Hispanic Studies

College of Art & Sciences

Master of Arts

Admission Requirements
We require a B.A. in Hispanic Studies or a related area, demonstrated fluency in Spanish and English, strong letters of reference and a representative research essay from the candidate's prior academic work. Graduate Record Examination scores are required for admission. Foreign students must pass the TOEFL with the minimum required score of 550 on the paper version of the exam, 213 on the computer version, or 79 on the Internet/IBT version. Supervised teaching experience within the department is a requirement for both the M.A. and Doctoral degrees.

Degree Requirements
32 credit hours total. Reading knowledge of one foreign language in addition to Spanish and/or English; successful completion of SPA 553 (Pedagogy and the Teaching of Spanish), SPA 602 (Studies in Spanish Linguistics), SPA 606 (Introduction to Cultural and Literary Theory) and SPA 770 (Introduction to Hispanic Studies). Successful completion of an additional 24 hours of credits of which 6 may be taken at the 500 level (24 credits must be taken at the 600 level or above). The M.A. is granted to a student who has successfully passed a written and oral examination after completing the required coursework. One half of the exam is designed to test the candidate's knowledge of the M.A. Reading List (located at https://hs.as.uky.edu/sites/default/files/MAReadingListFINAL2007.pdf) and the other half is based on the candidate's graduate-level coursework. A student who plans to complete only the M.A. degree (or is not admitted into the Ph.D. program) has four semesters to complete the coursework towards the MA. M.A. exams are given in August and January.

NOTE: Students who are admitted into the Ph.D. program during the fourth semester of coursework are not required to take an M.A. exam after four semesters. The M.A. degree will be conferred to them upon successful completion of the doctoral Qualifying Exam. Students who enter the program with an M.A. from another institution will be evaluated by the Graduate Studies Committee at the beginning of the third semester of coursework. If the committee deems the student's work acceptable, the student may then go on to complete the PhD requirement. If the work is deemed unacceptable, the student will be required to pass the MA exam before proceeding on to the Ph.D.

Doctor of Philosophy

Degree Requirements
54 credit hours (18 courses) of which ten credits are required: successful completion of SPA 553 (Pedagogy and the Teaching of Spanish), SPA 602 (Studies in Spanish Linguistics), SPA 606 (Introduction to Cultural and Literary Theory) and SPA 770 (Introduction to Hispanic Studies). Of the remaining 15 courses, 5 must be in the major field of concentration (with two of these at the 700 level). 4 courses must be in the allied fields, and 2 in a minor field (outside the department). Additionally, the student must demonstrate reading knowledge of one language other than Spanish and English. The successful candidate will defend a dissertation prospectus, successfully complete Parts A and B of the Doctoral Qualifying Exam, and defend a dissertation.

Candidates are expected to devise a program of study and research around the major area of specialization. Two minor areas (in Hispanic literature and culture or Linguistics) and one allied field (related to the dissertation work) must be selected as support divisions for the major area. Minimum graduate credit
expectations are 24 credit hours in the combined Major and Minor areas and 12 credit hours in the Allied Fields; 6 graduate credits in each of the two remaining areas not chosen as Major, Minor, or Allied Fields. Two seminars (one in the major field) are required.

Specialization by area:
1) Medieval Spanish Studies;
2) Renaissance and Early Modern Spanish Studies;
3) Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Spanish Studies;
4) Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Spanish Studies;
5) Colonial and Nineteenth Century Spanish American Studies;
6) Twentieth and Twenty First Century Spanish American Studies.
7) U.S. Latino Studies

The dissertation focus may combine Hispanic literature and film, Hispanic literature and Fine Arts, Hispanic literature with a second literature, literature and popular culture, or literature and theory. Students are encouraged to explore topics in Transatlantic Studies, and to make use of the programs in Social Theory, Gender and Women's Studies, Latin American Studies, Environmental Studies and Appalachian Studies in considering transdisciplinary possibilities for their doctoral theses.

The Doctoral Qualifying Examination consists of two parts. Part A is a written exam and a two hour oral exam based on the reading list and the prospectus the student has created under the supervision of the dissertation committee. The written exam is structured as follows: a take-home exam in the areas of the dissertation and the extradisciplinary Minor Field, and an additional ten hours to test the student's knowledge in his/her area of general specialization, and the additional three areas (Major and Allied Fields) on which the student has chosen to concentrate. In order to take this exam, the student needs to have submitted a written prospectus and a reading list to the dissertation committee at least two months before scheduling the exam.

Part B of the qualifying examination will take place during the semester following Part A. The student will present either a fully written introduction or a sample dissertation chapter to the dissertation committee. Acceptable Progress towards the Dissertation: The ABD student is required to establish and maintain an acceptable timeline for completing the dissertation. The Department expects that the student complete at least one dissertation chapter per semester until the dissertation is completed. It is hoped that the student will complete the dissertation within two years after the qualifying exams.
Course Descriptions

SPA 501 SPANISH PHONETICS, PRONUNCIATION AND PHONEMICS. (3)
Introduction to Spanish descriptive linguistics with intensive study of variant speech sounds and established norms in the major cultural areas of the Hispanic world with discussions of the theory and isolation of phonemes. Prereq: SPA 210 and SPA 211, and a 300-500 level Spanish course.

SPA 506 INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE SPANISH, PORTUGUESE, AND ITALIAN LINGUISTICS. (3)
An introduction to the historical development of Spanish, Portuguese and Italian from a common source, with an emphasis on the comparison of related lexical, phonological and morphological items. Prereq: Reading knowledge of Spanish or Italian (fourth semester of course work).

SPA 519 THEMES IN MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN SPANISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE (Subtitle required). (3)
This course is a topics course in Medieval and Early Modern Spanish Literature and Culture. Appropriate for advanced undergraduates and MA level graduate students. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits under different subtitles. Prereq: For undergraduates: SPA 400 or permission of instructor.

SPA 529 THEMES IN MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY SPANISH LITERATURE, CULTURE AND FILM (Subtitle required). (3)
This course is a topics course in Modern and Contemporary Spanish Literature, Film and Culture. Appropriate for advanced undergraduates and MA level graduate students. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits under different topic. Prereq: For undergraduates: SPA 400 or permission of instructor.

SPA 539 THEMES IN LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE, CULTURE AND FILM (Subtitle required). (3)
This course is a topics course in Modern and Contemporary Latin American Literature, Film and Culture. Appropriate for advanced undergraduates and MA level graduate students. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits under different subtopic. Prereq: For undergraduates: SPA 400 or permission of instructor.

SPA 553 TEACHING OF SPANISH. (3)
The course is designed for teachers and prospective teachers of modern foreign languages, with emphasis on Spanish. Modern methodology, theory and practice of language pedagogy. Prereq: Permission of instructor required.

SPA 600 HISTORY OF THE SPANISH LANGUAGE. (3)
Introduction to the historical development of the Spanish language. The central focus of this course will be the dialogic and dialectic processes that gave rise the historical, cultural, phonological, morphological and lexical transformations of the Castilian languages, with particular emphasis on the changes that Castilian underwent as it evolved from Latin into modern Castilian.

SPA 601 STUDIES IN SPANISH PEDAGOGY: (Subtitle required). (1)
A one credit course that may or may not run concurrently with the 553 course on Spanish Pedagogy. Seminar topics may include an overview of second language acquisition theories as applicable to English learners of Spanish; contemporary teaching methodologies for instructors of Spanish language, integration of technology into curriculum; issues in testing and assessment. May be repeated to a maximum of 3 credits when taught under different subtitles.

SPA 602 STUDIES IN SPANISH LINGUISTICS: (Subtitle required). (3)
Readings and discussion of issues in Spanish linguistics and the teaching of Spanish. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits taught under different subtitles.
SPA 603 SPANISH APPLIED LINGUISTICS. (3)  
A survey of the many sub-disciplines that constitute Applied Linguistics, a field dedicated to the study of language-based problems. This class will expose students to issues in the Spanish-language context and will equip them with the tools necessary to critically analyze these “problems”. Prereq: Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics.

SPA 604 SOCIOLINGUISTICS OF THE SPANISH-SPEAKING WORLD. (3)  
An introduction to sociolinguistic theory and its application to issues related to Spanish in Spain, Latin America, and the United States. It will focus on both quantitative and qualitative research on language variation and language contact in the Spanish-speaking world. Prereq: Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics.

SPA 605 HISTORY OF THE SPANISH LANGUAGE. (3)  
Offers an overview of the diachronic evolution of Spanish from spoken Latin. Topics covered include the following: Vulgar Latin and ProtoRomance, the Old Spanish phonological system, morpho-syntactic changes from Latin to Spanish. Prereq: Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics.

SPA 606 INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL THEORY AND CULTURAL STUDIES. (3)  
Survey of major trends in critical and cultural theory since the early 20th century, from Formalism and New Criticism through Cultural Studies. Required of all new graduate students.

SPA 607 SPECIAL TOPICS IN CRITICAL THEORY AND CULTURAL STUDIES: (Subtitle required). (1)  
Readings and discussion of special topics in critical theory and cultural studies. May be taught in English or Spanish. May be repeated to a maximum of 3 credits when taught under different subtitles.

SPA 608 SPECIAL TOPICS IN SPANISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE: (Subtitle required). (3)  
Readings and discussion in essay, film and cultural production of Spain and Spanish America. May be taught in English or Spanish. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits when taught under different subtitles.

SPA 609 SPECIAL TOPICS IN LATIN AMERICAN AND U.S. HISPANIC LITERATURE AND CULTURE: (Subtitle required). (3)  
Intensive study of an author, genre, period, or movement of Latin American or U.S. Hispanic literature, or an aspect of Latin American or U.S. Hispanic linguistics or culture. Taught in English or Spanish. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits when taught under different subtitles.

SPA 610 STUDIES IN MEDIEVAL SPANISH LITERATURE: (Subtitle required). (3)  
Readings and discussion of Spanish literature from the 13th century through the 15th century. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits when taught under different subtitles.

SPA 620 STUDIES IN EARLY MODERN AND BAROQUE SPANISH LITERATURE (Subtitle required). (3)  
Readings and discussion of Spanish literature and culture from the 16th and 17th centuries. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits when taught under different subtitles.

SPA 630 STUDIES IN 18TH AND 19TH CENTURY SPANISH LITERATURE: (Subtitle required). (3)  
Readings and discussion of Spanish literature and culture from the 18th and 19th century. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits when taught under different subtitles.

SPA 640 STUDIES IN 20TH AND 21ST CENTURY SPANISH LITERATURE: (Subtitle required). (3)  
Readings and discussion of contemporary Spanish literature and culture. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits when taught under different subtitles.
SPA 650 STUDIES IN COLONIAL LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE: (Subtitle required). (3)
Readings and discussion of Colonial Latin American literature and culture. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits when taught under different subtitles.

SPA 653 STUDIES IN SPANISH PEDAGOGY (Subtitle required). (3)
Offers students a theoretical and practical overview of L2 Spanish pedagogy as a means to empower them as language instructors who can intelligently select and evaluate pedagogical theories and practices. Students will have the opportunity for hands-on implementation of theory in their own classroom practice. Prereq: SPA 603.

SPA 654 SPANISH DIALECTOLOGY. (3)
Explore current linguistic research on Spanish dialects through the discussion and the analysis of their theoretical and empirical frameworks. Prereq: SPA 604.

SPA 655 COMPARATIVE-HISTORICAL ROMANCE LINGUISTICS. (3)
Analyzes the complex interaction of structural, social, and cultural factors in the evolution of the Romance Languages. Provides insights into which language features can be considered typically Romance, and how far languages can diverge from these typical patterns and still be considered of the same language type. Prereq: SPA 605.

SPA 660 STUDIES IN 19TH CENTURY LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE: (Subtitle required)
Readings and discussion of 19th century Latin American literature and culture. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits when taught under different subtitles.

SPA 680 STUDIES IN 20TH CENTURY LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE 1900-1950'S: (Subtitle required). (3)
Readings and discussion of Latin American literature and culture through the first half of the 20th century. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits when taught under different subtitles.

SPA 681 STUDIES IN CONTEMPORARY LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE 1960’S TO PRESENT: (Subtitle required). (3)
Readings and discussion of contemporary Latin American literature and culture. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits when taught under different subtitles.

SPA 685 STUDIES IN U.S. HISPANIC LITERATURE AND CULTURE: (Subtitle required). (3)
Readings and discussion of U.S. Latino literature and culture. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits when taught under different subtitles.

SPA 690 STUDIES IN SPANISH AND/OR LATIN AMERICAN FILM: (Subtitle required). (3)
Viewings and discussion of Spanish or Latin American film, emphasizing its political, social, economics, and cultural contexts of the Hispanic world. Viewing of films (in Spanish) outside class is required. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits when taught under different subtitles.

SPA 703 SEMINAR IN SLA THEORY IN SPANISH L2 LEARNING. (3)
Offers a closer look at the primary concepts of Second Language Acquisition (interlanguage, learner variables, SLA theory, input, output, etc.) with a particular focus on the Spanish language. The acquisition of specific Spanish L2 structures and phenomena will be directly addressed, e.g., tense/aspect, mood, clitics, etc. Prereq: SPA 603.
SPA 704 SEMINAR IN LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF SPANISH DISCOURSE (Subtitle required). (3)
Analysis from a sociolinguistic and discourse analysis perspective of the relationship between language and power in the Spanish-speaking world. It would imply the discussion of a theoretical framework and its application to non-canonical texts produced in Spanish. Prereq: SPA 604.

SPA 705 SEMINAR IN HISTORICAL LANGUAGE CONTACT IN THE SPANISH SPEAKING WORLD. (3)
Offers a study of language contact in the Spanish-speaking world including not only the study of bilingualism, but also explorations into subfields like geolinguistics and language planning. Prereq: SPA 605.

SPA 706 ADVANCED READINGS IN CRITICAL THEORY AND CULTURAL STUDIES: (Subtitle required). (3) Advanced readings and discussion of contemporary issues in critical theory and cultural studies. Taught in Spanish or English. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits when taught under different subtitles.

SPA 708 CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON SPANISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE: (Subtitle required). (3)
Advanced readings and discussion of Spanish literature and culture: open topic with preference for cross-disciplinary or trans-historical subjects. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits when taught under different subtitles.

SPA 709 CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON LATIN AMERICAN AND U.S. HISPANIC LITERATURE AND CULTURE (Subtitle required). (3)
Advanced readings and discussion of Latin American and U.S. Hispanic literature or culture. May deal with a single author's work, a genre or a cultural phenomenon: open topic with preference for cross-disciplinary or trans-historical subjects. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits when taught under different subtitles.

SPA 710 SEMINAR IN MEDIEVAL SPANISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE: (Subtitle required). (3)
Special and intensive study of selected topics in Spanish literature and culture from the 13th through the 15th century. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits when taught under different subtitles.

SPA 720 SEMINAR IN EARLY MODERN AND BAROQUE SPANISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE: (Subtitle required). (3)
Special and intensive study of selected topics in Spanish literature and culture of the 15th and 16th centuries. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits when taught under different subtitles.

SPA 730 SEMINAR IN 18TH AND 19TH CENTURY SPANISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE: (Subtitle required). (3)
Special and intensive study of selected topics in 18th and 19th century Spanish literature and culture. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits when taught under different subtitles.

SPA 740 SEMINAR 20-21ST CENTURY SPANISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE: (Subtitle required). (3)
Special and intensive study of selected topics in contemporary Spanish literature and culture. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits when taught under different subtitles.

SPA 748 MASTER'S THESIS RESEARCH. (0)
Half-time to full-time work on thesis. May be repeated to a maximum of six semesters. Prereq: All course work toward the degree must be completed.
SPA 749 DISSERTATION RESEARCH. (0)
Half-time to full-time work on dissertation. May be repeated to a maximum of six semesters. Prereq: Registration for two full-time semesters of 769 residence credit following the successful completion of the qualifying exams.

SPA 750 SEMINAR IN COLONIAL LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE: (Subtitle required). (3)
Special and intensive study of selected topics in Colonial Latin American literature and culture. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits when taught under different subtitles.

SPA 760 SEMINAR IN 19TH CENTURY LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE: (Subtitle required). (3)
Special and intensive study of selected topics in 19th century Latin American literature and culture. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits when taught under different subtitles.

SPA 767 DISSERTATION RESIDENCY CREDIT. (2)
Residency credit for dissertation research after the qualifying examination. Students may register for this course in the semester of the qualifying examination. A minimum of two semesters are required as well as continuous enrollment (Fall and Spring) until the dissertation is completed and defended.

SPA 768 RESIDENCE CREDIT FOR THE MASTER'S DEGREE. (1-6)
May be repeated to a maximum of 12 hours.

SPA 769 RESIDENCE CREDIT FOR THE DOCTOR'S DEGREE. (0-12)
May be repeated indefinitely.

SPA 770 INTRODUCTION TO HISPANIC STUDIES. (3)
This course is designed to give new and continuing M.A. and Ph.D. students an overview of and introduction to graduate studies and the profession of Hispanism.

SPA 780 SEMINAR IN 20TH CENTURY LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE 1900-1950'S: (Subtitle required). (3)
Special and intensive study of selected topics in Latin American literature and culture of the first half of the 20th century. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits when taught under different subtitles.

SPA 781 SEMINAR IN CONTEMPORARY LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE 1960'S TO PRESENT: (Subtitle required). (3)
Special and intensive study of selected topics in contemporary 20th and 21st century Latin American literature and culture. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits when taught under different subtitles.

SPA 782 SPECIAL STUDIES IN SPANISH. (1-3)
Selected studies and investigations in the Spanish language and Hispanic literature, permitting the student to work in areas of special interest and providing opportunity for original endeavor. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prereq: Graduate standing.

SPA 785 SEMINAR IN U.S. HISPANIC AND BORDER LITERATURE AND CULTURE: (Subtitle required). (3)
Special and intensive study of related topics in U.S. Hispanic and Border literature and culture. May be taught in Spanish or English. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits when taught under different subtitles.