, quizzes, a mid-term and a final

Prerequisites: RLSP 105, any course 201+, placement exam or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 19

Expected Class Size: 10-19

Distributions: (D1) (WI)
RLSP 201 (F) The Spanish Labyrinth
Do Spaniards really dance flamenco and have dinner at 10:00 pm? Does everyone in Barcelona speak Catalan? How can you learn to separate the stereotypical images of Spain from reality? How can we talk about one “Spain”, when the country a complex composite of ancient and diverse cultural remnants mixed with recent influxes of immigrants and separatist movements? How has the vulnerable peninsula survived centuries of violent upheavals and divisiveness; dramatic economic rises and collapses? In this course we will approach Spain by studying examples of its literary and artistic production, from periods of brilliant cultural exchange, and times of censorship and repression. Some topics of focus will be the Inquisition, the Civil War, and contemporary Spain’s obsession with its own recent past. Secondary texts will also be provided for historical and socio-political background and reference. Conducted in Spanish.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: active participation in class discussions, oral presentations, short writing assignments, and a final essay
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: RLSP 105, or RLSP 200, or results of Williams College Placement Exam, or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 18
Enrollment Preferences: Spanish majors and certificate candidates
Expected Class Size: 18
Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2018

RLSP 202 (S) Spain’s Fin de Siglo and the Crisis of Ideas
In this class we will read the works of some of modern Spain’s influential writers from the late part of the nineteenth century and the first three decades of the twentieth. Our aim is to understand how fiction and philosophy represented this significant time in Spain’s history. The loss of the war with the U.S. in 1898, the turbulent shifts of power within the country, Spanish regional identities, and the cultural and intellectual movements that shaped Spain on the eve of the Civil War are among the key issues we will address. Our primary sources—largely fiction and poetry by artists such as Miguel de Unamuno, Azorín, Antonio Machado, Pío Baroja—will be complemented with a rigorous study of the cultural landscape of Spain at that time. Our principal engagement with philosophy will be through José Ortega y Gasset, in particular his output from the 1920s.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: 2 short papers, one long research paper, and oral presentations
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: RLSP 105, or RLSP 200, or results of Williams College Placement Exam, or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 25
Expected Class Size: 15
Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

RLSP 203 (F) From Modernismo to El Boom de la Novela (WI)
A survey of some of the leading imaginative writers of Ibero America. Readings will begin with the modernista poets and go on to include fiction of Mexico by Rulfo, a wide sampling of verse by Pablo Neruda, and narratives of the “Boom” period by authors such as Borges, Cortázar, Lispector, and García Márquez. Conducted in Spanish.

Class Format: seminar
Prerequisites: RLSP 105, or RLSP 200, or results of Williams College Placement Exam, or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 19
Distributions: (D1) (WI)
Attributes: GBST Latin American Studies Electives; Not offered current academic year

RLSP 205 (F) The Latin-American Novel in Translation (DPE)

Crosslistings: COMP205 / RLSP205

Primary Crosslisting
A course specifically designed to enable students who have no knowledge of Spanish to read and discover those Latin-American authors who, in the twentieth century, have attracted world-wide attention. Among the texts to be discussed: Borges, Labyrinths; Cortázar, Blow-up and Hopscotch; Lispector, the Hour of the Star lesser works by Fuentes and Puig; and by Nobel Prize-winner Gabriel García Márquez, One Hundred Years of Solitude. Conducted in English

Class Format: lecture

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, two brief papers, a midterm, and a final exam

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 22

Enrollment Preferences: Spanish majors, Latina/o Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 22

Department Notes: does not carry credit for the Spanish major or the certificate

Distributions: (D1) (DPE)

Attributes: GBST Latin American Studies Electives

Fall 2018
LEC Section: 01    MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm    Gene H. Bell-Villada

RLSP 206 (S) Latin-American Civilizations

An introduction to the multiple elements constituting Latin-American culture. Class assignments include readings from selected Latin-American essayists and screenings of classic films. Particular focus on the conflict between local and foreign cultural traditions. Areas to be considered: Spanish Catholicism, the influence of European liberalism and U.S. expansion, the Indian and African contribution, and the cultural impact of social revolution in Mexico and Cuba. Conducted in Spanish.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: two essays on assigned topics, one oral presentation, active discussion of the ideas and the facts presented in class, a midterm, and a final

Prerequisites: RLSP 105, or RLSP 200, or results of Williams College Placement Exam, or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 20

Expected Class Size: 20

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

RLSP 208 (S) The Spanish Civil War in Literature and Film

The Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) has generated a vast bibliography and filmography that to this day reflect widely antagonistic interpretations of the conflict itself, its roots, and its impact. From the Spanish perspective, the war is the most important single event in understanding modern Spain. The ideas, passions, and consequences of the Spanish Civil War still divide Spaniards and have been re-created and relived by writers, artists, and filmmakers, and debated by historians. The course will begin with a historical introduction to the origins, development, and outcome of the war. Was the Spanish war a national struggle or an international struggle played out on Spanish soil? Along with studying internal Spanish political divisions, we will also consider the impact of the foreign policy positions of other countries— including Germany, Italy, the United States, and Russia—vis-a-vis Spain,
as well as the role of the thousands of foreign volunteers who formed the International Brigades and came from all over the world to fight against Franco. With this historical basis, we will see how the themes and issues of the war are reflected in Spanish poetry, short fiction, novels, and films from the time of the war up through the present day. Readings will include works by Ayala, Cernuda, Neruda, Goytisolo, Sender, Fernan-Gomez, and Matute. Films will include documentaries as well as classic and contemporary features. Conducted in Spanish.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluations will be based on lively class participation, an oral report, short written assignments, and two papers

Prerequisites: RLSP 105, or RLSP 200, or results of Williams College Placement Exam, or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 20

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: FMST Core Courses

Not offered current academic year

RLSP 209 (F) Spanish for Heritage Speakers

This course is intended for students of Latino/a heritage. It will address the unique needs of students whose knowledge of Spanish comes primarily from informal and family situations rather than a conventional classroom experience. The goal of the course is to build on and expand students' existing knowledge of Spanish while developing skills for using the language in more formal/academic contexts.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on homework, class participation, and a series of communicative projects

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: potential Spanish majors/certificate students and LATS concentrators

Expected Class Size: 19

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2018

SEM Section: 01  MWF 12:00 pm - 12:50 pm  Carolina Melgarejo-Torres

RLSP 211 (F) A Survey of Spanish Literature from the 11th to the 17th Centuries

This course will introduce the student to some of the major works of Spanish literature from its beginnings through the Golden Age. We will study the historical context in which the works were written as well as the literary history of the periods in question. Students will learn methods of textual analysis through readings of relevant literary criticism. Readings will include selected canonical prose, poetry, and drama of the periods; special emphasis will be given to the myth of the coexistence of three religions in Iberia and the often misguided idea of dividing this literature into the categories of 'medieval' and 'Renaissance'. Conducted in Spanish. This course fulfills the pre-1800 requirement for the Spanish major

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on class participation, short paper assignments, and a final paper

Prerequisites: RLSP 105, or RLSP 200, or results of Williams College Placement Exam, or permission of instructor

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

RLSP 214 (S) "Ecologismo": Literature, Culture and the Environment in Latin America (DPE)

Crosslistings: ENVI218 / RLSP214

Primary Crosslisting

How have Latin American authors and artists responded to environmental concerns, from the logging and rubber booms that threatened the Amazon in the early 20th century to contemporary global warming? How do the realities of Latin American societies--including massive disparities of wealth and poverty; the cultural and political impacts of the region's indigenous populations; and the complex histories of colonialism, dependency and neoliberalism--inform Latin American responses to environmental issues? How does Latin America's environmental imaginary differ from those of the U.S. and Europe? In this course we will explore these issues and more through literature and other cultural texts from Latin America. We will consider
short stories and novellas by authors including Horacio Quiroga (Uruguay), Luis Sepúlveda (Chile), Mempo Giardinelli (Argentina), and Ana Cristina Rossi (Costa Rica); poetry by Esthela Calderón (Nicaragua), Juan Carlos Galeano (Colombia), Homero Aridjis (Mexico); the paintings of Tomás Sánchez (Cuba); and feature films as well as shorter documentaries. In Spanish.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: brief response papers, as well as three 5- to 7-page essays based on close-readings of literary and cultural texts
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis
Prerequisites: RLSP 105, placement exam results, or permission of the instructor
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: Spanish and Environmental Studies majors
Expected Class Size: 12
Distributions: (D1) (DPE)
Distribution Notes: DPE: This course is inspired by and organized around Arturo Escobar’s notion of “the political ecology of difference.” Our work throughout the semester aims to understand the myriad ways in which “difference”—economic, ecological, and cultural— informs Latin American responses to environmental degradation.

Spring 2019
SEM Section: 01    MWF 12:00 pm - 12:50 pm     Jennifer L. French

RLSP 220 (S) Women on the Verge
Crosslistings: RLSP220 / WGSS222

Primary Crosslisting
From the early twentieth century to the present day, the radical changes in the lives of Spanish women have clearly reflected the tug of war between progress and tradition in recent Spanish history. The dramatic upheavals in Spanish politics have marked and transformed the lives of women to such a great extent that one can often gauge the political and social climate of any given historical moment by considering how the role of women was defined by the law, the Catholic church, education, and other social and political institutions. Using literary and historical texts as well as films and graphic materials, this course will look at the transformations in the public and private lives of Spanish women during the following periods: the turn of the century, the Second Republic, the Spanish Civil War, the Franco years, and the transition to democracy.

Class Format: seminar
Prerequisites: RLSP 105, or RLSP 200, or results of Williams College Placement Exam, or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: Spanish and Comparative Literature majors
Expected Class Size: 20
Distributions: (D1)
Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under RLSP; meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under WGSS

Not offered current academic year

RLSP 225 (F) Subalternity, Dictatorship, and the Dream of Emancipation: Paraguay, 1811-Present (WI)
Paraguay is at once the most "typical" of Latin American countries and the most enigmatic. With a predominantly Guaraní-speaking population, enormous disparities of wealth and poverty, and a political tradition that favors authoritarian dictatorship, Paraguay is also celebrated, in certain circles, as the only Latin American nation that actually achieved economic and political independence when the other republics were fast becoming economic dependencies of Britain and the US in the 19th century. This course explores the subjects of subalternity, dictatorship, and the "dream of emancipation" in Paraguay's cultural production of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. We will examine together the writings of the brilliant novelist Augusto Roa Bastos, especially Son of Man and I the Supreme; stories and poems by Teresa Lamas, Josefina Pla, and others; Paraguay's rich and vibrant tradition of visual art; and works of classic and contemporary film. Conducted in Spanish.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: three essays of 5-7 pages, shorter writing assignments, discussion-leading, active and engaged class participation
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Spanish majors

Expected Class Size: 10

Distributions: (D1) (WI)

Not offered current academic year

RLSP 228 (S)  Velázquez, Goya, and Picasso  (WI)

Crosslistings: RLSP228 / ARTH228

Primary Crosslisting

This course will provide an introduction to three major Spanish painters--Velázquez, Goya, and Picasso--who lived and worked, respectively, in the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Though these painters are world famous, they are rarely studied comparatively, and in the context of their Spanish artistic roots. The syllabus will cover the historical and social contexts in which they started working, and how they followed, and departed from, artistic conventions of the time. Through specific paintings, we will consider the historical evolution of the artists' relationship to their patrons and subjects, from the elite status of Velázquez within the royal court, to Goya's dramatic rise with the reigns of Charles III, and Charles IV, and his subsequent exile to France. Picasso was free of royal patronage and also lived in France, yet despite this freedom he remained deeply connected to the themes and concerns of his Spanish artistic predecessors. In addition to key paintings including Velázquez's "Las Meninas" and other royal portraits, Goya's "Maja Desnuda" and his series "The Disasters of War," Picasso's "Guernica," and his own 20th century reinterpretation of "Las Meninas," we will focus on the artists' shared subjects of portraits and war, and consider the following issues: How does the role of the Spanish artist change over the periods covered? How did the artist exercise his freedom whilst under the scrutiny of the court and the Catholic Church? How were these painters' lives and work shaped by key historical events such as the Inquisition, Napoleon's invasion of Spain, or the Spanish Civil War? How does the work of art evolve in its role from private royal commission to public display in museums open to all? We will read short literary pieces from each period, primary materials such as letters and other documents, and historical and critical works. All readings will be in English. Knowledge of Spanish is encouraged, but not required.

Class Format: tutorial

Requirements/Evaluation: 3- to 5-page weekly assignment

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students and sophomores

Expected Class Size: 10

Distributions: (D1) (WI)

Distribution Notes: WI: The tutorial format offers students an intensive opportunity to improve their writing by demanding regular writing assignments that the student has to read out loud to their partner and professor. Students write biweekly papers throughout the semester. These papers are then analyzed during the tutorial session by the other student's response

Spring 2019

TUT Section: T1  TBA  Soledad Fox

RLSP 230 (F)  Mexican Literature and Film

This course will offer a survey of the rich and varied cultural production of Mexico, from the colonial period to the present. Students will explore a variety of literary genres (novels and shorter works of prose fiction, poetry and essays) as well as film, journalism and other kinds of cultural production within a framework of historical contextualization and formal analysis. Conducted in Spanish.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: essays, oral presentations, active and engaged class participation

Prerequisites: Spanish 105, placement exam results, permission of instructor or Department Chair

Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: Spanish majors and certificate students, current and potential; LATS concentrators

Expected Class Size: 15

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2018

SEM Section: 01    TF 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm     Roxana A. Blancas Curiel

RLSP 301 (S) Cervantes’ “Don Quijote” (WI)

We will devote the entire semester to the study of one novel: Miguel de Cervantes’ Don Quijote, published in the early part of the 17th century. We will try to understand the reasons for the novel’s immense and ongoing influence on Western literature and thought. To do so, we will study Cervantes’ masterful handling of issues that continue to have an uncanny relevance to our lives today: relationships between men and women, the perception of Muslims by Christians and vice versa, the role of fiction in life, the shapes of mental illness, how we decide who we are, how our governments and families and friends decide who we are, the fun and annoyance of going on a totally disorganized road trip with someone else, the meaning of justice, and the meaning of storytelling, to name a few things. In the process, we will continually set things in context and make sure that we understand what was going on in Cervantes’ world that might better explain what goes on in his novel. Finally, we will find that even an entire semester is not enough to engage fully with this extraordinary work, but we will be very glad that we made some headway. Conducted in Spanish

Class Format: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation; two to three short projects and one final research project

Prerequisites: any 200-level RLSP course at Williams that is conducted in Spanish, or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: Spanish majors and Comp Lit majors with the appropriate command of Spanish

Expected Class Size: 15

Distributions: (D1) (WI)

Not offered current academic year

RLSP 303 (S) Cervantes’ “Don Quixote” in English Translation

Crosslistings: COMP350 / RLSP303 / ENGL303

Secondary Crosslisting

A close study of one of the most influential and early European novels. Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes (1547-1616 C.E) was a hit in its day in the seventeenth century, and has not ceased to influence artists and thinkers since. Moving between humorous and serious tones, Cervantes takes on several issues in the Quixote: the point of fiction in real life, the complications of relationships between men and women, the meaning of madness, the experience of religious co-existence, the shapes of friendship, and the task of literary criticism, just to name a few. We will read the book in a fine modern English-language translation, and set it in several relevant contexts to better understand its original intellectual horizon--seventeenth-century Spain--as well as the reasons for its continuing relevance.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: active participation, at least two short papers, and a final project designed in consultation with the instructor

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: any 200-level literature course in foreign languages, COMP, or ENGL, or permission of the instructor.

Enrollment Limit: 30

Enrollment Preferences: Spanish and Comparative Literature majors and upper-class students

Expected Class Size: 30

Department Notes: can count toward the major in Spanish, but consult Dept for details

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories A

Spring 2019
RLSP 306 (S) Latino Writing: Literature by U.S. Hispanics (WI)

Crosslistings: RLSP306 / COMP302

Primary Crosslisting

Writing by U.S. Hispanics constitutes a new voice in American letters. In this tutorial, we will read and discuss work by U.S. Latinos and examine the social backgrounds to their texts. The experiences of immigration and assimilation, and the specific complexities of being both Hispanic and North American will be addressed. Authors to be studied: Jose Antonio Villarreal, Tomas Rivera, Richard Rodriguez, Sandra Cisneros, Rudolfo Anaya, Piri Thomas, Oscar Hijuelos, Cristina Garcia, Junot Díaz and historical texts by Carey McWilliams, and Rodolfo Acuña. Given the absence of a critical consensus around these recent titles, our task is to gain some sense of their common traits as a tradition, and place them within the larger body of literature of the Americas and the world. The tutorial will examine one work or set of authors per week. A student will bring, written out in full, an oral presentation focusing on the artistic features and sociocultural content of the assigned reading. Questioning of the presenter, on the part of the second tutee and the tutor, will follow. The course is designed to accommodate both Spanish and English speaking students. A student able to read and speak Spanish will be paired with another student of similar proficiency. Students who neither read nor speak Spanish will be paired together.

Class Format: tutorial

Requirements/Evaluation: five short oral presentations/papers (about 20-25 minutes) and a final longer one (about 40-45 minutes)

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: some previous course work in any literature beyond the 100 level is helpful; students selecting the Spanish option for credit toward the Spanish major must have taken at least one 200-level RLSP course or seek permission of the tutor

Enrollment Limit: 10

Distributions: (D1) (WI)

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives; AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora; LATS Countries of Origin + Transnationalism Elect;

Not offered current academic year

RLSP 308 (S) The Subject of Empire: Race, Gender and Power in the Colonial Era

This class studies Latin American literature of the colonial era (1492-1898) from the perspective of the constitution of the subject: the autobiographical 'yo' that is both the subject of discourse and the object of sovereign power. Our readings will include the most outstanding texts of the group collectively known as the Chronicles of the Conquest—the letters of Christopher Columbus and Hernán Cortés and Bernal Díaz del Castillo's *True History of the Conquest of New Spain*, among others—whose authors endeavor to establish their historical authority and legitimate their actions before the Spanish king. We will also read later works in which racially and sexually marginalized subjects struggle to contest the identities and the conditions imposed on them by a distant sovereign through far-reaching institutional networks: the *mestizo* historian known as El Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, the cross-dressed soldier Catalina de Erauso, the poet Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, and the slave Juan Francisco Manzano.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: one short (7-page) paper, one longer (15-20 page) paper, proposal, bibliography, discussion-leading

Prerequisites: one RLSP course at the 200-level or above or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Spanish majors

Expected Class Size: 12

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: GBST Latin American Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

RLSP 319 (S) Dictatorship and the Latin-American Novel (DPE)

Military dictatorship is among the most crucial factors in Latin-American society and history, and some of the continent's leading novelists have taken it upon themselves to depict the experience in their work. In this course we will examine both the fact of dictatorship itself and the diverse representation thereof in Spanish-American fiction. Novels by García Márquez, Vargas Llosa, Poniatowska, and Tomas Eloy Martinez will be closely studied. Students will also read Absalom! Absalom! by Faulkner, whose influence on Latin-American authors' techniques of representation has been decisive
and profound.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: three 8-page papers, an oral report, a final 3-page paper, and class participation

Prerequisites: RLSP 105, or RLSP 200, or results of Williams College Placement Exam, or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Spanish majors, Latina/o Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 5-10

Distributions: (D1) (DPE)

Distribution Notes: DPE: This course focuses on the ultimate sort of power—namely, military dictatorship. And it focuses on the historical fact of such a phenomenon within the U.S. political sphere of influence—Latin America. To study dictatorship and its depiction in literature is a means of understanding the nature of that power imbalance and of taking a first step toward some sense of equity.

Spring 2019

SEM Section: 01    MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm     Gene H. Bell-Villada

RLSP 322 (S) Islam in Spain

Crosslistings: ARAB322 / RLSP322

Primary Crosslisting

The presence of Islam—in all its diverse manifestations—is not new to Europe, least of all to Spain. In this course we will focus for the most part on the medieval and early modern periods, and study several works—primarily of literature, though we will supplement with other texts—in which Muslims and Islam have been portrayed in the Iberian Peninsula. We will cover a wide range of perspectives that include Christian and Muslim writers as well as converts on both sides. While the bulk of the course is focused on the period prior to 1700 CE, we will devote the final few weeks of class to the study of Islam in contemporary Spain using fiction, legal debates, and issues related to immigration. Conducted in Spanish

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: two short papers, oral presentations, one final project

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: any RLSP 200-level class, or results of the Williams College Placement Exam, or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: Spanish majors, Arabic Studies majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Distributions: (D1)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ARAB

Not offered current academic year

RLSP 402 (S) Senior Seminar Madrid: 1939-2004

In this course we will examine life in Madrid during two key periods: the Franco Dictatorship (1939-1975), and the first four decades of democracy (1975-2016). We will consider how representations of urban landscapes (churches, convents, prisons, museums, slums, bars and schools) have shaped and reflected the lives of madrileñas and madrileños past and present. We will study works by 20th century and contemporary Spanish authors, filmmakers, photographers, and journalists, as well as period advertisements and examples of popular culture. How was Madrid's image as international capital of art, sun, soccer and bullfighting forged? What remnants of the past lurk behind this appealing façade? How do the Atocha train Station bombings of 2004 relate to unresolved political tensions from 1939?

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: active participation in class discussions, oral presentations, short writing assignments, and a final essay

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: any 300 level RLSP course or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 10
Enrollment Preferences: Spanish majors and certificate candidates

Expected Class Size: 10

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

RLSP 403 (F) Senior Seminar: Early Modern Love and Marriage

We might think that love is a natural human feeling and marriage its happiest consequence, but in fact these two conditions are among the most carefully constructed phenomena in any society, highly dependent on time period and place. In this senior seminar we will focus on pre-modern Iberia to study the many manifestations and constructions of love (and marriage), several of which continue to influence definitions of both to this day. We will look at sacred, profane, family, and married love through treatises, medical writings, plays, short stories, poems. Our theoretical underpinnings will come from reflections on love from the time period under consideration as well as contemporary critiques of love and marriage. Primary sources will include early lyrical traditions, the poetry of King Alfonso X, the works of Santa Teresa, Lope de Vega, Calderón de la Barca, Cervantes, among others. Conducted in Spanish.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: regular presentations, two to three short papers, one research paper preceded by class presentation, active participation and regular attendance required

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: any 300-level RLSP course or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: senior Spanish majors and Comparative Literature seniors with Spanish focus

Expected Class Size: 15

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2018

SEM Section: 01    TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm    Leyla Rouhi

RLSP 493 (F) Senior Thesis: Spanish

Spanish senior thesis

Class Format: independent study

Extra Info: this is part of a full-year thesis (493-494)

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2018

HON Section: 01    TBA    Jennifer L. French

RLSP 494 (S) Senior Thesis: Spanish

Spanish senior thesis

Class Format: independent study

Extra Info: this is part of a full-year thesis (493-494)

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2019

HON Section: 01    TBA    Jennifer L. French

RLSP 497 (F) Independent Study: Spanish
Spanish independent study.

Class Format: independent study

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2018
IND Section: 01   TBA   Jennifer L. French

RLSP 498 (S) Independent Study: Spanish
Spanish independent study.

Class Format: independent study

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2019
IND Section: 01   TBA   Jennifer L. French