

Spanish & Portuguese Graduate Course Descriptions

Fall 2024

SPANISH

Spanish 630:

Heritage Spanish Phonetics and Phonology

Prof. Rajiv Rao

TR 9:30 am – 10:45 am

Heritage speakers are those who are exposed to a minority language at home as children but tend to be dominant in the majority language as adults, while exhibiting a large degree of variation in maintenance of various aspects of their heritage language. While Spanish is the heritage language that has received the most attention to date due to the massive population of heritage speakers of Spanish in the US, the heritage Spanish sound system remains relatively understudied, primarily because until about a decade ago, researchers assumed that heritage speakers typically have "good phonology" or a "native accent." Within the last decade, we have seen an uptick in segmental (vowels, consonants) and suprasegmental (intonation, stress, rhythm) work on heritage Spanish, some of which has been couched in key theoretical models of speech learning, and it is precisely these bodies of work that will serve as the focus of this course. While focusing on linguistic and extralinguistic variables that contribute to the so-called "heritage accent," we will also scrutinize differences between heritage speakers, adult immigrant bilinguals, and traditional L2 learners, as well as experimental methods in heritage language research, all while simultaneously raising key questions that will pave the path for future research in this area. The culmination of these efforts will be a final empirical research project or a project proposal.

Spanish 770:

Introduction to the Profession

Will Morgan

W 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Introduction to Spanish teaching methodology: classroom procedures, lesson planning, preparation and evaluation of testing devices, current trends in language teaching, audiovisual aids, etc. Other aspects of working in academia are incorporated as well, such as research (intertwining it with teaching, abstracts, conferences, publishing, etc.) and professionalization (building a CV, the job market, cover letters, research statements, teaching philosophies, etc.), both of which are guided by the instructor and visitors from the Department of Spanish & Portuguese.

Spanish 802:

Cuban Undercurrents

Prof. Guillermina De Ferrari

T 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Cuba is a protagonist in the grand historical and political gestures of the twentieth century. Against this backdrop, Cuban Undercurrents explores the question: what does a poetics of minor gestures say and do? We will study fiction, non-fiction, installations, art, photography, and visual culture produced in Cuba in the last 30+ years. We will explore

	through narrative and artistic representations and processes the minor gesture—private, practical, and symbolic small acts in literature and art—and study how it revises the meaning of Revolutionary Cuba in the political imaginary, both local and international.
Spanish 851: <i>Don Quixote</i> Prof. Steven Hutchinson R 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	As is well known, apart from the Bible no work of literature in the world has been more translated, published or written about than <i>Don Quixote</i>, and it is widely regarded as the first modern novel. It needs no introduction. Dostoevsky said this about it: There is nothing in the world more profound or powerful than this work. This is the ultimate and greatest word that human thought has yet produced, it is the bitter irony expressible by man, and if the world were to end and someone were to ask there, somewhere, ‘Well, did you understand your life on earth? What conclusions did you reach about it?’ one could silently point to <i>Don Quixote</i>. In this seminar we will read the novel in depth, respond to its humor and vitality, open it up to critical discussion, turn it into a space of interpretative freedom, examine its historical context, consider its universality and ‘humanity’, reflect on the major themes and questions it poses, identify how it incorporates and transforms literature and life, explore how it continually renews itself and speaks to contemporary concerns, inspiring writers and other artists, and so on.
PORTUGUESE	
Portuguese 640 Literature of Slavery in the Portuguese Atlantic Prof. Kathryn Sanchez MW 2:30 pm – 3:45 pm	This course offers an in-depth look at the literature of slavery and freedom within the Portuguese-speaking Transatlantic world. Students will read examples from the rich literary representations of slavery in Portuguese, exploring how novels and other fictional and auto-biographical texts have depicted the experiences of enslaved individuals, slave traders, plantation owners, and abolitionists. Through close readings and critical analysis, students will examine how these narratives reflect broader historical, social, and cultural contexts while also shaping contemporary understandings of slavery and its legacies. Key themes and topics include: 1) literary representations of the slave trade and neo-slave narratives from various perspectives (enslaved individuals, slave traders, abolitionists); 2) plantation life and labor (fictional portrayal of plantation life, labor conditions, power dynamics among enslaved communities and their enslavers); 3) resistance and rebellion (quilombos past and present, portrayal of agency, escape, an autonomy); 4) gender and sexuality (intersection of slavery, gender, and sexuality,

	experiences of enslaved women); 5) memory and trauma (collective memory, enduring legacies of slavery, and intergenerational trauma in the Portuguese Afro-diasporic communities); 6) cultural hybridity and identity (cultural exchange and identity formation); 7) postcolonial perspectives (postcolonial critiques and theories, questions of authorship, auto-fiction, authenticity, and the politics of representation). Primary readings will include works or excerpts by: Lima Barreto, Castro Alves, Bernardo Guimarães, Maria Firmina dos Reis, José Evaristo de Almeida, F. C. Duarte Badaró, Francisco Gomes de Amorim, Marcelo D’Salete, Itamar Vieira Júnior, João José Reis, Ana Maria Gonçalves, Pepetela, José Eduardo Agualusa, Paulina Chiziane. Theoretical readings will include works by: Abdias Nascimento, Beatriz Nascimento, Bryce Henson, Matthew Francis Rarey, Fernando Arenas, Dorothée Boulanger, Hilary Owen, Ana Lucia Araujo, Lamonte Aidoo, Stuart Hall, Achille Mbembe, Fred Moten. Reading knowledge of Portuguese required. Please contact ksanchez2@wisc.edu for full list of readings after April 1.
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