Department of Spanish and Portuguese

Luis F. Avilés, Department Chair
322 Humanities Hall
949-824-6901
http://www.humanities.uci.edu/spanishandportuguese/

Overview

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese offers programs of study leading to the B.A. in Spanish with emphases in Literature and Culture, Spanish for Future Teachers, and Cinema: Spain, Latin America, and U.S. Latino; and the M.A. and Ph.D. in Spanish with specializations in Spanish, Latin American, and Chicano/Latino Literatures and Cultures.

While members of the faculty are recognized nationally and internationally for their research, creative writing, and contributions to the academic profession, one of the Department's highest priorities is to maintain teaching excellence. The Department's goal is to provide students with a level-specific, solid education in the diverse fields of study that are offered. Many of the undergraduate and graduate courses reflect the faculty's interest in bringing together historical, critical-theoretical, and interdisciplinary perspectives in the study of literature and other cultural artifacts such as film. At the graduate level, students are encouraged to take courses in other UCI programs such as Gender and Sexuality Studies, the Critical Theory Emphasis, Comparative Literature, and Film and Media Studies.

Undergraduate Program

Beginning Spanish Language Courses

The beginning and intermediate Spanish language curriculum consists of six courses: SPANISH 1A-SPANISH 1B-SPANISH 1C and SPANISH 2A-SPANISH 2B-SPANISH 2C. This series is designed to teach students the four fundamental linguistic skills: speaking, understanding, reading, and writing Spanish. Using a task-supported and content-based approach, these foundation courses have the objective to provide foreign language skills that facilitate successful transitioning into more advanced Spanish. At the same time, these beginning Spanish classes are an excellent portal for study abroad, be that in Spain or in Latin America. For an overview of relevant study sites, visit the Study Abroad Center website (http://www.cie.uci.edu).

All students must adhere to the placement policies listed hereafter. Students with prior knowledge of Spanish may need to take the Spanish placement test.

Spanish Placement

To enroll in SPANISH 1A or any Spanish course through the SPANISH 3 series:

Students without previous background in Spanish must take a copy of their high school transcript to their academic counseling office to activate their eligibility to enroll in SPANISH 1A or SPANISH 1AB.

Students with previous high school background in Spanish wanting to enroll in any SPANISH 1A through the SPANISH 3 series at UCI for the first time must take the placement test. Eligibility to enroll in any courses from SPANISH 1A through the SPANISH 3 series at UCI will be based on the result of that placement test http://www.testingcenter.uci.edu.

Students with a previous course (or courses) in Spanish from another college or university who want to enroll in any courses from SPANISH 1A through the SPANISH 3 series at UCI must ask their academic counseling office to review their previous coursework on file with the University in order to receive authorization to enroll in the next course. If their counseling office is having difficulty determining placement based on these records, the student's counseling office should contact a counselor in the Humanities Undergraduate Counseling Office for assistance.

Students who graduated from a high school in a Spanish-speaking country, or who graduated from a Spanish Academy, must take a copy of their transcripts to the Language Curriculum Director, Humanities Hall 322, to determine where they should be placed.

Students who have already met the UCI language other than English general education or breadth requirement with SAT Subject Test scores, International Baccalaureate (IB) scores, or Advanced Placement (AP) examination and plan to enroll in a Spanish course at UCI are still required to take the Spanish placement test. Students cannot earn units or grade points at UCI in courses from which they have been exempted on the basis of IB or AP credit, even if the placement test result recommends enrollment in such a level.

Students currently enrolled in any SPANISH 1A through SPANISH 2B course at UCI will be eligible to enroll for the next course within the series without having to take the placement test, provided they receive a C or better.

To enroll in the SPANISH 3 series or beyond: An active prerequisite check system is in place for the SPANISH 3 series. In order to enroll in the SPANISH 3 series, a student must have passed SPANISH 2C or must have received a score within the possible range of scores for the SPANISH 3 series on the Spanish placement test. Students who score above the range of scores required for the SPANISH 3 series on the Spanish placement test may proceed to upper-division Spanish courses upon the recommendation of the Language Curriculum Director.
Placement testing is offered throughout the academic year (summer included). For details about registering for a placement test, contact the Academic Testing Center
3040 Anteater Instruction and Research Building
949-824-6207
Email: testcenter@uci.edu (testoff@uci.edu)
http://www.testingcenter.uci.edu

Placement test results are valid for one calendar year.

On-campus Spanish language immersion program ("La Casa Nuestra"): UC Irvine offers students the opportunity to live in an on-campus housing unit in Arroyo Vista where Spanish can be spoken on a daily basis. The name of this Spanish-only housing unit is La Casa Nuestra.

La Casa Nuestra is a residential Spanish language immersion program that relies on participants to comply with the Spanish-Only Language Rule that applies to all shared living spaces within the Casa. The rule applies at all times, including evenings and weekends. Residents may choose to speak English (or other languages) in their bedrooms, but, in the spirit of the Casa, are encouraged to make an effort to speak Spanish, even in their rooms, whenever possible. The program is open to all UCI students with 2-3 years of high school Spanish and/or 1 year of college Spanish. Visit the La Casa Nuestra information on the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Undergraduate Program website (http://www.humanities.uci.edu/spanishandportuguese/undergrad).

Bachelor’s Degree in Spanish

The B.A. program in Spanish is devoted to the study of the languages and cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Students are encouraged to participate in UC Irvine’s La Casa Nuestra housing program, which offers Spanish-language immersion on a 24/7 basis as described above.

Students select one of three emphases:

1. Literature and Culture;
2. Spanish for Future Teachers; or

Each of these emphases strives to teach students to speak Spanish with fluency, and to carry out academic work in this language. NOTE: An emphasis may be chosen upon declaring the Spanish major, or at a later stage. The major, however, goes far beyond mere language learning, as it is designed to offer a broad humanistic education. The courses explore the literatures and cultures of Spain and Latin America from their first manifestations to the present. The faculty approach rich cultural legacy from an interdisciplinary perspective that puts Latin American and Spanish texts in dialogue with other fields of knowledge such as anthropology, linguistics, history, women’s studies, and studies on globalization, among others. The program also offers courses in Spanish and Latin American film, as well as in visual culture. Unless stated otherwise, courses in the three emphases are taught in Spanish.

By the end of the first year, students attain mastery of the basic structure of the language and ability to converse on everyday topics, as well as to read and write at an elementary level. In the second year, emphasis is put on gradually raising the level of the student’s ability to read and write. Two third-year courses or the SPANISH 3 series focuses on writing development, and the courses include SPANISH 3A (or SPANISH 3H) and SPANISH 3B (or SPANISH 3J). SPANISH 3H and SPANISH 3J are designed for heritage speakers of Spanish who are required to take SPANISH 3H instead of SPANISH 3A and SPANISH 3J instead of SPANISH 3B. Heritage speakers are here defined as students who were raised speaking Spanish at home, but who have received little formal education in Spanish. Furthermore, a course in phonetics (SPANISH 113A) aims to perfect pronunciation and presents historical and dialect variants of Spanish. SPANISH 107 (Advanced Spanish Grammar) helps students solidify fine points of grammar. In addition to giving students a sense of literary history, the introductory courses in literature (SPANISH 101A, SPANISH 101B), also to be taken in the first year, introduce students to elements of literary research and writing. The courses in Hispanic culture (SPANISH 110A, SPANISH 110B, SPANISH 110C) combine a panoramic overview with a close look at a specific country or topic, and require a final research project. Upper-division literature and film courses offer a more detailed analysis of specific texts and require a final research paper.

The faculty encourages students who are serious about improving their Spanish language ability in reading, writing, and speaking to take advantage of opportunities to immerse themselves in the Spanish language by studying in Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Spain, or other Spanish-speaking countries through various study abroad programs administered through UCI’s Study Abroad Center. Programs are available for the summer, one quarter, one semester, or one year. This allows students to complete a significant portion of their bachelor's degree requirements in Spain or Latin America (for details, see Residence Requirements below). While abroad, students are given the opportunity to improve their Spanish in a natural context, and to enjoy exposure to other cultures. Once back at UCI, students who have studied abroad typically use this newly gained knowledge to excel in advanced upper-division courses, and to successfully enter graduate school programs or the career path of their choice. See the Study Abroad Center section of the Catalogue for more information.

Double Major: Students in the B.A. program often double major. Double majoring in Spanish and a second department provides the best of both worlds: the requirements for the Spanish major give students the linguistic and humanistic skills that will qualify them for diverse career paths, while the second degree provides students with the additional expertise they are seeking. Together, these bachelor’s degrees will reward students with a
distinctively competitive edge. A double major is especially useful for pre-med, pre-law, and other students (future teachers included) who want an extensive education in the natural or social sciences and a strong liberal arts program as well.

Requirements for the B.A. in Spanish

All students must meet the University Requirements.

All students must meet the School Requirements.

All students must meet the Language Other Than English Placement and Progression policies.

Departmental Requirements for the Major in Spanish

SPANISH 2C or the equivalent is a prerequisite to SPANISH 3A (or SPANISH 3H) or SPANISH 3B (or SPANISH 3J). SPANISH 3A or SPANISH 3H and SPANISH 3B or SPANISH 3J are the prerequisites for most of the upper-division courses. SPANISH 3A or SPANISH 3H can be taken concurrently with SPANISH 3B or SPANISH 3J, though it is recommended that students take these two courses in sequence.

Students must choose one of the following emphases:

1. Emphasis in Literature and Culture

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B. Six additional upper-division Spanish courses (taken in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese), of which at least four must be in literature and culture.

2. Emphasis in Spanish for Future Teachers

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B. Three upper-division Spanish courses.

3. Emphasis in Cinema: Spain, Latin America, and U.S. Latino

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SPANISH 190  
Colloquium

B. Complete:

FLM&MDA 85A  
Introduction to Film and Visual Analysis

C. Five upper-division electives:

1. Four must be in film:
   - (a) One film course may come from any department
   - (b) Three film courses must be taken in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese

2. One literature course taught in Spanish, from the Department of Spanish and Portuguese

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Students who wish to pursue a career in teaching are encouraged to complete the minor in Educational Studies in tandem with the emphasis.

Additional Information

Study Abroad Option

Students are encouraged to study abroad, possibly satisfying a significant portion of their major requirements abroad. For the maximum number of courses allowed and other pertinent details, see the Spanish Undergraduate Program website (http://www.humanities.uci.edu/spanishandportuguese/undergrad).

All courses taken abroad must be approved. Approval typically involves the following: (1) presentation of syllabi and other pertinent course materials (term papers, exams, etc.) from the host university, and (2) submission of a UCI Humanities Petition form (available online, and to be completed after the student’s return to UCI) to the Undergraduate Director of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, and to the Humanities Office of Undergraduate Study (HIB 143). Students are advised to consult with the Undergraduate Director and the Humanities Office of Undergraduate Study, both before and after their stay abroad. See also the Residence Requirement above.

Career Opportunities

With over 400 million speakers, Spanish is the third most widely spoken language in the world, which explains in part why Spanish has such a growing global reach and rapidly increasing national and international appeal—in business, education, the media, sports, as well as elsewhere. Knowledge of the Spanish language and cultures has thus become highly marketable in many professions (nursing, the entertainment and/or travel industry, tourism, among others).

The Spanish B.A. degree prepares students to have ready access to careers that require advanced knowledge of the Spanish language and the multiple cultures associated with it. At the same time, competitive students in the program obtain a solid preparation for graduate school. The students’ graduate career paths vary widely and include literary and/or cultural studies, teaching, nursing, law/ business, nonprofit organizations, medicine, sociology, and other specialties.

The UCI Career Center provides services to students and alumni including career counseling, information about job opportunities, a career library, and workshops on resume preparation, job search, and interview techniques. For additional information, visit the Career Center (http://www.career.uci.edu) and the Department's Careers in Foreign Language websites (http://www.humanities.uci.edu/spanish/career.htm).

Requirements for the Minor in Spanish

Requirements for the Spanish Minor

All students are subject to the Language Other Than English Placement and Progression policies.

A. Complete the following:

<table>
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B. Four upper-division departmental Spanish courses, one of which may be taught in English (excluding SPANISH 150).
C. SPANISH 15 or one additional upper-division departmental Spanish course (excluding SPANISH 150).

NOTE: SPANISH 2C (or equivalent) is a prerequisite to Spanish minor requirements.

Residence Requirement for the Spanish Minor: At least four upper-division courses required for the minor must be completed successfully at UCI. By petition, two of the four may be taken through the UC Education Abroad Program, providing course content is approved in advance by the appropriate department or committee chair.

Graduate Program

All graduate courses in the Department are taught in either Spanish or Portuguese, unless otherwise indicated in the course description.

Master of Arts in Spanish

The Master of Arts degree in Spanish is a two-year program of study designed to expose the beginning graduate student to all periods of peninsular, Latin American, and Chicano/Latino literature and culture. The degree is awarded upon the successful completion of course work and written and oral comprehensive examinations. A minimum of eight graduate seminars must be completed in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese with a letter grade.

Requirements

Students are required to take one course in Theory (SPANISH 239A or SPANISH 239B or equivalent). Master's candidates must complete a minimum of three quarters of course work in the Department; the maximum time to complete the master's program is two years. The M.A. exam must be taken no later than the fifth quarter of graduate study. Students entering with a bachelor’s degree must satisfy the requirements for a master’s degree before they proceed toward a Ph.D. This includes the master’s level examinations and course work. Normally only students intending to work toward the Ph.D. are admitted to the graduate program.

Doctor of Philosophy in Spanish

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese offers a Ph.D. in Spanish with a specialization in Spanish, Spanish-American, or Chicano/Latino literatures and cultures. The program integrates period and genre studies with work in literary and critical theory, linguistics, sociohistorical studies, and cultural studies. The Department seeks to professionalize its Ph.D. candidates not as narrow specialists but rather as scholars and critics acquainted with a range of fields that relate to and enhance their discipline. Graduate emphases in Comparative Literature, Critical Theory, and Women’s Studies are available; other areas of study (for example, film, history) may be designed with approval from the student’s Ph.D. guidance committee. The Department has been traditionally committed to excellence in teaching, both in its own practice and in the formation of its graduates.

Language Requirements

An additional foreign language (with proficiency equivalent to the 2C level) is required; this requirement may be satisfied by examination or course work. The selection of a foreign language must be approved by the student's guidance committee and is based on the specific research interests and field of study of the candidate.

Course Requirements

A minimum of 16 courses beyond the B.A. or eight beyond the M.A. are required. One course in linguistics (diachronic or synchronic), and one graduate course in Luso-Brazilian literature and culture are required at the Ph.D. level. For incoming students who have not taken a graduate level foreign language teaching methodology course, the seminar course (HUMAN 398A-HUMAN 398B) is required. HUMAN 398A-HUMAN 398B will be completed over the course of two quarters; HUMAN 398A will be completed during the spring quarter of the first year, and HUMAN 398B in the fall quarter of the second year. HUMAN 398A-HUMAN 398B will not be part of the 16 required courses beyond the B.A. or eight beyond the M.A. Note that these requirements may include course work completed in the master’s program; the remaining elective courses are selected with the approval of the student’s guidance committee to prepare for the doctoral examination and the dissertation. Students are encouraged to take more than the minimum number of required courses.

Continuing students and students who transfer into the doctoral program from elsewhere must take a minimum of eight graduate courses at UCI, of which six must be in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. With regard to students who enter the Ph.D. program with their master's degree from another institution, the Ph.D. guidance committee will determine the number of courses that will be accepted.

A student may pursue the Ph.D. with an emphasis in Comparative Literature by taking a minimum of five courses in the Comparative Literature program.

Time to Degree

The normative time for completion of the Ph.D. is seven years; four years to candidacy, three years in candidacy. The maximum time permitted is eight years.

Teaching

The Department recognizes its responsibility to train all Ph.D. candidates as teachers and requires that all doctoral students with no prior teaching experience complete a minimum of three quarters of language teaching (SPANISH 399). Moreover, all doctoral students are encouraged to complete a
teaching practicum by co-teaching an upper-division course with a professor and enrolling in SPANISH 292, which is graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory only.

Qualifying Examination
Upon completion of course work, the Ph.D. student advances to candidacy by passing the written and oral qualifying examinations by unanimous decision. The qualifying examination requires the student to develop two topics in close consultation with the examination committee. One topic must present a critical problem from a historical perspective, while the other may focus on a more specific area within the student’s major field of interest. Students are encouraged to incorporate theoretical and interdisciplinary components into the formulation of their topics. A two-hour oral examination that includes discussion of the written examinations is also required. The normative time for advancement to candidacy is four years.

Dissertation
A dissertation topic is chosen by the candidate in consultation with the dissertation director and committee, and normally falls within the major field covered by the qualifying examinations. The candidate presents a study plan to the dissertation committee, which approves the proposal and a preliminary research outline. The student submits drafts of chapters to the dissertation director who corrects and approves the drafts and circulates them to other committee members for commentary.

Spanish Course Enrollment Authorization and Course Equivalencies
Enrollment Authorization: See the Language Other Than English Placement information for specific Spanish placement information, click on the "Major" tab above. Students with prior college course(s) must take a copy of their college transcripts to their academic counseling office for enrollment authorization. Other counseling offices are encouraged to call the Humanities Undergraduate Counseling Office if they have questions about a particular student's eligibility to enroll at a given level.

NOTE: SPANISH 1A, SPANISH S1AB, and SPANISH 1AB are open only to students who have no prior knowledge of Spanish. Students must take a copy of their high school transcript to their academic counseling office to activate their eligibility to enroll in SPANISH 1A, SPANISH S1AB, or SPANISH 1AB. Equivalent sequences/courses may not be repeated for credit.

Lower-Division Course Equivalencies: A chart showing the lower-division Spanish course equivalencies is available on the Department of Spanish and Portuguese website (http://www.humanities.uci.edu/spanishandportuguese).

Faculty
Ana Maria Amar Sanchez, Ph.D. University of Buenos Aires, **Professor Emerita of Spanish and Portuguese**

Luis Avilés, Ph.D. Brown University, **Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese; Comparative Literature; European Languages and Studies** (Golden Age literature and critical theory)

Anne J. Cruz, Ph.D. Stanford University, **Professor Emerita of Spanish and Portuguese**

Lucia G. Cunningham, Ph.D. University of Kansas, **Professor Emerita of Spanish and Portuguese**

Ivette Hernandez-Torres, Ph.D. Brown University, **Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese**

Adriana M. Johnson, Ph.D. Duke University, **Associate Professor of Comparative Literature; Spanish and Portuguese** (Latin American literature and film, subaltern studies, postcolonial studies, politics and culture)

Horacio Legras, Ph.D. Duke University, **Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese**

Viviana A. Mahieux, Ph.D. Harvard University, **Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese**

Alejandro Morales, Ph.D. Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, **Professor of Chicano/Latino Studies; Spanish and Portuguese** (Latin American and Chicano literature, film studies)

Santiago Morales-Rivera, Ph.D. Harvard University, **Assistant Professor of Spanish and Portuguese; European Languages and Studies** (contemporary Spanish intellectual history, literature and culture)

Gonzalo Navajas, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, **Professor of Spanish and Portuguese; European Languages and Studies** (eighteenth through twentieth-first century Spanish literature and intellectual history, film, critical theory, cultural criticism, creative writing)

Dayle S. Nunez, Ph.D. Stanford University, **Professor Emeritus of Spanish and Portuguese**

Hector H. Orjuela, Ph.D. University of Kansas, **Professor Emeritus of Spanish and Portuguese**

Julian I. Palley, Ph.D. University of New Mexico, **Professor Emeritus of Spanish and Portuguese**

Armin Schwegler, Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, **Professor of Spanish and Portuguese; Linguistics**
Jacobo Sefami, Ph.D. University of Texas at Austin, Professor of Spanish and Portuguese

Julio R. Torres, Ph.D. Georgetown University, Assistant Professor of Spanish and Portuguese; Linguistics (heritage languages, second language acquisition)

Juan Villegas, Ph.D. University of Chile, Professor Emeritus of Spanish and Portuguese

Zidia O. Webb, M.A. Michigan State University, Lecturer with Security of Employment Emeritus of Spanish and Portuguese