

Spanish, M.A.

DEPARTMENT

Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures

Debbie Avila, Chair
Peters Building, Room 393
559.278.2386
FAX: 559.278.7878
www.fresnostate.edu/artshum/mccl/

MN in French, Minor
BA in French, B.A.
MN in German, Minor
MN in Spanish, Minor
MA in Spanish, M.A.
BA in Spanish, B.A.
MN in Classical Studies, Minor
CRED in Single Subject Credential - French
CRED in Single Subject Credential - Spanish
Courses Offered

Because of increasing mobility in our modern world, it takes no time at all to travel to places where people speak a language other than English. If you visit or go to work in another country you will quickly learn the fallacy of the phrase, "Everyone speaks English there; don't worry!" Even in California, scarcely a day goes by that you do not hear people conversing in a language other than English, because the United States has a wealth of different heritage languages. Whether you travel overseas or stay in the United States, you will be more culturally sensitive if you are bilingual and bicultural. For example, agricultural, health, and music professionals benefit from knowing another language. It is never too late to acquire another culture and language.

The goal of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures is to encourage multiculturalism and multilingualism in the Central Valley. That includes preparing students for communication in some of the important heritage languages of the area: German, Spanish, French, Italian, and Portuguese. These are also important languages of Mexico, Central and South America, and the European Union, so students are able to travel or work overseas with greater ease. The department also offers Greek and Latin, as well as Classical Studies and Humanities.

The department has programs for those who wish to be middle and high school teachers of French and Spanish. We offer courses to prepare those who wish to be bilingual/ cross-cultural teachers in elementary schools. We also offer courses in Italian, Portuguese, and other languages to the surrounding community. The department offers a major and a minor in French and Spanish, a minor in German, a minor in Humanities, and a minor in Classical Studies. We collaborate with the Department of Linguistics to offer the B.A. Option in Language Studies.

Students completing the M.A. in Spanish often teach at high schools, community colleges, or go on to Ph.D. programs. Our Master of Arts program in Spanish is one of the largest and best in the California State University system. Students come from all over California to study with our prestigious faculty members. Our faculty members are well-recognized for their expertise in Spanish language pedagogy; Golden Age literature; contemporary Mexican, South American, and Peninsular literature; Spanish linguistics and dialectology; creative writing in Spanish; and Hispanic culture. M.A. students may apply for a limited number of teaching assistant positions.

Study Abroad Programs: Apply as a Sophomore

Sophomore students having a minimum GPA of 3.0 are eligible to apply for participation during their junior or senior years in one of the International Programs organized by the California State University System under agreements with universities in 18 countries, including France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Spain, and Peru. See International Programs (Overseas). Students may find it useful to consult with a professor in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures. A small scholarship is available for qualified study abroad scholars.

Credit Allowance in Foreign Language

Students may begin a study of any language they desire to learn. However, if they want to continue study of a language they recently studied in high school, they must adhere to the following guidelines:

- A. Students who have had less than two years of that language in high school will enroll in either a 1A or 1B class in that language, depending on the quality of the high school language experience.
- B. Students who have studied a language for two years in high school will enroll in a 1B class in that language.
- C. Students who have studied a language for three years in high school will enroll in a 2A class in that language.
- D. Students who have studied a language for four years in high school will enroll in a 2B class in that language.
- E. Students who have passed an AP test in a language, or who have five or more years of language study, should consult a department adviser for appropriate placement.
- F. Students who have taken Greek and Latin in high school should consult a department adviser for appropriate placement. G. Spanish-speaking students who have appropriate oral language skills will enroll in Spanish 4A.
- H. Credit may not be awarded for a lower-division language course if the student has received credit for an upper-division course in that language, other than SPAN 110T, SPAN 125, SPAN 129 and courses taught in English: FREN 149, GERM 103T, LATIN 132.

Credit by Examination

Students who have taken one or more years of a language in high school may not challenge a 1A course in that language. Students who have taken two or more years of a language in high school may not challenge a 1B course in that language. Students who have taken three years of a language in high school may not challenge 2A in that language. Students who have completed the equivalent of ninth grade or more in the native country may not enroll in or challenge lower-division courses. Such students are not exempted from meeting General Education requirements.

General Education Foreign Language Credit

The following courses are applicable to the General Education requirement: HUM 10, 11, 15, 20; FREN 1B, 2A, 2B, 109, 149; GERM 1B, 2A, 2B; GRK 1A, 1B; ITAL 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B; LATIN 1A, 1B; PORT 1A, 1B; SPAN 1B, 2A, 2B, 3, 4A, 4B, 125, 129. See also Department of Linguistics.

REQUIREMENTS

Graduate Program Requirements

The Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures offers the Master of Arts degree in Spanish.

The Master of Arts degree program in Spanish language and literature serves several categories of students: those anticipating doctoral studies, those teaching or preparing to teach in high school and community college, and those interested in further study beyond the baccalaureate degree. For specific requirements, consult the departmental graduate committee chair. For general requirements, see Division of Graduate Studies.

Master of Arts in Spanish

The Master of Arts degree in Spanish is awarded upon satisfactory completion of a 30-unit program of study. For the culminating experience, students may select either a thesis/project or comprehensive examination.

Program Prerequisites. Admission to the M.A. program in Spanish requires a minimum 3.0 GPA and assumes an undergraduate major in Spanish but is open to others with a bachelor's degree who show intellectual promise and ability to perform at a satisfactory level during their graduate studies. Students lacking the B.A. in Spanish will be required to make up deficiencies prior to acceptance into the M.A. program.

(See also Admission to Graduate Standing, Advancement to Candidacy, Program Requirements, and Criteria for Thesis and Project.)

Admission Prerequisites. When making application for admission to the program, students must submit a copy of their GRE scores.

Program Requirements. Students meet the Graduate Writing Requirement by preparing three study questions for the qualifying exam. Students must write three five-page essays in English - a minimum of 15 pages - which are assessed in content, organization, and writing style. For more information, please contact the graduate program coordinator.

In order to achieve classified standing, students must demonstrate an acceptable level of competence in Spanish by passing a written departmental examination. In addition, under the direction of the graduate adviser, students prepare a coherent program. Each student's program of study must include at least 24 units of 200-level work.

Thesis/Project Plan

SPAN 202, SPAN 203, and SPAN 249 (9 units)
Graduate seminars in Spanish (15-18 units)
Independent Study (SPAN 290) (0-6 units)
SPAN 298 and/or 299 (3-6 units)
Electives (must see adviser) (0-6 units)
Select from SPAN 137, 139, 142, 143, 145, 147, 148T, 149, 150
Approved elective in related fields (0-3 units)
Total (30 units)

Comprehensive Examination Plan

SPAN 202, SPAN 203, and SPAN 249 (9 units)
Graduate seminars in Spanish (15-18 units)
Independent Study (SPAN 290) (0-6 units)
Electives (0-6 units)
Elect from SPAN 142, 143, 145, 147, 148T, 149, 150
Approved elective in related fields (0-3 units)
Total (30 units)

Specific Requirements. The following areas must be covered by graduate or undergraduate courses and may be satisfied in undergraduate preparation: Peninsular Spanish literature (two courses including SPAN 142), Latin American literature (two courses including SPAN 143), Hispanic linguistics (one course).

Students who intend to go on to a Ph.D. program at another institution are strongly advised to study at least one other foreign language.

FACULTY

For faculty phone numbers and e-mail, see the campus directory.

For more on the faculty, see the faculty pages.

The faculty pages are updated by the department or program.