LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures

Handbook

for the M.A. in Hispanic Studies

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OVERVIEW

Graduate study in Spanish has a long tradition at LSU. The M.A. in Hispanic Studies at LSU is an enhanced and redesigned interdisciplinary program that offers three different concentration areas of study: **1) Hispanic Linguistics, 2) Hispanic Literature,** and **3) Hispanic Cultural Studies**. Each one of these areas is offered with both the thesis and the non-thesis options.

Each one of the three concentration areas is strategically structured to help guide the student in selecting his/her courses and designing his/her curriculum/research agenda. This new format is intended to facilitate defining the parameters for the development of the study lists for the comprehensive exam option as well as research skills and methodology for the thesis-option.

The program is supported by a faculty unit that is strong in interdisciplinary approaches to the study of language, literature, and culture. Affiliated faculty members from other departments complement the program with their expertise related to Hispanic issues in anthropology, geography, history, political science, and international studies.

PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

- To guide students towards the acquisition of fundamental knowledge and skills in Hispanic studies (language, literature, linguistics, civilization, and cultural studies)
- To guide students towards a thorough understanding of the literatures and cultures of Spain and Latin America and in Hispanic Linguistics, and to oversee their specialization in one of the three areas of concentration of Hispanic studies
- To provide students with appropriate tools to work in fields for which demand for knowledge of Spanish and Hispanic culture is constantly increasing, such as diplomacy and international relations, interpretation/translation (for legal, advertising and other purposes), media and textbook editing/publishing, library science, community outreach, etc.
- To provide students with pedagogical tools/teaching experience to teach in secondary schools/community or junior colleges/universities (note: certification from the State is necessary to teach in public schools)
- To prepare students to utilize their skills in Spanish in such other fields that he/she may elect

PART I: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

COURSE WORK

All students in the program must complete a minimum of 36 credit-hours. Please note: **"Satisfaction of the minimum requirements of the Graduate School, as stipulated in [the] catalog, does not relieve graduate students of the responsibility for satisfying any additional requirements deemed appropriate by the graduate faculty of the degree programs in which they are enrolled."** (p. 67)

Students in each concentration must take 6 credit hours in each of the other two concentrations, i.e. each option requires a total of 12 credit hours in the non-concentration areas.

Introductory courses mandatory for each concentration should be taken during the first year of study.
SPAN 4400 (Introduction to Hispanic Cultural Studies) All students must take this course.
SPAN 4603 (Applied Spanish Linguistics) All teaching students must take this course.
SPAN 7990 (Research Methods and Hispanic Criticism) This is a mandatory course for the concentrations on literature and culture studies.
SPAN 7985 (Research Methods in Hispanic Linguistics) This is a mandatory course for the concentration on linguistics.

SPAN 8000-level thesis research hours: There is no specific limit on the number of thesis research hours that a student can take. However, only **6** thesis research hours of credit count towards the master's degree. **Students cannot substitute thesis research hours for course work.**

Thesis option: Students pursuing the thesis option must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours in **course work** and 6 credit hours in thesis research. The thesis prospectus must be completed and filed with the graduate advisor before students may take thesis hours. **At least 18 credit hours of course work must be at the 7000-level.**

Non-thesis option: Students pursuing the non-thesis (or comprehensive exam) option must complete a minimum of 36 credit hours in **course work**: **at least 21 credit hours of course work must be at the 7000-level.**

Balanced course offerings should be maintained every semester in the three concentration areas of the program. This should be monitored closely by the Director of the program as well as by the Graduate Advisor. Of the three courses taken each semester at least two should be Spanish courses offered by the Department of Foreign Languages. Over the course of the program students may take a maximum of two courses outside the Spanish section (non-SPAN rubric); that is, courses previously approved by the Spanish professorial rank faculty that are included in the M.A. in Hispanic Studies course list (see pp. 8-11 of this handbook) and that are offered only by affiliated Hispanic Studies Faculty. Only courses that fit these criteria will count for credit toward the M.A. in Hispanic Studies.

THE M.A. EXAMINATION

Non-thesis Option

A written comprehensive examination is administered in the last semester of course work, which is normally the fourth semester for a full-time student. It will focus on the concentration area and it will be prepared by the three-member advisory committee [see page 5]. Each member will prepare questions that will be answered at a particular time and place designated by the professor or turned in at a time and place specified for that purpose. **The student will have 8 hours to complete the exam: the concentration area will constitute the basis for two thirds of the exam**. The remaining portion of the exam will be devoted to the two other areas. At the discretion of the committee, an oral examination may be scheduled for discussion of the answers to the written examination. If the student does not pass the examination the committee may vote to allow the student to retake the examination one time.

Thesis Option

The final examination for the thesis option is an oral defense of the thesis and must be scheduled by the major professor along with the graduate student. If the student does not pass the examination the committee may vote to allow the student one more opportunity to present the defense.

ADVISING

Each student will meet with the Graduate Advisor during the registration period to go over the *plan of study form* or *graduate student record* [see page 10] to make sure that courses that are to be taken are the appropriate ones for their concentration area. This form will be signed by both the graduate student and the Graduate Advisor after each meeting and a copy of it will be provided to the student.

By the **middle of the second semester** the student should decide upon a concentration and select a **major professor**. The **major professor** assists the student in identifying two other professors to serve on the advisory committee by **no later than the beginning of the third semester**. **At least one member of the advisory committee must be a professor of Spanish**. **Two professors must be from the student's area of concentration, and a third one from one of the two other areas**. The **advisory committee** guides the student as to whether to pursue the thesis or non-thesis option. Once this decision has been made, the committee composition may change to accommodate the thesis topic. The student must inform the Graduate Advisor of the selection of a major professor to facilitate coordination of document preparation and reports to the Graduate School.

Thesis option: The **advisory committee** works with the student to develop a workable plan for the thesis, and the **major professor** guides the writing of the **thesis prospectus** along with the thesis. The thesis prospectus should be a minimum of 5 double-spaced pages long. It should include an introduction to the topic, the research question(s) the student intends to pursue, a concise description of the intended methodology, and a preliminary result. It should also contain a significant initial bibliography for the project. By the **beginning of the third semester** the student should file a **thesis prospectus** with the **Graduate Advisor**. The advisory committee administers the oral defense of the thesis.

Non-thesis option: By the beginning of the third semester of study the **advisory committee** prepares a reading list of a **minimum of 35 texts** that reflect the interests that guide the course selections for the concentration. The list may include texts read in courses as well as theoretical and critical works considered essential for the concentration. The reading list and course work are the basis for the final examination.

THESIS DIRECTORS / CHAIRS OF STUDENT COMMITTEES

Each thesis director or committee chairs should meet periodically with the student in order to closely work with him/her and monitor his/her progress.
Each thesis director or chairs of the student committees should meet periodically with the Graduate Advisor in order to keep him/her abreast of the student's progress. Thesis directors and chairs of student committees are responsible for keeping the Graduate Advisor up-to-date regarding any concern/issue raised by the student(s).

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

It is the student's responsibility to meet all requirements of the Graduate School and of the degree program and to file paperwork by the deadlines announced by the Graduate School. The student should have a copy of the *Graduate Bulletin* and consult it frequently. Chairs of examining committees are responsible for all details of administering exams. The Graduate Advisor, together with the chair of the examining committee, is responsible for reporting exam results to the Graduate School.

OTHER DUTIES OF THE GRADUATE ADVISOR ALONG WITH THE SPANISH FACULTY

Besides the workshop with the language coordinator and a session with the Graduate Advisor that takes place during the orientation week before classes begin each semester, the Graduate Advisor will hold informational sessions/meetings with graduate students every semester to address concerns that they may have within the department so as to give them a voice regarding what they would like to see implemented to better their overall experience as graduate students. Special attention will be paid to those students graduating within the following two semesters regarding paperwork to be sent to Graduate School, deadlines, etc.

The Spanish section will hold at least one workshop per semester based on the program's objective and the student's interests or needs.

The Graduate Studies Committee will periodically update the website with accurate, full information on our degree.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

Graduate Assistantships are offered to qualified full-time graduate students **for a maximum of two years** (full-time graduate students normally complete the program in two years.) Be aware that the M.A. in Hispanic Studies must be completed within five years of entrance into the degree program.

The Graduate Assistantship requires an average of **20 hours** of service per week. First year students fulfill this requirement by partaking in a series of classroom related activities under the mentorship of a Spanish language instructor. These activities, inside and outside the classroom, are specifically designed to prepare students to teach in the second year. After completing 18 credit hours, students begin a teaching assistantship during which they teach one 4-credit Spanish language course per semester. Teaching Assistants are solely responsible for all aspects of teaching the course, but are given ample training both prior to and during the academic year to facilitate their teaching. Many of the materials (e.g., course syllabus, quizzes, writing and speaking activities, exams) are provided for each TA.

YEARLY REVIEW

The Executive Committee will meet in mid-March each year to evaluate students based upon reports from professors. Upon review, the committee will recommend renewal or non-renewal of assistantships for continuing students.

THE EXIT INTERVIEW

The Graduate Advisor schedules an interview with each graduating student soon after results of the M.A. comprehensive examination/thesis are announced. The Graduate Advisor and the student complete the exit interview form. The forms are then reviewed by the Executive Committee as part of the ongoing review of the M.A. program. Results and recommendations are to be reported to the entire Spanish graduate faculty.

SUMMARIZING

In order to earn an M.A. in Hispanic Studies all students must:

1. Form and work with advisory committees (see page 5)
2. Complete a minimum of 36 credit hours (see page 3, 4)
3. Prove mastery of a concentration by passing a comprehensive exam or by writing and defending a thesis (see page 4)

PART II:
PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND COURSE LIST CONCENTRATIONS

Hispanic Literature:

Non-thesis option:
2 courses (6 hours) in Hispanic Linguistics Studies
2 courses (6 hours) in Hispanic Cultural Studies
Spanish 4400 (3 hours) Introduction to Hispanic Cultural Studies
Spanish 7990 (3 hours) Research Methods and Hispanic Criticism (Literary/Cultural Studies Theory)
6 courses (18 hours) in Hispanic Literary Studies
Total: 12 courses (36 hours)

Thesis option:
Substitute 6 hours of thesis credit for two of the courses in Hispanic Literature.

Hispanic Linguistics:

Non-thesis option:
2 courses (6 hours) in Hispanic Literary Studies
2 courses (6 hours) in Hispanic Cultural Studies
Spanish 4400 (3 hours) Introduction to Hispanic Cultural Studies
Spanish 7985 (3 hours) Research Methods in Hispanic Linguistics
6 courses (18 hours) in Hispanic Linguistics Studies
Total: 12 courses (36 hours)

Thesis option:
Substitute 6 hours of thesis credit for two of the courses in Hispanic Linguistics.

Hispanic Cultural Studies:

Non-thesis option:
2 courses (6 hours) in Hispanic Literary Studies
2 courses (6 hours) in Hispanic Linguistics Studies
Spanish 4400 (3 hours) Introduction to Hispanic Cultural Studies
Spanish 7990 (3 hours) Research Methods and Hispanic Criticism
6 courses (18 hours) in Hispanic Cultural Studies
Total: 12 courses (36 hours)

Thesis option:
Substitute 6 hours of thesis credit for two of the courses in Hispanic Cultural Studies.

COURSES

Hispanic Literature:

Spanish Peninsular Literature
Spanish 4007 Spanish Medieval Literature
Spanish 4034 Special Topics in 18th and 19th Century Literature*
Spanish 4053 Special Topics in Golden Age Prose*
Spanish 4054 Special Topics in Golden Age Lyric and Dramatic Poetry*
Spanish 4063 Spanish Literature from 1898 to1936
Spanish 4064 Spanish Literature since 1936
Spanish 7930 Studies in Medieval Spanish Literature*
Spanish 7950 Special Topics in Golden Age Spanish Literature*
Spanish 7961 Special Topics in Modern Spanish Literature**

Latin American Literature
Spanish 4082 Modern Spanish-American Prose Fiction in Translation
Spanish 4144 Latin American Literature: 1492-1810*
Spanish 4145 Latin American Literature: 1810-1915*
Spanish 4146 Latin American Literature: 1915-1960*
Spanish 4147 Latin American Literature: 1960-Present*
Spanish 7940 Topics in Spanish American Literature: Beginning to 19th Century*
Spanish 7946 Topics in Spanish American Literature: 19th Century to the Present**

Hispanic Literature / Textual Studies
Spanish 4100 Women Writers of the Hispanic World*
Spanish 4200 Literature and Culture of Hispanics in the United States
Spanish 4915 Research in Spanish or Spanish American Literature
Spanish 7970 Comparative Studies in Hispanic Literature*
Spanish 7990 Research Methods and Hispanic Criticism

Hispanic Linguistics:

Spanish 4001 History of the Spanish Language
Spanish 4005 Structure of the Spanish Lang
Spanish 4602 Spanish Phonetics
Spanish 4603 Applied Spanish Linguistics
Spanish 4917 Research in Spanish and Spanish American Linguistics
Spanish 7980 Special Topics in Hispanic Linguistics*
Spanish 7982 Spanish Language Variation*
Spanish 7983 Spanish Language Acquisition
Spanish 7984 Spanish in the United States
Spanish 7985 Research Methods in Hispanic Linguistics

Hispanic Cultural Studies:

Spanish

Spanish 4201 Cinema in Spanish
Spanish 4400 Introduction to Hispanic Cultural Studies
Spanish 7991 Literature and Politics in the Modern Hispanic World
Spanish 7992 Theatre in the Modern Hispanic World
Spanish 7993 Literature and Religion in the Hispanic World
Spanish 7994 Seminar in Hispanic Cultural Studies

Anthropology

Anthropology 4023 Latin American Culture
Anthropology 4060 Language and Culture
Anthropology 4082 Social and Cultural Anthropology
Anthropology 4028: Ancient Maya in the Media
Anthropology 4997 Special Topics in Anthropology
Anthropology 7060 Conversation and Discourse
Anthropology 7108 Mesoamerican Archaeology Seminar
Anthropology 7909 Selected Topics in Anthropology

Geography

Geography 4031 Latin American & the Caribbean
Geography 7950 Problems in the Geography of Latin America

History

History 4023 Spain since 1469
History 4081 The Caribbean: 1492 to 1830
History 4083 Mexico: The National Period
History 4087 Mexico: The Colonial Period
History 4089 Brazil: The National Period
History 7981-82 Seminar in Latin American History
History 7983-84 Seminar in Latin American History

Political Science

Political Science 4065 Latin American Governments and Politics

International Studies

Intl 4997 Contemporary Latin America

*May be taken for a maximum of 6 hours of credit when topics vary
**May be taken for a maximum of 12 hours of credit when topics vary

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LOUSIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES & LITERATURES
M.A. in Hispanic Studies
Graduate Student Record

Student name:_____ **Starting date**: _____

Committee members:

1. Chair: _____
2. Reader 2: _____
3. Reader 3: _____

- **Thesis** (30 semester hours in courses) □ **non-Thesis** (36 semester hours in courses)
  --at least six 7000-level courses (18 credit hours) with the thesis option or seven (21 credit hours) with the non-thesis option are required.

- **Concentration in Literature:**
  (must include 6 hours in Hispanic Linguistics and 6 hours in Hispanic Cultural Studies)
- **Concentration in Linguistics:**
  (must include 6 hours in Hispanic Literature and 6 hours in Hispanic Cultural Studies)
- **Concentration in Cultural Studies:**
  (must include 6 hours in Hispanic Literature and 6 hours in Hispanic Linguistics)
  SPAN 4400 Introduction to Hispanic Cultural Studies (All students must take this course).
  SPAN 7985 Research Methods in Hispanic Linguistic (This course is required for the concentration on Linguistics).
  SPAN 7990 Research Methods and Hispanic Criticism (This course is required for the concentrations on Literature and Cultural Studies).

Courses:

SEMESTER: FALL	SEMESTER: FALL
SEMESTER: SPRING	SEMESTER: SPRING

Meeting date: _____ _____
Signature of student

_____ _____
Name of Graduate Advisor Signature of Graduate Advisor

Notes: