SPANISH (SPAN)

Explanation of Course Numbers

- Courses in the 1000s are primarily introductory undergraduate courses.
- Those in the 2000s to 4000s are upper-division undergraduate courses that can also be taken for graduate credit with permission and additional work.
- Those in the 6000s and 8000s are for master’s, doctoral, and professional-level students.
- The 6000s are open to advanced undergraduate students with approval of the instructor and the dean or advising office.

SPAN 1000. Dean’s Seminar. 3 Credits.
The Dean’s Seminars provide Columbian College first-year students focused scholarship on specific intellectual challenges. Topics vary by semester. Consult the Schedule of Classes for more details. Restricted to First-year students in CCAS.

SPAN 1011. Intensive Beginning Spanish: the Spanish-speaking world. 6 Credits.
Development of functional and communicative proficiency in Spanish; listening and speaking skills, reading and writing abilities, and intercultural competence. Prior study of the language is not required. Language Center fee. Restricted to undergraduate students.

SPAN 1012. Intensive Elementary Spanish: the Spanish-speaking world. 6 Credits.
Development of functional and communicative proficiency in Spanish; listening and speaking skills, reading and writing abilities, and intercultural competence. Some study of the language and achievement of the appropriate placement test score are required prior to registration. Language Center fee. Restricted to undergraduate students.

SPAN 1013. Intermediate Spanish I: the Spanish-speaking world. 3 Credits.
Development of intermediate functional and communicative proficiency in Spanish; listening and speaking skills, reading and writing abilities, and intercultural competence. Achievement of the appropriate GW placement test score may replace the prerequisite. Language Center fee. Restricted to undergraduate students. Prerequisites: SPAN 1011 or SPAN 1012.

SPAN 1014. Intermediate Spanish II: the Spanish-speaking world. 3 Credits.
Continuation of SPAN 1013. Development of intermediate functional and communicative proficiency in Spanish; listening and speaking skills, reading and writing abilities, and intercultural competence. Achievement of the appropriate GW placement test score may substitute for the prerequisite. Language Center fee. Restricted to undergraduate students. Prerequisite: SPAN 1013.

SPAN 1034. Intensive Intermediate Spanish. 6 Credits.
Laboratory fee. Prerequisite: SPAN 1012.

SPAN 2005. Advanced Spanish I. 3 Credits.
Development of advanced Spanish proficiency, with a focus on argumentative speaking and writing. Development of cross-cultural competence and analysis of historical, social, and cultural practices and perspectives of Spanish-speaking societies. Laboratory fee. Prerequisite: SPAN 1034.

SPAN 2006. Advanced Spanish II. 3 Credits.
Continuation of SPAN 2005. Development of advanced Spanish proficiency, with a focus on argumentative speaking and writing. Development of cross-cultural competence and analysis of historical, social, and cultural practices and perspectives of Spanish-speaking societies. Prerequisite: SPAN 2005. Laboratory fee.

SPAN 2056. Intensive Advanced Spanish. 6 Credits.
Equivalent to Span 2005–SPAN 2006. Prerequisite: SPAN 1004 or SPAN 1034. Laboratory fee.

SPAN 3005. Experiencing Cuba: Past and Present. 2 Credits.

SPAN 3010W. Advanced Spanish Writing. 3 Credits.
Designed to develop writing skills within the fields of Spanish literature and culture. Students read and discuss literary and media texts while analyzing essential features and themes of Spanish/Hispanic cultures. Cultural and literary topics are used as basis for process-writing assignments (production, correction, revision). Students develop a writing portfolio. Prerequisites: SPAN 2006 or SPAN 2056.

SPAN 3011. Spanish for Development Studies. 6 Credits.
SPAN 3015. Spanish for Heritage Speakers. 3 Credits.
SPAN 3021. Advanced Spanish for Oral Communication–Latin America. 3 Credits.
For students enrolled in programs in Latin America. Prerequisite: SPAN 2006 or SPAN 2056.

SPAN 3022. Advanced Oral Proficiency: Environmental and Social Sustainability in Latin America. 3 Credits.
Development of advanced Spanish oral proficiency, critical content knowledge, terminology and concepts through content-based course work in the areas of environmental and social sustainability in Latin America. Critical evaluation of key environmental and social aspects of sustainability as related to Spanish-speaking countries. Focus on understanding and interpretation of language- and discipline-specific written and oral materials such as film and documentary, news, academic, literary and public media texts. Prerequisite: SPAN 2006 or above, or appropriate GWU placement score.
SPAN 3035. Spanish Language and Culture: Advanced. 3 Credits.

SPAN 3040. Advanced Spanish Service Learning. 3 Credits.
Advanced oral and written work through community engagement, with consideration of social change and reflection on civic engagement, leadership, and service. Students work on local community service projects. Laboratory fee. Prerequisites: SPAN 2006 or SPAN 2056.

SPAN 3100. Readings in Spanish and Latin American Literature. 3 Credits.
Readings, textual analysis, and writing on a broad selection of texts from different genres and periods. Spanish and Latin American literatures in their cultural contexts. Introduction to methods of literary analysis and criticism. Prerequisite: SPAN 2006 or SPAN 2056.

SPAN 3200. Bilingualism in the Spanish-Speaking World. 3 Credits.
Social, cultural and political contexts in which bilingualism in Spain and Latin America occurs. Language attitudes and policies regarding bilingualism and their role in the development of cultural identities and ideologies. Appropriate GW Spanish placement score may be substituted for prerequisites. Taught in Spanish. Restricted to undergraduate students. Prerequisites: SPAN 3010W, or SPAN 3022 or SPA 3100.

SPAN 3400. Theatre of Spain and Latin America. 3 Credits.
Theatrical representation: presence and performance, body, voice, dialogue, and the unfolding of conflict. Theatrical traditions and movements may include Golden Age drama; neo-Classical and Romantic drama of the nineteenth century; drama of political protest; existentialist drama and the theater of the avant-gardes. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.

SPAN 3410. Latin American Short Fiction. 3 Credits.
Short prose narratives as agents of questioning textual meaning and subverting former literary traditions. Writers may include Arenas, Borges, Cortázar, Fuentes, García Márquez, Quiroga, Peri Rossi, Ana Lydia Vega, Zapata Olivella. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.

SPAN 3420. The Essayist Tradition in Latin America. 3 Credits.
Relations between state and nation in post-independence literary and political polemics of nineteenth-century Latin America. Topics may include the essay as a new genre for a new age; the figure of the public intellectual vis-à-vis the processes of state and nation formation; the post-colonial state and its imagined national, ethnic, racial, and economic communities. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.

SPAN 3430. Afro-Latin America in the Diaspora. 3 Credits.
Major issues related to the diaspora of people of African descent in Latin America: racial-ethnic identity and nation, the myth of racial democracy, ties with “the motherland,” ties with other diaspora communities, emigration, the role of the arts in these questions. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.

SPAN 3440. Caribbean Literature and Culture. 3 Credits.
Literary and cultural trends emanating from the Spanish-speaking Caribbean, focusing on Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico, with some attention to the circum-Caribbean regions of Central and South America. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.

SPAN 3500. Medieval Iberia in the Modern World. 3 Credits.
The presence of the Middle Ages in the modern world through study of texts and other cultural products. Topics may include multilingualism, contact and conflict between the three faiths of medieval Spain, creation of heroes, women, and sex. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.

SPAN 3510. Heresy and the Other in Early Modern Iberia. 3 Credits.
The early modern period in Spain through the Inquisition and other related institutions as well as through artistic production. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.

SPAN 3520. Latin American Colonial Literature. 3 Credits.
Analysis of chronicles, essays, memoirs, epistolary exchanges, and poetry contextualized vis-à-vis the medieval and Renaissance values of Imperial Spain. Authors may include Cabeza de Vaca, Bartolomé de las Casas, Colón, Cortés, Díaz del Castillo, El Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Rodríguez Freile, Sepúlveda. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.

SPAN 3530. Enlightenment Spain. 3 Credits.
Analysis of chronicles, essays, memoirs, epistolary exchanges, and poetry contextualized vis-à-vis the medieval and Renaissance values of Imperial Spain. Authors may include Cabeza de Vaca, Bartolomé de las Casas, Colón, Cortés, Díaz del Castillo, El Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Rodríguez Freile, Sepúlveda. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.

SPAN 3540. Major Authors of Spain and Latin America. 3 Credits.
Close readings of the work of a major author and application of related critical and theoretical material. Authors may include J.L. Borges, G. García Marquez, Clarice Lispetor, M.L. Bombal, Juan Goytisolo, Juan Rulfo, Alejo Carpentier, Mañuel Puig. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.

SPAN 3550. Queer Latin America. 3 Credits.
Examination of queerness in Latin American as both theory and practice; how sexual and gender practices inform Latin American cultural production. Readings may include José Donoso, Manuel Puig, Pedro Lemebel, Sylvia Molloy, Gabriela Cabezón Cámara. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.

SPAN 3570. Women Writers of Spain and Latin America. 3 Credits.
Works of well-established and more recent women writers in Spain and Latin America discussed in relation to feminist principles of criticism. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.

SPAN 3600. Special Topics. 3 Credits.
May be repeated for credit provided the topic differs. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.
SPAN 3650. Literature and Dictatorship. 3 Credits.  
Study of the dynamic relationship between literature and politics during periods of intense social repression and censorship in Spain and/or Latin America. Issues raised in and by literature when discourse is controlled, censored, and repressed by military dictatorships. The role of culture in understanding traumatic historical events. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.

SPAN 3700. Cinema of Spain and Latin America. 3 Credits.  
Film as a language of cultural and historical testimony in Spanish America and Spain. Topics may include the Silent Era, Surrealism, the Mexican Golden Age of the ’40s, the New Cinema of the ’50s, Peronist cinema in Argentina, socialist film in Cuba, and postmodern production. May be repeated for credit. Laboratory fee. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.

SPAN 4200. Spanish Applied Linguistics. 3 Credits.  
Principles and aspects of the Spanish language, as well as relevant notions of second language acquisition, technology, and assessment as applied to Spanish language teaching and learning. Taught in Spanish. Prerequisite: students in the combined BA in Spanish/MEd in the field of secondary education program.

SPAN 4410. Contemporary Narrative in Latin America. 3 Credits.  
Experimental fiction in Latin America, with focus on literature of the mid-1960s through the present. Authors may include Alejo Carpentier, Julio Cortázar, Diomela Eltit, Carlos Fuentes, Cabrera Infante, Lezama Lima, García Márquez, Octavio Paz, Ricardo Piglia, Elena Poniatowska, Mario Vargas Llosa. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.

SPAN 4450. Mexican Literature and Culture. 3 Credits.  
Study and analysis of Mexico’s most significant intellectual, historical, and cultural events from the Spanish Conquest of the Aztec Empire to the present. Topics include the Spanish appropriation of the Aztec Empire, literature and cultural phenomena during the colonial period, the age of independence, the Mexican revolution, and contemporary Mexico. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.

SPAN 4460. Southern Cone Literature and Culture. 3 Credits.  
Study and analysis of some of the most significant writers, ideas, texts, and films of Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay. Issues of tradition, identity, representation, modernity, gender and sexuality, and literature and politics as seen in historical context. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.

SPAN 4480. Studies in Latinx Cultural Production. 3 Credits.  
The cultural production of Latina/o (“Latinx”) communities in the United States from the comparative perspective of Latin America and Spain. How a variety of linguistic, social, political, and intellectual experiences are reflected in the literary and cultural production of Latinx communities. The notion of Latinx and its application as an analytical framework. Taught in Spanish. Prerequisites: SPAN 3100 or equivalent with permission of the instructor. Recommended background: ENGL 3920 or AMST 2750W.

SPAN 4510. Cervantes Don Quixote. 3 Credits.  
Issues raised in the text of Don Quijote: literature and life, words and deed, the fashioning of self, the structures of narrative, the limits and possibilities of representation, and the relation between appearance and reality, knowledge and understanding, fiction and truth. Cervantes’ “invention” of the novel. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.

SPAN 4520. Topics in the Avant-garde. 3 Credits.  
Study of the literary and artistic avant-gardes of Spain and Latin America in relation to the dialectic of enlightenment. Consideration of the avant-gardes as successful interpretations of modernity and as movements that anticipate, and in some instances instigate, the “post-modern” end of modernity. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.

SPAN 4540. The Myth of the Two Spains. 3 Credits.  
Literature as an expression of the institutionalization of liberalism in nineteenth-century Spain and official and popular resistance to this modernizing credo. Topics may include the romanticism of Quintana, Espronceda, Blanco-White and Becquer; the costumbrismo of Castro and Larra; the realism of Galdós; and the naturalism of Pardo Bazán and Clarín. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.

SPAN 4550. 1898-1998: Spain’s First Century without Empire. 3 Credits.  
Spain’s imperial crisis and its persistence throughout the 20th century as a central theme in Spanish literary and intellectual culture. Topics may include decadence and regeneration; modern Spanish nationalism and cultural imperialism; Hispanicism and pan-nationalism; the Spanish Civil War, fascism, and liberalism; and the transition from fascism to democracy. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.

SPAN 4560. Modern Poetry of Spain and Latin America. 3 Credits.  
Poetry after modernism; forms and themes that characterize the work of authors such as Agustíní, Guillén, Huidobro, Lezama, Mistral, Neruda, and Páles. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.

SPAN 4600. Special Topics. 3 Credits.  
May be repeated for credit provided the topic differs.
SPAN 4650. Literary Translation. 3 Credits.
Combination literary translation workshop and seminar on
translation theory. Study of the main issues of literary translation
between Spanish and English, in both directions, as seen in
different writers and genres. Translation of writings on cultural,
philosophic, and political issues. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.

SPAN 4700. Film as Text in Latin America. 3 Credits.
The basic points of filmic analysis as related to Latin American
cinema. Issues of film as a genre in its own right, the particular
language of cinema, relationships between written text
and film, and other interdisciplinary aspects of narrative.
Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.

SPAN 4800. Independent Study. 1-4 Credits.
Admission by permission of department chair and instructor.
May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.

SPAN 4910W. Proseminar I. 3 Credits.
Required of all majors; preparation for the major field
examination. Literature in relation to the other arts and the
social sciences. Textual analysis, literary criticism, theory, and
methods. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.

SPAN 4920W. Proseminar II. 3 Credits.
Continuation of SPAN 4910. Required of all majors; preparation
for the major field examination. Literature in relation to the
other arts and the social sciences. The concepts of literary
history and the history of Spanish and Latin American literature;
periods, authors, genres, topics. Prerequisite: SPAN 3100.