

# Hispanic Literatures and Cultures

Spanish is the second most widely spoken language in the world and the second language of the United States. In our society, knowing Spanish is not just an asset; it is increasingly a necessity. The Spanish language program offers a sequence of courses ranging from basic to advanced. Students at all levels develop proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing while also studying the cultures and societies of the contemporary Spanish-speaking world. The Hispanic Literatures and Cultures concentration enables students to develop advanced Spanish skills while acquiring a solid background in the complex history, literature, cultures, and intellectual traditions of Spain, Latin America, and the Latinx-U.S. The department offers a variety of courses on topics related to literary history and theory; multicultural contact; linguistics and the history of the language; visual culture, film, and performance studies. Interdisciplinarity is a hallmark of the department, and students in this concentration are encouraged to broaden their perspectives by taking relevant courses in other departments. Most choose to strengthen their academic preparation by participating in a study abroad program in Spain or Latin America and by engaging with Latin American and Latinx communities in the United States.

## Concentration Requirements and Overview of the Curriculum

The concentration requires a minimum of ten courses: one required course, HISP 0650 (<https://bulletin.brown.edu/search/?P=HISP%200650>) *Advanced Spanish through Literature and Film* (unless waived<sup>1</sup>); up to six courses from HISP 0550 (<https://bulletin.brown.edu/search/?P=HISP%200550>), HISP 0600 (<https://bulletin.brown.edu/search/?P=HISP%200600>) or at the 700 level; and at least three courses at the 1000 level (or equivalent with the approval of the concentration advisor). HISP 0650 (<https://bulletin.brown.edu/search/?P=HISP%200650>) gives students fundamental tools for critical analysis while also specifically targeting the development of advanced grammar and writing skills. The 700 level encompasses panoramic courses in the literary and cultural histories of Spain, Latin America, and the Latinx USA, as well as introductory courses on professional and literary translation and Spanish linguistics, all of which place emphasis on continued refinement of written and oral expression in Spanish. Courses at the 1000 level focus on particular authors, genres, periods, or special topics and introduce students to major critical voices and scholarly perspectives on the materials studied. Concentrators must take at least one Hispanic Studies course with the WRIT designation.

1 Students can waive this course with an AP of 5 in Spanish Literature; or an SAT II of 750 or above; or a Brown Placement Score in Spanish of 651 or above. For more information on placements go to: <https://www.brown.edu/academics/hispanic-studies/language-placement>

Students may apply up to four related courses from outside the department toward the concentration, with prior approval from the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS). These courses may come from study abroad, transfer credit, and other departments and programs at Brown (e.g., Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Comparative Literature, History, Ethnic Studies, Anthropology), as long as they deal with themes related to the literatures, histories, languages<sup>2</sup>, and/or cultures of Spain, Latin America, or the Latinx USA.

The Hispanic Studies Literatures and Cultures concentration is designed to encourage and support language-specific study, for we believe that the linguistic cultural products of the Spanish-speaking world are most deeply appreciated in the original language. Hispanic Studies courses are therefore generally taught in Spanish, unless otherwise specified in the course description. Up to two courses taken in English or another language, whether in the department or outside, can count toward the concentration.

2 Up to two courses in languages other than Spanish that are spoken in or are closely related to Spain and/or Latin America can count towards the concentration. As with all courses taken outside the department, students must petition the DUS in advance to have these courses counted, demonstrating their direct link to the student's interests, for instance, for Honors Thesis research.

### Required Course:

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| HISP 0650 | Advanced Spanish Through Literature & Film |
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### Up to six courses from HISP 0550, HISP 0600, or at the 700-level, such as:

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| HISP 0550  | Intermediate Spanish for Heritage Speakers                                       |
| HISP 0600  | Advanced Spanish II  |
| HISP 0710B | Hispanic Culture Through Cinema  |
| HISP 0710C | Introducción a la lingüística hispánica  |
| HISP 0710E | Introduction to Professional Translation and Interpretation                      |
| HISP 0730  | Encounters: Latin America in Its Literature and Culture                          |
| HISP 0740  | Intensive Survey of Spanish Literature   |
| HISP 0750B | The Latin American Diaspora in the US  |
| HISP 0750G | Wileyed Stories  |
| HISP 0750Q | Health, Illness and Medicine in Spanish and Spanish American Literature and Film |

### At least three 1000-level courses, such as:

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| HISP 1240A | Fashion and Fiction in the Early Modern Hispanic World                                    |
| HISP 1210F | History of the Spanish Language   |
| HISP 1240L | Don Quijote de la Mancha  |
| HISP 1330W | War, Revolution and the Cult of the Hero in Latin American Culture                        |
| HISP 1331E | Visions and Voices of Indigenous Mexico   |
| HISP 1331J | Hablan los hijos: A New Generation of Latin American Writers                              |
| HISP 1331U | More than Meets the Eye: Maps and Indigenous Peoples in Latin America                     |
| HISP 1371T | Reimagining the Line: Contemporary Arts and Political Imagination at the Mexico-US Border |

### Students can also take up to two cross-listed courses, such as:

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|------------|---|
| COLT 0510F | Fidel Castro and Che Guevara, The Men and the Myths                 |
| COLT 0610E | Crisis and Identity in Mexico, 1519-1968                            |
| COLT 0710I | New Worlds: Reading Spaces and Places in Colonial Latin America     |
| COLT 1813I | The Colonial and the Postcolonial Marvelous                         |
| LACA 0500  | Around Latin America in 80 Days: An Historical and Cultural Journey |
| LACA 1630  | Engaged Humanities: Storytelling in the Americas                    |

### Students can take up to two courses in languages other than Spanish, such as:

|            |                                 |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| ANTH 1650  | Ancient Maya Writing            |
| ETHN 1200D | Latinx Literature               |
| HIST 0234  | Modern Latin America            |
| NAHU 0100  | Beginning Nahuatl               |
| POBS 0400  | Writing and Speaking Portuguese |
| SOC 1281   | Migration in the Americas       |

Total Credits = 10

**Capstone colloquium:** Giving students an opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate their achievements in the Hispanic Literatures and Cultures concentration, there is an annual colloquium with graduating seniors, faculty and friends. Each graduating senior shares a piece of work or a text, whether studied in class or produced as an assignment, that stands out as particularly significant to their time in Hispanic Studies. This can take several forms: it can be an extract from a poem, novel, play, or critical essay; it can also be a film or music clip or piece of art; or, a translation done by the student, or an original creative text.

## **Honors Thesis or Project**

Students with an excellent record in their Hispanic Studies courses will be eligible to write an Honors Thesis or write and produce an Honors Project. Students pursuing honors must have a record of all A's or a final grade of S with distinction in courses they have as S/NC. Typically, the Honors Thesis is a major research paper of approximately 40 to 80 pages in Spanish, depending on the topic and treatment necessary. Alternatively, a student may, with prior permission of the Director of Undergraduate Studies, present a film, gallery exhibition, or other appropriate project, together with a paper that clearly demonstrates the academic foundations and relevance of the project. For additional details regarding the Honors Thesis in Hispanic Studies, please refer to our website (<https://www.brown.edu/academics/hispanic-studies/honors-program/>).