Portuguese

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Portuguese is taught at Yale as part of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

The major in Portuguese is a liberal arts major intended to develop competence in the Portuguese language and to provide students with a comprehensive knowledge of the literatures and cultures of Portugal, Brazil, and African and Asian lands of Portuguese language or influence.

PREREQUISITE

Students begin the study of Portuguese with PORT 110, 125, or S112. After two years of Portuguese language study, or equivalent, students have sufficient proficiency to take advanced courses in Luso-Brazilian literature and culture.

The prerequisite for the major is PORT 130 or the equivalent.

Placement Procedures

All students who have not yet taken Portuguese at Yale are expected to take the departmental placement test, with the exception of students who have no previous knowledge of Portuguese whatsoever. The departmental placement test covers reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. See the department website for placement test times and details.

Requirements of the Major

The requirements of the Portuguese major consist of ten term courses beyond the prerequisite. Students must take at least five term courses in the literatures or cultures of the Portuguese world. In completing their programs, students may elect up to four courses in other languages and literatures, anthropology, history, or history of art, or from study abroad, that are related to their field of study and approved by the director of undergraduate studies (DUS).

Senior Requirement

All majors must present a senior essay. The essay is written in PORT 491 and/or 492. A maximum of two credits counts toward the major.

Advising

Juniors and seniors majoring in Portuguese may, with the permission of the instructor and the director of graduate studies, enroll in graduate courses in Portuguese.

Summary of Major Requirements

Prerequisite PORT 130 or equivalent

Number of courses 10 term courses beyond prereq (incl senior essay course)

Distribution of courses At least five term courses in literatures or cultures of the Portuguese world
Substitution permitted  With DUS permission, up to 4 relevant courses from other depts or from study abroad

Senior requirement  Senior essay (PORT 491 and/or 492)

Courses

PORT 110a, Elementary Portuguese I  Staff
This course introduces the Portuguese language through a comprehensive exploration of cultural topics from the Lusophone world. Instead of traditional textbooks, students engage with diverse authentic materials to enhance learning. Organized into three content units, students reflect on themes related to urban life, addressing guiding questions such as "Who are you in the city?" and "What Do You See from Your Window?" Through visual arts, music, film, and various literary genres, students explore these topics through paced activities focusing on comprehension, contextualization, reflection, and the creation of new meaning. They discuss and interpret challenging themes such as racism, neoliberalism, and sexism from minority perspectives, starting from the first semester of Portuguese studies. Each unit concludes with a small project, integrating knowledge with other university courses. By the course end, students will have gained an understanding of the language across textual genres focusing on diverse aspects of Portuguese-speaking cultures. Students can also publish their work in our digital magazine, Revista dos Estudantes de Português da Yale. 1½ Course cr

PORT 130a, Intermediate Portuguese I  Staff
This course, a continuation of Portuguese 120, enhances Portuguese language skills by exploring cultural topics of the Lusophone world. It consists of three units: the intersection of iconic and minority-produced art, including street art and Afro-Lusophone cultural production; the impact of fake news in contemporary society; and Indigenous cosmovisions and their role in postponing global crises. In this course, students do not find traditional textbooks. Instead, each unit employs authentic materials across various genres - visual arts, articles, music, poetry, videos, films, plays, and essays - for comprehension, contextualization, reflection, and meaning creation. Through this approach, students not only learn Portuguese as a language but also delve into critical contexts that deepen their understanding of language usage and reveal aspects of their own culture they may not have previously considered. Units culminate in small projects where students, individually and in groups, create diverse media, scripts, and texts. Themes include gender, class, ethnicity, Black feminism, and ecological crises viewed through Indigenous perspectives. By course end, students can grasp diverse cultural aspects in a global context, refining their Portuguese language skills. Students also have the option to publish their work in our digital magazine, Revista dos Estudantes de Português da Yale. 1½ Course cr

PORT 154a / ER&M 154a / FILM 154a / LAST 154a / WGSS 154a, Advanced Studies: Women Filmmakers and Photographers of the Portuguese-Speaking World  Giseli Tordin
Women Filmmakers and Photographers of the Portuguese-Speaking World is a Portuguese advanced course that delves into the language and culture of the Lusophone world through the lens of women filmmakers and photographers. Organized into three interconnected units, namely, "Diasporas and (De)Territorialities", "Memories They Told Me", and "Reframing Other Existences", students explore how these authors
bring forth other perspectives, including those of indigenous people, Afro-Lusophone women, immigrants, and LGBTQIA+ community, among others, challenging societal norms and dominant portrayals. It also explores how their films and photographs reconnect with cultural roots in Africa and Latin America, fragmented by patriarchy, colonialism, and capitalism. By exploring a variety of productions by photographers like Yassmin Forte, Madalena Schwartz, Claudia Andujar, and filmmakers like Anna Muylaert, Carolina Paiva, and Lúcia Murat, among others, students investigate links between identities, memory, and language, enabling them to describe, interpret and make inferences about how cultural environments have been historically constructed and how these artistic productions reshape perceptions of our societies. By the course’s end, students have a deeper understanding of the Portuguese language and diverse cultural aspects within the Lusophone world. Conducted in Portuguese. Portuguese 140 or equivalent. L5, HU

* PORT 352a / CPLT 657a / LITR 256a / PORT 652a, 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. WR, HU TR

* PORT 380a / LITR 221a, Fernando Pessoa
Kenneth David Jackson
Survey of the main facets of Pessoa’s works and consideration of the principal theories and interpretations of his complex literary universe. Reading knowledge of Portuguese is essential, however students may supplement his texts with translations in English, Spanish, French, or Italian. WR, HU