

Spanish & Portuguese Graduate Course Descriptions

Spring 2024

SPANISH

Spanish 630:

Theorizing and Measuring
Language

Prof. Catherine Stafford

MWF 1:20 pm – 2:10 pm

It seems a fairly simple (even simplistic) question to ask, “What is language?” However, linguists, applied linguists and scholars in allied fields answer this question in multiplex and at times incompatible ways. The diversity of ways in which scholars theorize language explains in part the dizzying array of methods by which language is measured for research purposes. In this course, we will examine some of the ways that language and related constructs (e.g., processing, proficiency, identity) are theorized for linguistic and applied linguistic research, and how theory informs the design of instruments that are used to measure language for empirical research. Additionally, we will become familiar with open access resources for measuring language and students will have the opportunity to gather language data related to their own interests by either designing and piloting their own measures or using publicly available measures such as questionnaires, surveys and various types of language tasks and tests.

Spanish 771:

Writing for the Profession

**Prof. Guillermina De
Ferrari**

T 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

This course seeks to facilitate effective academic writing and enhance productivity among ABD students in Spanish and Portuguese literature and linguistics. The course is designed to demystify the writing process; encourage ways to enhance quality and productivity; familiarize students with key academic genres; and model critiquing and editing in a community of peers.

We will explore in detail three main professional genres: article publication, grant proposals, and job application materials. We will also review best practices for conference presentations, and effective dissertation argumentation and structure.

Assignments are kept to a minimum and should follow the student’s individual needs. The class will include short practical readings, a peer-review exercise, and a dissertation workshop in which a student presents their work and receives targeted feedback. Students will work on their choice project, usually a dissertation chapter, or a series of smaller projects throughout the semester, such as expanding a term paper for publication or a dissertation proposal.

	<p>Students will discuss their work orally and will be invited to submit a section of their work for peer-review with another student. Please note that this course does NOT replicate, or otherwise interfere with, the student-advisor relationship.</p> <p>This course will be graded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory scheme. A grade of Satisfactory will be granted to all students who read and discuss about 75% of a selection of relevant texts, attend most classes, and engage in discussion and workshops in a responsible manner. After that, it is up to each student to make the best use of this class.</p> <p>*Please note: this course is open to ABD students only.</p>
<p>Spanish 802: Spectating the Real in Latinx American Theatre/Performance Prof. Paola Hernández W 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm</p>	<p>As Augusto Boal has stated, the theatre can be a political tool to encourage the “spect-actor” to be part of a movement or an experience. This course will study the impact of political theatrical and performance works of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries in different countries in Latin America as well as Latinx in the U.S. We will focus on a variety of manifestations of how theatre and performance propel types of cultural and political activism, engage and stimulate the audience, and encourage us to think of the “process” of creation, movement, and involvement. Different theoretical frameworks (political theatre, scenarios, performance constellations, theater of the real, postdramatic theatre, participatory performance) will allow us to focus on both traditional political theater and digital networks of protest (the theatre of the oppressed, teatro campesino, teatro abierto, teatroxlaidentidad, #YoSoy132, NiUnaMenos, NiUnaMas, Lastesis, Expresión Mole). We will also explore how theatre, performance and visual artists respond to repressive governments as well as identity and gender politics in symbolic ways, as seen in the work of Griselda Gambaro, Federico León, Lola Arias, Mariano Pensotti, Guillermo Calderón, Manuela Infante, Mariana de Althaus, Regina José Galindo, Mauricio Kartun, Violeta Luna, Teatro Línea de Sombra, Lagartijas tiradas al sol, Guillermo Gómez Peña, and Xandra Ibarra.</p>

PORTUGUESE

Portuguese 450

Brazilian Women Writers

Prof. Kathryn Sanchez

TR 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

This course aims to introduce students to selected works by contemporary Brazilian women writers and film directors with an emphasis on the complex web interconnecting representations of nationality, race, class, ethnicity, gender, and sexualities. Readings will include a variety of different forms of writing such as poetry, short stories, novels, chronicle, and journalistic texts in constant dialog with popular and contemporary film constructions of Brazil and its people. A significant part of the course will be dedicated to the fascinating existentialist and experimental work of Clarice Lispector.

The class discussions will center on fantasies/quests of female subjecthood, women's rights, engendered violence, race and racial discrimination, women and disabilities, women in the context of slavery and feminist activism, in specific historical contexts and vis-à-vis pervasive national myths of racial democracy and pluralistic expressions of identities.

In addition to the primary texts and films discussed in class, students will have access to secondary sources in criticism, history, and theory to help frame class discussions. Course conducted in English. Portuguese majors and graduate students are required to do all readings of primary materials and all written work in Portuguese.

No prior knowledge of Brazil is needed, and background information will be provided throughout the course to give students the tools necessary for understanding Brazil and the representation of women through these chosen texts and films. All materials available through Canvas. Undergraduate students have options for their final papers including creative projects.

Portuguese 460

Carmen Miranda: An Icon of Tropical Otherness

Prof. Kathryn Sanchez

TR 9:30 am – 10:45 am

This course examines the work, representation, and interpretation of the Brazilian actress and singer Carmen Miranda as a starting point to discuss media and popular culture from the late 1930s through to the present day in Brazil and the United States. It aims to use the Brazilian icon, actress and entertainer to discuss broader issues such as the gendered spectacle, representations of race and ethnicity, women in popular culture, censorship and parody, and the dialects

	<p>of <i>camp</i>. In particular, we will examine the creation of the Carmen Miranda stylized Bahiana and the creation of the tutti-frutti hat signature look; her reception and political function in the United States during the Good Neighborhood Policy; the visual portrayal of Miranda in fan magazines, publicity and commercials in comparison to other female stars of the period; the Hollywood tropicalization of women; the promotion of stars as commodities; female fandom and spectatorship; the US appropriation of Miranda as an immediate camp icon; the Carmen Miranda drag phenomenon in the carnivalesque tradition; and Carmen Miranda imitations on Broadway, in film, and in cartoons. Other topics include Brazilian music and film of the late 1920s and 1930s, the Brazilian Tropicalia movement of the 1970s, the representation of Brazil in the United States, and the Hollywood interpretation of Brazilianness from the 1940s and to this day.</p> <p>Theoretically, our inquiry will draw from feminist film criticism, camp theory, otherness and identity representation, gender and ethnic studies, theory of reception, and readings in popular culture, stardom and fandom.</p>
<p>Portuguese 467 Portuguese Literature Prof. Ellen Sapega MWF 2:25 pm – 3:15 pm</p>	<p>Portuguese 467 is an advanced survey course taught in Portuguese that is designed to place major works in the context of Portuguese literary and intellectual history since around 1825. Authors are studied in terms of their individual literary achievement and contribution to a particular genre and/or movement. Format is lecture (including close reading of the more important passages) and discussion. The course focuses on Romanticism, Realism, Modernism, Neo-Realism, and a selection of writers working after 1950. Requirements include weekly written exercises, participation in class discussions, an oral presentation (on an assigned poem by Fernando Pessoa). All undergraduate students will write three short papers (4-6 pages). Graduate students are expected to complete two short papers and a longer, 8–10-page final paper that analyzes a work not covered in class. This paper will consist of textual commentary that also discusses the historical and social context in which the work appeared.</p>

	<p>This advanced class counts toward the 50% graduate coursework requirement in the Humanities. It fulfills the general education breadth requirement for literature and counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S. Offered for 3 credits, this class will meet for 50 minutes three times per week.</p>
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