

SPANISH

Spanish is the second most important language in the United States and its use will continue to grow in the years to come. There are over 30 million Spanish-speakers in the U.S. and soon Spanish-speakers will be the largest minority group in the country. Spanish, therefore, provides an extremely useful background for employment in the domestic and international marketplace. Career possibilities are plentiful in the areas of business, law, politics, teaching, and government services, to name a few. The Spanish Department at Lawrence University offers a wide range of language, culture, and literature courses, allowing you to be immersed in Spanish-speaking environments. Study in Spain, Argentina, Chile or Costa Rica. Or spend a weekend with your classmates and teachers at Björklunden, speaking only Spanish and immersed in the culture and food of Spanish-speaking countries.

SPANISH PROGRAMS

Classes at the Department are small, and the opportunities Lawrence affords students to develop their language proficiency are many.

The Spanish Department offers an appealing curriculum that combines a core of classics (e.g. *Don Quijote*, surveys of Spanish and Latin American literature, and writing and speaking intensive courses) with new offerings that are explicitly designed to meet the needs and interests of 21st-century students.

Courses such as Hispanic Issues and Current Events in Spain or in Latin America allow students to approach the Spanish language and culture from multiple viewpoints that cross disciplinary boundaries. To better understand the many nuances and facets of the Hispanic world students at Lawrence go beyond old curricular standards and read fiction, examine historical documents, or study films, to name a few of the options we offer.

Important as they are, courses are not the only way students have to learn and use the language. The Department offers experiential learning opportunities through its Internship and its off-campus study programs. They enable students to encounter the Spanish and Latin American worlds at home and abroad and thus to comprehend more fully their complexities.

The Spanish Major

A total of sixty units (ten courses), not including the basic language sequence, are required for the Spanish major.

At the advanced level, the student selects from courses in both Peninsular and Latin American literature and culture. During the junior and senior years, the student may take tutorials or independent studies on a topic of his/her choosing.

A portfolio of oral and written works is the capstone of the program.

The Spanish Minor

A total of thirty-six units (six courses), not including the basic language sequence, are required for the Spanish minor.

LANGUAGE COURSES

More students enroll in Spanish than any other language at Lawrence in order to complete the General Education language requirement.

Language instruction in Spanish is very fast paced. You will study the equivalent of one-year of high school Spanish in a ten-week period. After four terms of language instruction, you could begin taking language, literature and culture courses taught entirely in Spanish.

DEPARTMENTAL FEATURES

To enhance the teaching of languages, Lawrence established the Humanities Laboratory, funded in part by a major grant to the

university from the Mellon Foundation. Employing computers and sophisticated software, students may improve pronunciation, conversation, grammar and vocabulary skills.

Each year the department sponsors two Spanish assistants, students with native-like Spanish-speaking ability. In addition to providing tutoring, the Spanish assistants organize two weekly Spanish tables as informal opportunities for students to converse in Spanish.

We also offer a film cycle where we feature new and classic films from Spain and Latin America.

Additionally, the library has substantial holding of books, videos, and music in Spanish to supplement your work in class.

The Center for Teaching & Learning offers tutors to help students with their Spanish learning, free of charge.

Björklunden, Lawrence's 425-acre estate located on the shore of Lake Michigan, offers a unique opportunity for the Spanish department. Students spend an entire weekend away from the Lawrence campus with classmates and the Spanish faculty, speaking only Spanish and discussing issues of Spanish culture. This allows for true immersion in the Spanish culture.

INTERDISCIPLINARY AREAS

Interdisciplinary areas are programs that bring together professors and students from various departments to focus on particular questions.

Gender Studies encourages the examination such varied issues as the images of men and women in literature and the arts, the psychology of gender identity, sex roles in the family and in society, from a multi-disciplinary perspective, which includes courses in Spanish.

In International Studies, scholars from anthropology, economics, foreign languages, government, and history work together to study the dynamic relationships among the many different cultures of the world.

Linguistics provides the opportunity to explore the nature of language, examining underlying similarities in all the world's languages, as well as the unique qualities of individual languages.

Students are also able to interact and learn with the Spanish department faculty during the Freshman Studies program.

AFTER LAWRENCE

Lawrence Spanish majors pursue a variety of interests after graduation. Many opt to enter professional schools, especially in law and business, and others enter the job market immediately, often beginning careers that utilize their language skills, such as teaching, and managerial positions.

FACULTY

Gustavo Fares, chair and professor
Universidad de Buenos Aires, J.D.;
University of West Virginia, M.A.;
University of Pittsburgh, Ph.D.
Interests: Contemporary Latin American literature, fine arts, legal and political issues, critical theory.

Jerzy (George) Jura, assistant professor
Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland, M.A. Spanish Philology;
University of Wisconsin- Madison, M.A., Ph.D.
Interests: Modern Spanish literature, mass communication, visual arts.

Rosa Tapia, assistant professor
Universidad de Granada (Spain), B.A.; Penn State University, M.A., Ph.D.
Interests: conflicts of national and cultural identity in the contemporary Spanish novel; Spanish women writers; cultural and gender studies, literary theory.

Patricia Vilches associate professor
University of Illinois at Chicago, B.A.; University of Chicago, M.A., Ph.D.
Interests: Latin American women writers; Italian Renaissance and Spanish Golden Age; subjectivity, gender, literary self-definitions.