

To: Banu Subramanian, Chair CHFA Curriculum Committee
From: Luis A. Marentes, Chair Undergraduate Studies Committee, Spanish and Portuguese (LLC)
RE: Minor Change in Spanish Major and Minor Requirements
Date: October 5, 2011

After careful consideration of its major and minor, the Spanish Program of the department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures proposes minor changes in both its major and minor. The changes are the following (see attached copy of current and revised major):

- The change to the major consist of substituting the requirement of Span 319 (Introduction to Literary Analysis) with Span 312 (Oral and Written Expression)
- The change to the minor consists on substituting requirement 2 that currently allows students to choose between Span 301 (Conversation), Span 312 (Composition) and 378 (Phonetics), with a single requirement of Span 312
- The change will require approval of a revised version of Span 312

Justification: The proposed changes respond to two problems we have identified with our major and minor.

- Regarding the major: In its current configuration our majors pass directly from Span 311 (Advanced Grammar) to more advanced classes which require writing skills, without having to take classes which hone their oral and written expression. They are free to take our current Span 312 (Composition) or Span 301 (Conversation) without them counting for the major. We believe that this has created problems in many students. Requiring them to work on these skills prior to taking more advanced classes should address this lack.
- Regarding the minor: Students currently have a choice among three classes (Conversation, Composition or Phonetics). Rather than giving them this choice (and having to regularly offer the three alternatives) we believe that having them share a class on oral and written expression with the majors will help us make sure that all of our students are on the same page. Furthermore, as our major and minor currently stands, fulfilling this second requirement of the minor does not necessarily fulfill a major requirement (unless students choose phonetics and thus miss, like our current majors, a class on oral or written expression).

We believe this change will also have a positive impact on our staffing. In order to accommodate all our majors and minors we currently offer 4 sections of Spanish Conversation (301 – a current requirement for minors), 1 section of Spanish Composition (312 - a current requirement for minors), and 2 sections of Introduction to Literary Analysis (319 – a current requirement for the majors). With the streamlining of the requirements we will not need to offer 319 on a regular basis or with so many sections (it will become an elective that does not need to be offered regularly), we will also be able to reduce our offering of 301 to two sections per semester (aimed at students who are not necessarily majors or minors, but who want to improve their conversation skills). The revamped Span 312 we propose will be taught in a lecture format (80 students), with four discussion sections. The professor in charge of the class will lead one of the discussion sections.

Current Spanish Major and Minor

Requirements for the Spanish Major

(36 CREDITS) A minimum of fifteen units counted toward the major must be earned in courses taught at the University or in programs abroad sponsored by the University, and a grade of C or better must be earned in every course.

I. Pre-Major Preparation (9 credits)

SPAN 311 Advanced Grammar (SPAN 354 recommended for Native Speakers)

SPAN 319 Introduction to Literary Analysis

SPAN 378 Spanish Phonetics

The adviser may waive some of the above requirements, but every student has to take 36 credits in order to receive the Major in Spanish.

II. Major Core (12 credits)

1. Choose two of the following courses:

SPAN 320 Literature of Spain I (to the 17th century)

SPAN 321 Literature of Spain II (18th to 20th century)

SPAN 322 Spanish American Literature I (to the 19th century)

SPAN 323 Spanish American Literature II (20th century)

2. Choose one of the following courses:

SPAN 415 Culture and Civilization of Spain

SPAN 417 Culture and Civilization of Spanish America

(Students who take 415 to fulfill the culture requirement can take 417 as an upper-level requirement, and vice versa.)

3. Take:

SPAN 470 General View of Hispanic Linguistics

III. Upper-Level Courses (12 credits)

To complete the major in Spanish, students are required to take four upper-level courses, chosen with the advisor's approval. Two of these courses must be Spanish classes at the 400 level or above. The other two may be Spanish courses with a level above Spanish 323 or courses in areas related to the major (History, Anthropology, Art, etc.) at the 300 level or above. All upper-level courses must be chosen with the advisor's approval.

IV. Junior Writing requirement (3 credits) Primary majors only. Secondary majors take Junior Writing in their primary major.

[CURRENT] Requirements for the Spanish Minor

(15 CREDITS) At least 6 of the 15 credits must be taken within the program, and a grade of C or better must be earned in every course.

I. Pre-Minor Preparation (6 credits)

1. SPAN 311 Advanced Grammar. (SPAN 354 recommended for Native Speakers)

2. Choose one from the following courses:

SPAN 301 Conversation I

SPAN 312 Composition

SPAN 378 Phonetics

The adviser may waive some of the above requirements, but every student has to take 15 credits in order to receive the Minor in Spanish.

II. Minor Core (6 credits)

Choose two from the following courses:

SPAN 320 Literature of Spain I (to the 17th century)

SPAN 321 Literature of Spain II (18th to 20th century)

SPAN 322 Spanish American Literature I (to the 19th century)

SPAN 323 Spanish American Literature II (20th century)

III. Upper-Level Course (3 credits)

One upper-level elective numbered 400 or above, taught in Spanish, and chosen with the adviser's approval.

Important Note: During their final semester at the University, students **MUST** present an unofficial transcript to their advisers, in order to have their Spanish Minor declaration form signed. Only when this form is signed and received by the Records Office will students receive their Minor in Spanish.

Proposed New Spanish Major and Minor

Requirements for the Spanish Major

(36 CREDITS) A minimum of fifteen units counted toward the major must be earned in courses taught at the University or in programs abroad sponsored by the University, and a grade of C or better must be earned in every course.

I. Pre-Major Preparation (9 credits)

SPAN 311 Advanced Grammar (SPAN 354 recommended for Native Speakers)

SPAN 312 Oral and Written Expression

SPAN 378 Spanish Phonetics

The adviser may waive some of the above requirements, but every student has to take 36 credits in order to receive the Major in Spanish.

II. Major Core (12 credits)

1. Choose two of the following courses:

SPAN 320 Literature of Spain I (to the 17th century)

SPAN 321 Literature of Spain II (18th to 20th century)

SPAN 322 Spanish American Literature I (to the 19th century)

SPAN 323 Spanish American Literature II (20th century)

2. Choose one of the following courses:

SPAN 415 Culture and Civilization of Spain

SPAN 417 Culture and Civilization of Spanish America

(Students who take 415 to fulfill the culture requirement can take 417 as an upper-level requirement, and vice versa.)

3. Take:

SPAN 470 General View of Hispanic Linguistics

III. Upper-Level Courses (12 credits)

To complete the major in Spanish, students are required to take four upper-level courses, chosen with the advisor's approval. Two of these courses must be Spanish classes at the 400 level or above. The other two may be Spanish courses with a level above Spanish 323 or courses in areas related to the major (History, Anthropology, Art, etc.) at the 300 level or above. All upper-level courses must be chosen with the advisor's approval.

IV. Junior Writing requirement (3 credits) Primary majors only. Secondary majors take Junior Writing in their primary major.

[PROPOSED] Requirements for the Spanish Minor

(15 CREDITS) At least 6 of the 15 credits must be taken within the program, and a grade of C or better must be earned in every course.

I. Pre-Minor Preparation (6 credits)

1. SPAN 311 Advanced Grammar. (SPAN 354 recommended for Native Speakers)
2. **SPAN 312 Oral and Written Expression**

The adviser may waive some of the above requirements, but every student has to take 15 credits in order to receive the Minor in Spanish.

II. Minor Core (6 credits)

Choose two from the following courses:

- SPAN 320 Literature of Spain I (to the 17th century)
- SPAN 321 Literature of Spain II (18th to 20th century)
- SPAN 322 Spanish American Literature I (to the 19th century)
- SPAN 323 Spanish American Literature II (20th century)

III. Upper-Level Course (3 credits)

One upper-level elective numbered 400 or above, taught in Spanish, and chosen with the adviser's approval.

Important Note: During their final semester at the University, students **MUST** present an unofficial transcript to their advisers, in order to have their Spanish Minor declaration form signed. Only when this form is signed and received by the Records Office will students receive their Minor in Spanish.