Spanish and Portuguese Program

The Division of Spanish & Portuguese is part of the Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures Department. Our programs offer a wide range of compelling courses not only in the languages, literatures and cultures of the Spanish and Portuguese-speaking world but also in linguistics, translation, film, critical theories, and a variety of interdisciplinary approaches that reflect the research and teaching interests of our dynamic and professionally active faculty and instructors.

Faculty

Our faculty members are active researchers and committed teachers. Several of them have won prestigious national and international research grants and teaching awards from Texas Tech. They are authors who have published with renowned academic presses and in top journals in their field. Overall, they are committed to the growth of our programs and to providing students with the finest education at the undergraduate and graduate levels.
Undergraduate Programs

Spanish

Our undergraduate Spanish program offers introductory-level classes where students learn the language through an exciting communication-based curriculum. In addition, we offer advanced language courses in conversation, composition and grammar. Other upper-level offerings include courses in business and medical Spanish, theater, literature, Spanish linguistics, and the cultures of Spain, Spanish America and the American Southwest, as well as Hispanic minorities in the United States. To complement their studies at the main campus in Lubbock, students are encouraged to study abroad with our faculty-lead programs in Mexico and Spain.
Spanish Major

A major in Spanish can lead to teaching, editing, publishing and scholarship. Other careers that are supported by a second major in Spanish are too numerous to mention. Some examples include Medicine and Health, Social Work, Law Enforcement, International Peace, Justice and Development, Business and the Legal System. In addition, some of the most popular first majors that are best complemented by a second major in Spanish are Biology and Psychology leading into Pre-Med and Nursing; Sociology, Criminology and Political Science; Pre-Law; Latin American Studies; Communication and/or Journalism; Education and Engineering.

The Spanish major consists of 30 hours of course work at the 2000 level and above with a minimum of 12 hours at the senior level. At least 9 upper level hours must be taken at TTU; 6 hours of advanced courses must be writing intensive. We provide scholarships to deserving Spanish majors as well as to students enrolled in Spanish working on Teacher Certifications.

Spanish Minor

A minor in Spanish consists of 18-20 hours. It includes 15 hours at the 2000 level and above, and requires at least 3 hours at the 4000 level.

Dual BA/MA Degree

Selected students can get both a BA and an MA in Spanish in 5 years by “double-applying” 9 hours of upper-level course work to both degrees. The 5th year is normally funded; students participate in teaching beginning Spanish and are paid as a Teaching Assistant or Graduate Part-Time Instructor. Applications are competitive.
Spanish as a Heritage Language Track

We offer a series of courses specifically designed with the Spanish heritage language learner in mind. Spanish heritage language learners are students who grow up speaking Spanish at home (or perhaps just listening to it) but whose dominant language may be English.

Our goal is to provide a supportive and effective learning environment that not only considers the bilingual/bicultural background of our diverse student body but also to foster and encourage its development. With this initiative, we join a growing number of departments across the country that recognize the needs of the heritage speaker population as being different from those of the more traditional second language learner population. We aim to meet these needs by exploring topics related to their own cultural and linguistic backgrounds and by offering exciting learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom.

Portuguese Minor

The undergraduate minor in Portuguese consists of 18-22 hours, of which at least nine must be at the 3000 level including at least three hours at the 4000 level. PORT 1502, PORT 2301, and PORT 2302 may be counted towards the minor.

Study Abroad Opportunities

Our established programs in Seville, Spain and San Luis Potosí, Mexico offer unique opportunities for students to live, learn, travel and enjoy the life, culture and Spanish language while they earn 6 hours of credit. The programs are directed and courses taught by TTU Spanish professors.

CMLL also offers a bi-annual Portuguese language program in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil. Beginning Portuguese through graduate classes are available.

Students participating in these TTU programs are eligible to apply for the Study Abroad Competitive Scholarship. Additionally, CMLL offers scholarships to study in Mexico.
Texas Tech University offers the Romance Language M.A. in Spanish and the Ph.D. in Spanish with two tracks: Spanish Literature and Spanish Linguistics. Students are encouraged to minor in Portuguese either at the M.A. or at the Ph.D. level.

Financial assistance to graduate students is provided by the CMLL department via assistantships and instructorships to promising graduate students enrolled in our programs. Support is often based on the typical academic year (fall-spring), and may include summer assignments as long as students remain in good standing.

The Spanish Literature track focuses on literary and cultural studies while integrating a variety of theoretical frameworks and interdisciplinary approaches that reflect the research and teaching interests of our dynamic and professionally active faculty. As a community of active scholars, we strive to offer to all our graduate students the opportunity for intellectual growth, for the development of critical and analytical skills, for the acquisition of a theoretical foundation for their work, and for the attainment of their professional development as teachers.

Our M.A. program provides our students with a comprehensive knowledge of major fields of expertise in the discipline through a curriculum that will encourage them to learn broadly and think deeply. At the doctoral level, we endeavor to help our students build on that comprehensive knowledge as they strengthen their theoretical framework and achieve a more advanced level of expertise in a chosen area of research in which they will make a contribution to the field through their doctoral dissertations.

Courses are taught in these main areas: Peninsular Literatures (Medieval, Golden Age, 18th and 19th-Centuries, and 20th-21st Centuries) and Latin American Literatures (Colonial, 19th-Century and 20th-21st Centuries) including Caribbean, Chicano and Southwest Literatures.
The Spanish Linguistics track provides a rich academic environment in which students have the opportunity to develop the necessary skills to become a competitive professional in the field. Our students can attain either an M.A. or Ph.D., or both. In our M.A. program, we strive to provide our students with a comprehensive knowledge of major fields of expertise in the discipline through a curriculum that will encourage them to read and think critically. At the doctoral level, we build on that comprehensive knowledge as they become familiar with diverse theoretical framework and achieve a more advanced level of expertise in a chosen area of research in which they will make a contribution to the field through their doctoral dissertations.

Our faculty encourages excellence in scientific research from the beginning of the M.A. and Ph.D. by engaging in collaborative projects with students and other scholars here and abroad that examine questions related to the acquisition of Spanish as a second language, bilingualism, language in contact and language variation, as well as linguistic aspects related to new literacies, technology and heritage language learners. Faculty is not only known for the implementation of diverse research methodologies in their investigation, but also for the development of the research itself and its subsequent publications.

Additionally, this track places emphasis on instruction for students with an interest in teaching Spanish as a second language. The objective of this program, therefore, is for faculty and students to work collaboratively in order to create research and pedagogical arenas in which ideas can be developed and explored and where students become active participants in this endeavor.
Romance Languages MA in Spanish Linguistics and Literature

The M.A. in Spanish Literature or Spanish Linguistics is offered under Option I (Thesis), and Option II (Coursework/Non-Thesis). Option I requires 30 hours of coursework + 6 thesis hours, the Master’s examinations and a thesis. Option II requires 36 hours of coursework and the Master’s examinations.

Degree Requirements

Students seeking an MA in Spanish Literature must take at least 15 hours from the courses designated as core courses. At least two courses must come from the Peninsular section, two from the Latin American section, and one from the section designated as “other areas.”

Students seeking an MA in Spanish Linguistics must take at least 15 hours from the courses designated as Hispanic Linguistics and/or Second Language Acquisition sections. At least two courses must come from the Literature section.

Master’s students need to fulfill a third language requirement that is not English or Spanish. Students may fulfill the reading knowledge requirement by passing with a C or better the second course of the sophomore sequence of the required language.

Masters Examination

The Master’s examination is designed to test the students’ ability to demonstrate extensive knowledge of the assigned texts, apply critical skills in the analysis of those texts and organize and write coherent, substantial essays in Spanish. The Master’s examinations are written exams from the areas the student has chosen.

Thesis Option

Students that select the thesis option must complete 30 hours of coursework with 6 hours of thesis credits.
MINOR

Students may declare a minor as part of the required 30-36 hours of coursework from a variety of areas. Some frequent choices for minors are: Portuguese, Applied Linguistics, Comparative Literature and Women’s Studies.

PH.D. IN SPANISH: LITERATURE AND LINGUISTICS

Candidates for the Ph.D. in Spanish Literature or Linguistics must complete approximately 60 hours of coursework. At least 45 hours should be in the primary area of specialty (Literature or Linguistics), and 15 hours can be used to develop a secondary or complementary area of interest.

Hours earned at the MA level are applicable and graduate students may transfer up to 24 hours of credit maximum.

Ph.D. students must possess reading knowledge of two languages other than English or Spanish. A graduate minor in a language other than English or Spanish may substitute for this requirement.

PH.D. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS

The doctoral comprehensive exam provides the student with the opportunity to demonstrate and integrate comprehensive knowledge of chosen fields of specialization, as well as to show sufficient preparedness to begin the process of researching and writing the dissertation. The exam must be taken within one calendar year after the completion of all requirements on the degree plan or during the final semester of coursework.

DISSERTATION REQUIREMENTS

Upon admission to the Ph.D. program, a student will begin planning his/her studies under the advise of the Graduate Studies Director. By the second semester, the student should begin planning to form his/her respective dissertation committee. A dissertation committee consists of at least three members, including the committee chair, who will be the student’s major supervising professor.
Portuguese Minor

Graduate students in Spanish should consider minoring in Portuguese as the Luso-Brazilian languages, literatures and cultures share many similarities with those of Spanish America. Coursework in Portuguese will enhance students’ understanding and appreciation of all Latin America and the Iberian Peninsula.

At the M.A. level, a minor in Portuguese is obtained by taking 6-9 hours of coursework. At the Ph.D. level, students need 15-18 ours of coursework with the possibility of earning a teaching certificate.

Teaching Assistantships

Our full time accepted graduate students generally receive financial support as teaching assistants. Students who wish to be considered for the TA positions should send in their application form along with the Spanish Graduate application package before mid-January for the Fall semester.

Teaching Opportunities in Seville, Spain

After one successful year of graduate studies in Spanish, graduate students may apply for a teaching position for a semester or summer term at the Texas Tech campus in Seville, Spain. Graduate Students teaching in Seville receive transportation, lodging, and a teaching stipend.
Céfiro is a nationally-recognized Spanish Graduate student organization. It boasts the membership of most of the Spanish/Portuguese graduate students and is responsible for a variety of graduate student activities. Each fall, they host an International Cultural Day in the Foreign Languages Building in which they spotlight the many cultures nations represented in the department. Every spring, Céfiro hosts an international graduate conference in which many faculty members and students present academic papers. In addition, the organization produces a yearly journal, giving graduate students opportunities for publication.
Faculty

Beusterien, John
Cole, George
Corbett, Steve
Elola, Idoia
Guengerich, Sara Ladeira, Antonio
Larson, Susan
Lima, Rossy
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