GRADUATE COURSE OFFERING
2017-2018 NYU Madrid

M.A. in Spanish and Latin American Linguistic, Literary, and Cultural Studies (32 points)

Literary and Cultural Studies: Spain and Latin America

FALL 2017

Core Courses:

SPAN-GA 9945  A Cultural History of Spain (4)
   I.   The Multicultural Middle Ages
        Prof. M. Gómez Aranda
   II.  Early Modern Bodies
        Prof. J. Doménech
   III. Modernization and the City
        Prof. M. López

SPAN-GA 9946  A Cultural History of Latin America (4)
   I.   Transculturation and Colonialism
        Prof. L.E. Alcalá
   II.  The Nation and Its Discontents
        Prof. M. Castillo
   III. Mass Culture and the Media
        Prof. A. Figueroa

SPAN-GA 9825  Research Skills Workshop (2)
        Prof. S. Gálvez

Electives:

SPAN-GA 9990 Collecting and Display Histories of Spain: Museums and the Creation of Discourse (4)
        Prof. L.E. Alcalá
SPAN-GA.9555.001 Writing and Crisis: Introduction to Textual Criticism (4)
        Prof. F. Layna
SPAN-GA 9201 Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language (4)
        Prof. I. Pereira

SPRING 2018

Core Courses:

SPAN-GA 9997  MA Thesis Seminar (2)
        Prof. S. Gálvez
SPAN-GA 9893  MA Thesis (0 credits, graded P/F)
        Individual thesis advisor

Electives:

SPAN-GA 9847 Photography in Spain and Latin America: A Critical History (4)
        Prof. J. Doménech
SPAN-GA 9966 Cultural Encounters: Jews, Christians, and Muslims in Spain (4)
        Prof. M. Gómez Aranda
SPAN-GA 95.9967.001 Imagining Modernity in Latin America
        Prof. S. Gálvez
SPAN-GA 9976 Urban Perspectives: Madrid (4)
        Prof. M. López
SPAN-GA 9556 Applied Phonetics and Spoken Contemporary Spanish (4)
        Prof. C. Bordón
SPAN-GA 9208 Hispanic Dialectology and Sociolinguistics (4)
        Prof. J. Pazó

In the spring semester, approved students also have the opportunity to experience Spanish university life by taking 1-2 courses at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, one of Spain's top universities.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The program begins in late August with a required orientation session, which introduces incoming students to resources offered in Madrid and on campus. Coursework is taken in two consecutive semesters, Fall and Spring, and culminates with the completion of the MA Thesis in mid-July. Students are required to be physically present in Madrid in order to work closely with their faculty mentors until completion of the MA Thesis and all requirements.
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Required Courses for Literary and Cultural Studies: Spain and Latin America

SPAN-GA 9945  A Cultural History of Spain (4) (3 modules)

Offered in the Fall term. This course, divided into three modules, each taught by a different specialist, provides a survey of key critical concepts and debates in Hispanic studies through an interdisciplinary approach to the study of Spanish culture from the Middle Ages to the present. The course does not attempt to be comprehensive; each module focuses on a particular issue that is central to the period concerned. Visits to research centers, museums, and urban spaces in Madrid form an integral part of the program of studies.

I. The Multicultural Middle Ages  
   Prof. M. Gómez Aranda

II. Early Modern Bodies  
   Prof. J. Doménech

III. Modernization and the City  
   Prof. M. López

SPAN-GA 9946  A Cultural History of Latin America (4) (3 modules)

Offered in the Fall term. This course, divided into three modules, each taught by a different specialist, provides a survey of critical concepts and debates in Hispanic studies through an interdisciplinary approach to the study of Latin American culture from the Conquest and colonial period to the present. The course does not attempt to be comprehensive; each module focuses on a particular issue that is central to the period concerned. Film screenings and visits to museums and research centers in Madrid form an integral part of the program of studies.

I. Transculturación and Colonialism  
   Prof. L. E. Alcalá

II. The Nation and Its Discontents  
   Prof. M. Castillo

III. Mass Culture and the Media  
   Prof. A. Figueroa

SPAN-GA 9825  Research Skills Workshop (2)

Prof. S. Gálvez

Offered in the Fall semester, this course aims to equip students with the skills needed to carry out independent research at graduate level. Through practical tasks and class discussion, students will become familiar with research resources and with different available methodologies within the field. They will learn to formulate research questions appropriate to different bodies of material, and to define a viable and original research topic. By the start of December students should be in a position to formulate a tentative research proposal for their MA thesis. Students will work independently over the winter break to firm up their MA thesis proposal.

SPAN-GA 9997  MA Thesis Seminar (2)

Prof. S. Gálvez

Offered in the Spring semester, this course guides students through the stages of research, planning, and writing of the MA Thesis, to ensure timely completion. Class meets every two weeks. In alternate weeks, students will meet with their individual thesis advisor. By the start of the semester, students will be expected to have produced a firm research proposal for the MA thesis. The seminars will give students practice in offering constructive peer review of each other's work, in responding to feedback, and in revising their drafts. In the course of the semester, students will produce a first chapter of the MA thesis, and will write a paper based on an aspect of their MA thesis project, which will be presented at the MA Colloquium held in late April/early May. The MA Colloquium will be organized by the MA students as part of their professionalization training.
The MA Thesis is a substantial piece of original scholarly work (approximately 50 pages) on a topic of the student's choice, completed with the guidance of a faculty advisor. As the capstone to the MA degree, the Thesis gives students the opportunity to demonstrate expertise in their chosen area of research, and provides training for those students wishing to continue to doctoral study. Students make progress on their MA Thesis over the course of the Spring semester and summer months for final submission on July 10th.

**Elective Courses in Literary and Cultural Studies: Spain and Latin America**

**SPAN-GA 9555 Writing and Crisis: Introduction to Textual Criticism** (4) (Fall)

Prof. F. Layna

Through an in-depth study of representative texts of contemporary Spanish literature this course is an introduction to textual criticism and to key aspects of narratological and poetic analysis. The course is built around the concept of *crisis*: crisis understood not only as an economic or political scenario but also as a method, as a way to address artistic creation. The words *crisis* and *criticism* belong to the same etymological family and this is what we will do in the course: we will critically address texts from different genres and different moments of so-called aesthetic modernity and postmodernity. The course comprises five thematic units: 1. Literature and the crisis of the modern subject (the existential crisis of the subject; the self and its doubles; the *Doppelgänger*; the fragmentation of self in contemporary poetry). 2. Literature and the civil war (war and memory as a crisis of the text). 3. Feminine subject and critical fiction (interiority and fiction, and the female *Bildungsroman*; memory as apology). 4. Literature and landscape (the city as a landscape of crisis). 5. Crisis of narrative (crisis of realist representation; spam or after-pop literature).

**SPAN-GA 9990 Collecting and Display Histories of Spain: Museums and the Creation of Discourse** (4) (Fall)

Prof. L.E. Alcalá

Many of the objects that are today admired in Spain's major museums arrived here in the Early Modern period. Collections of art, artifacts, and objects—everything from paintings and sculptures to armor, textiles, feathers, books, exotic shells and even animal horns—transmitted a variety of meanings, many of which are lost to the average museum visitor today. Understanding these objects (their origins, how they arrived and how the way they were seen has changed over time) introduces students to a deeper appreciation of how Spanish history and identity has been and is created in relationship with the rest of the world and especially the Spanish-speaking Americas. To meet this aim, this course will introduce students to the various processes that were involved in collecting in the past; these range from exploring the relationship of art to diplomacy, to understanding the value of paintings of distant places, peoples and animals as “proof” or “document” in the age before photography. Given the global dimension of the Spanish empire, students will also be invited to examine the place of “the others” (non-Europeans) in the history of Spanish (and European collections in general), both in the past and in today’s globalized and multicultural world. The course will address systems of display, and the way display constructs cultural meanings and is ideologically driven: in this respect, we will compare early display systems in Spain’s royal palaces with the later 19th and especially 20th century transformations, including the way recent displays have been informed by the challenges of postcolonial discourse. The course includes several class visits to local museums and collections, including the Prado Museum, the convent of the Descalzas Reales, and the Museo de América.

**SPAN-GA 9847 Photography in Spain and Latin America: A Critical History** (4) (Spring)

Prof. J. Doménech
What is a photograph? How do we analyze it? In a visual culture where images, especially photographs, are part of our daily mode of communication, it is essential to be able to understand how they affect the way we understand, reflect, and construct reality. A photograph is not a painting but a self-representation of reality: a formal and semiotically different language that requires different tools. These tools come from interdisciplinary approaches such as history, anthropology, philosophy, literature, fashion, gender, science, etc. Photographs are also fossils of the past that allow us to travel to it not only through their study as historical documents but also as reflections of the history of mentalities and everyday life. This course offers students the tools to analyze photography as a visual artifact and to contextualize these images in the history of photography in Latin America and Spain since the nineteenth century to the present. It also aims to introduce students to theoretical trends and criticism within visual cultural studies.

**SPAN-GA 9966 Cultural Encounters: Jews, Christians, and Muslims in Spain** (4) (Spring)

Prof. M. Gómez Aranda

This course aims to study the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian cultural heritage of Medieval Spain. Particular emphasis will be placed on the contributions of Muslims, Christians, and Jews on Spanish Literature, the history of Spain, religion, philosophy, and the arts and sciences. A large part of the course will be dedicated to a comparative study among these contributions. We will also analyze the social circumstances of Christians, Jews, and Muslims in both Christian and Muslim contexts as well as the role of women played in both. The course will also analyze the problems of integration in al-Andalus and Christian Spain, as well as the break of _convivencia_, the Inquisition, the expulsion of the Jews, and the end of Muslim rule in 1492. The multicultural situation of Spain in the Middle Ages will help to understand questions of identity, multiculturalism and diversity in our world. Particular emphasis will be given to compare the situation of minorities in medieval times with today's conflicts in countries with a multicultural environment, such as the USA, Spain, France, Germany, the Arab countries and Israel. In class we will analyze and discuss medieval primary sources translated into Spanish from each one of the three cultures, as well as contemporary documents and texts from newspapers, web pages, and other sources.

**SPAN-GA 95.9967.001 Imagining Modernity in Latin America** (4) (Spring)

Prof. S. Gálvez

The paradigm of backwardness has determined the way in which Eurocentric accounts of modernity have sought to explain the non-correspondence between modern realities in Latin America and normative projects of modernity. Seen through that lens, Latin American modernities have been understood as “incomplete” or “failed.” In this seminar we will read and analyze, from relational perspectives, Latin Americanist cultural theory (Fernando Coronil, Mary Louise Pratt, Nelly Richard, Walter Mignolo, among others) and several Latin American literary fictions (by Juana Manuela Gorriti, Teresa de la Parra, José María Arguedas, Diamela Eltit, among others) to explore the ways in which intellectuals and writers have responded to, and negotiated, normative projects (civilizing, developmentalist, and neoliberal) from the era of independence to the present. Through a reading of the failure of normative projects of modernity in the periphery, we will analyze and problematize the logics of these projects and imaginaries, examine how coloniality constitutes modernity, and explore how literature and culture can work with that tension to produce alternative social imaginings.

**SPAN-GA 9976 Urban Perspectives: Madrid** (4) (Spring)

Prof. M. López

More than half of the world population is urban and in a few years it is expected that cities will grow exponentially. This course will analyze the dynamics that generate the city to offer students the tools for approaching the environment in which we live. Taking the city of Madrid as a case study we will work with urban theory (Lefebvre, Jacobs, Delgado, Castells, Harvey, among others) to understand from a historical perspective how the city was planned in key moments. We will center our analysis on the Republican City, the Falangist City, and the current Globalization focusing on different urban practices that facilitate the observation of the contradictions,
diversity, and complexity offered by cities in contemporary society. We will also focus on urban design and plans of urbanism, explained through the political context that generates them, which are key issues to understand the production of space and citizens’ responses.

Elective Courses in Applied Linguistics:

**SPAN-GA 9201  Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language (4)** (Fall)

Prof. I. Pereira

This course is designed for students who plan to teach Spanish after the MA degree and for those who wish to pursue a teaching assistant position in Spanish doctoral programs. The seminar covers different teaching techniques that build communicative competence in listening, speaking, writing, and reading skills in a foreign language. All seminars are developed through lectures, peer commentary, and practical examples providing an overview of theories in pedagogy to be elaborated upon in future coursework. Students will prepare didactic activities, a teaching portfolio with a Statement of Teaching Philosophy, and a final written work for the course, as well as share their work with their peers in oral presentations in Spanish. Seminars will cover the following aspects of language teaching: communicative competence; new approaches to teaching grammar; acquisition of pragmatic competence; teaching culture and intercultural issues; the development of different linguistic skills (auditory, oral, written, reading comprehension); correction of errors; and language level assessment. The hours allocated to fieldwork include student collection and analysis of field data.

**SPAN-GA 9208  Hispanic Dialectology and Sociolinguistics (4)** (Spring)

Prof. J. Pazó

(Cross-listed as a core course in the MA in Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language & TESOL.)

This course provides a comprehensive overview of different aspects that influence geographic and sociolinguistic variations of Spanish. In addition to geographic variation, students will explore gender- and age-based linguistic differences, as well as sociolinguistic variants due to social and cultural factors in Spain, Latin America, and the United States. Students will be introduced to theoretical and methodological concepts of dialectal, social and linguistic variants in research on language contact. Through this analysis, the course will explore language as a source of cultural identity. Students will conduct their own research on specific varieties of Spanish and their social context for a final paper and will be expected to present a portion of this material and participate actively in class discussions. (The course does not focus on features of phonetic variation, which is addressed in SPAN-GA 9556 “Applied Phonetics & Spoken Contemporary Spanish.”)

**SPAN-GA 9556  Applied Phonetics and Spoken Contemporary Spanish (4)** (Spring)

Prof. C. Bordón

(Cross-listed as a core course in the MA in Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language & TESOL.)

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the study of Spanish phonology and phonetics in order to analyze various features of spoken Spanish. The course will also explore the current state of teaching phonetics in second language acquisition and the linguistic disciplines in which phonetics proves to be a useful tool to study language. The course has both theoretical and practical components that include analyzing the distinct features of the sound systems of peninsular and American variants of spoken Spanish, allowing students to distinguish regional and social varieties of the language.