SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE

Humanities Quadrangle, 203.432.5439, 203.432.1151  
http://span-port.yale.edu  
M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.  

Chair  
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Professors  
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Senior Lecturer II  
Alex Gil  

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Rolena Adorno, Roberto González Echevarría  

FIELDS OF STUDY  
The Ph.D. program in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese explores the  
dynamic fields of Latin American, Luso-Brazilian, Latinx, and Iberian studies in all  
their rich and diverse linguistic, literary, and cultural traditions, and adopting multiple  
intellectual approaches. The Ph.D. program encourages students to engage with related  
disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, including African American Studies,  
Anthropology, Comparative Literature, Early Modern Studies, Film and Media Studies,  
History of Art, Medieval Studies, and Philosophy, as well as emerging multidisciplinary  
fields such as Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration; Women’s, Gender, and  
Sexuality Studies; and Digital Humanities.  

The department participates in a combined Ph.D. program in Spanish and Portuguese  
and African American Studies offered in conjunction with the Department of African  
American Studies and a combined Ph.D. program in Spanish and Portuguese and  
Early Modern Studies offered in conjunction with the Early Modern Studies Program.  
Ph.D. students are also encouraged to obtain certificates from programs and areas  
complementary to their teaching and research interests; at Yale, such certificates exist  
in connection with the programs in Film and Media Studies; Public Humanities;  
Translation Studies; and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.  

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE  
The department requires two years of coursework, a grade of Honors in at least two  
of these courses each year, and a minimum grade average of High Pass. Coursework  
consists of fourteen elective seminars (up to four outside the department); four of  
the fourteen seminars as auditor (no exam or paper required), inside or outside the  
department; and a required course, SPAN 790, Methodologies of Modern Language  
Teaching. Prior to the third year, students are also expected to become proficient in  
two languages other than English and their primary study language (either Spanish  
or Portuguese); these languages could be other Romance languages, Latin, or other  
language families pertinent to the research interests of each student. In the third
year, the student is expected to pass the qualifying examination (written and oral components) and submit and receive approval of the dissertation prospectus. Upon completion of all predissertation requirements, including the dissertation prospectus, students are admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D.

Participation in the department’s teaching and pedagogy program is a degree requirement. It consists of taking the required seminar in language pedagogy, SPAN 790, in the second year and teaching four courses during the third and fourth years of study. Students will have the opportunity to teach beginning (L1–L2), advanced (L3–L4), and L5-level courses with supervision by the director of the language program, course directors, and department faculty members.

COMBINED PH.D. PROGRAMS

Spanish and Portuguese and African American Studies

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese also offers, in conjunction with the Department of African American Studies, a combined Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese and African American Studies. For further details, see African American Studies.

Spanish and Portuguese and Early Modern Studies

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese also offers, in conjunction with the Early Modern Studies Program, a combined Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese and Early Modern Studies. For further details, see Early Modern Studies.

MASTER’S DEGREES

M.Phil.  See Degree Requirements under Policies and Regulations.

M.A. (en route to the Ph.D.)  The M.A. en route is awarded upon the satisfactory completion of eight term courses and the language requirement (detailed above).

COURSES

PORT 652a / CPLT 657a, Clarice Lispector: The Short Stories  Kenneth David Jackson
This course is a seminar on the complete short stories of Clarice Lispector (1920–1977), a master of the genre and one of the major authors of twentieth-century Brazil known for existentialism, mysticism, and feminism.

PORT 970a, Fernando Pessoa, Inc.  Kenneth David Jackson
This course surveys the main facets of Pessoa’s works and considers the principal theories and interpretations of his complex literary universe. A reading knowledge of Portuguese is essential; however, students may supplement his texts with translations into English, Spanish, French, or Italian.

SPAN 744a, The Spanish Civil War: Words and Images  Noel Valis
An introduction to the history and cultural and literary impact of the Spanish Civil War (1936–39), through national and international perspective and an analysis of the literature and culture produced during and after the conflict. The course is divided into four sections: the war “from within,” the war “from outside,” women in war, and the memory of war. Authors include George Orwell, Ernest Hemingway, Javier Cercas, Mercè Rodoreda, Julio Llamazares, Ramón J. Sender, and others; films: The Spanish
Earth, The Good Fight, El laberinto del fauno, Rojo y negro; art: Guernika (Picasso), El rostro de la guerra (Dalí), war posters. In Spanish.

SPAN 780a / CPLT 507a / ER&M 647a, Biopolitics in the Carceral Archipelago: The Case of the Philippines  Aurelie Vialette
This seminar examines the racial, ethical, political, environmental, and social implications of the penal colonization process in the Philippines. We analyze archival documents (manuscripts) from the Philippines and engage with theoretical and historical texts on prison labor, racial capitalism, ecocriticism, indigenous studies, carceral studies, gender studies, and law and the humanities. Overseas incarceration was a method employed by empires to dispose of criminals, the poor, sex workers, and vagrants. In the Philippines (a Spanish colony until 1898), the dispossession of indigenous people of their land and the implication of intensive farming were also consequences of the colonial project. We see that labor and procreation were crucial to the project of using prisoners to build the colonial structure and strengthen the Spanish presence in the archipelago. We discover the centrality of this transnational and transhistorical approach to understanding the contemporary treatment of imprisoned people. Spanish reading knowledge is required.

SPAN 790b, Methodologies of Modern Language Teaching  Jorge Méndez-Seijas
Preparation for a teaching career through readings, lectures, classroom discussions, and presentations on current issues in foreign/second language acquisition theory and teaching methodology. Classroom techniques at all levels. In Spanish.

SPAN 865a / CPLT 895a, Translation in Latin American and Latinx Literature  Staff
Involving languages, cultures, nations, and publishing markets of varying power, translation is a highly charged zone where hierarchies may be established, reinforced, or toppled. This graduate seminar offers an overview of how translation has functioned, in site-specific fashion, as theoretical program and experimental mode within “original” Latin American and the US Latinx literatures. We examine texts from much of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries that engage translation (interlinguistic, intralinguistic, intersemiotic) as trope, form, or material apparatus. These featured works include pseudotranslations, unreliable self-translations, transcreations, translingual texts, and fictions with translator-protagonists. We read these materials alongside essential theory and criticism that surface distinctly Latin(x) American itineraries for translation and that provide students with an analytical toolbox for attending to translation in original and unoriginal writing alike. This course is taught in English, with materials provided in the original Spanish or Portuguese when available.

SPAN 904a / CPLT 965a / ER&M 681, Latin American Political Thought I: Neocolonial, Anticolonial, Decolonial: 1800–1930  Moira Fradinger
This seminar consists of two parts. The first part is taught in the fall and the second one in the spring. The year-long plan introduces students to two centuries of Latin American political thought in the form of social and literary essays produced since the times of independence. It studies how Latin American writers and politicians have theorized the political/cultural heritage of the colony. The fall seminar starts with the Haitian constitution and contemporary Haitian authors who assess the legacy of the Haitian revolution. It ends with the anarchist movements and socialist thought of the turn of the twentieth century. The second part (spring) starts with the 1930s and the rise of populism and ends with writings on current indigenous movements across the region. The fall engages nineteenth-century debates over “American identity” that
were foundational to the newly constituted nation-states (authors include Bolívar, Lastarria, Alamán, Martí, Sarmiento, Echeverría, Hostos, Montalvo, Burgos, Rodó, da Cunha, Mariategui, Gonzalez Prada, Zapata). The spring explores twentieth-century debates over cultural independence, the movement of “indigenismo,” mestizaje, transculturation and heterogeneity, the Caribbean movement of “negritude,” the metaphor of “cannibalism” to account for the cultural politics of the region, concepts such as “internal colonialism” and “motley society,” and the polemics over the region’s capitalist modernity and postmodernity (authors include Ortiz, Moreno Fraginals, Lezama Lima, Vasconcelos, Reyes, de Andrade, Antenor Orrego, Zapata, J.L. Borges, J.M. Arguedas, Sérgio Buarque de Holanda, Caio Prado Júnior, Jean Price-Mars, Jacques Roumain, Aimé Césaire, George Lamming, C.L.R. James, Fanon, Léon Damas, Paulo Freire, Angel Rama, Retamar, Edmundo O’Gorman, Antonio Candido, Darcy Ribeiro, Pablo González Casanova, León-Portilla, R. Kusch, René Zavaleta Mercado, A. Quijano, Rita Segato, Bolívar Echeverría, Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui, Viveiros de Castro). Weekly sessions are conducted in Spanish, and most of the readings are Spanish, French, and Portuguese materials (with a few Anglo-Caribbean sources). Students are provided with English translations if they prefer and are allowed to write their papers in English.

SPAN 919a, Modernismo: Literatura, periodismo, filología Aníbal González-Pérez
A comprehensive study of the first autonomous Spanish American literary movement and its foundational role in modern Spanish American literature. Modernismo’s cosmopolitanism and its relation to the discourses of philology, journalism, and literature are examined through readings of modernista poetry, novels, short stories, essays, and crónicas. Authors include Delmira Agustini, Rubén Darío, Manuel Díaz Rodríguez, Julián del Casal, Enrique Gómez Carrillo, Manuel Gutiérrez Nájera, Julio Herrera y Reissig, Enrique Larreta, Leopoldo Lugones, José Martí, José Enrique Rodó, José Asunción Silva, and José María Vargas Vila. In Spanish.

SPAN 984a, Digital Humanities Practical Workshop Series Alexander Gil Fuentes
Every term, the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and the Humanities Program offers practical workshops in the digital humanities designed for graduate students. Workshops can vary between two-hour individual offerings, to series of two or four workshops on a theme or scholarly toolset. Workshops topics may include text analysis, web scraping and data mining, digital editions and exhibits, dissertation, general academic tech, advanced scholarly (re)search techniques, interactive maps and visualizations for humanistic data, data and project management, privacy and security for scholars, copyright law for digital scholarship, cultural analytics, and more. Workshops and workshop series are also available on demand at the request of four or more graduate students. Yale College students do not earn credit for this course.

SPAN 990a, Digital Humanities Practicum Alexander Gil Fuentes
Project-based learning and teams are at the heart of Digital Humanities (DH) pedagogy. Most projects in DH are produced by teams of scholars with complimentary skills and domain expertise, and we learn best how to produce digital scholarship while we are working on tangible outcomes. This independent course of study is designed to allow graduate students to pursue a research question or sets of questions in the humanities and an appropriate research output for their scholarly project working in teams or independently. During the course of their research and digital production, students or teams are guided and mentored by an instructor and other relevant
professionals at the university. Besides the option for pursuing their own original scholarly project, students may also participate in projects designed by the instructor or other faculty in the Humanities.

SPAN 991a, Tutorial  Staff
By arrangement with faculty.