

**The Spanish-Speaking World:  
Cultural Crossings**

Fall-Winter-Spring 2024-25

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**Program Description:** This program integrates intensive study of Spanish language with thematic study of Latin American and US-Latinx literatures, histories, and cultures. Students may enter with anywhere from zero prior study of Spanish through native speakers, and are clustered into groups by level for Spanish classes and conversation. In this program, students learn language through an integrated immersion method while studying the history of Latin America through the lens of literature and culture. Fall quarter will explore cultural encounters in Latin America prior to the 20th century and lay the conceptual foundations for work in subsequent quarters.

The **16-credit** program includes, each week: Spanish language classes and conversation groups, seminars on readings in English translation (or Spanish original for Advanced Spanish students), a lecture delivered in Spanish (with an English debrief at the end), and a film (with subtitles) or workshop in English. For Advanced/Advanced Intermediate students ONLY who need to attend part-time, there is an **8-credit option**; it includes only the Spanish classes, conversation group, and weekly lecture in Spanish.

Students gain skills during the fall and winter quarters, and by spring quarter, all program activities take place entirely in Spanish. During spring, students may study abroad in Mérida, México, or remain in Olympia, continuing with Spanish and engaging in internships with local organizations serving Latinx communities.

**Weekly Schedule: You only attend the Spanish class for your level!** (Please note that, in addition to the schedule below, everyone will have one hour/week of Spanish conversation).

TUESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
10-12: Spanish—Beginners Spanish—Adv. Intermediate Spanish—Advanced	10-12: Spanish—Beginners Spanish—Adv. Intermediate Spanish—Advanced	10-12: Spanish—Beginners Spanish—Adv. Intermediate Spanish—Advanced
1-3: Lecture	1-4: Workshop or Film	1-4: Seminar + All-Program “Looking Back, Looking Forward” (reflection and set up the following week)
3-5: Seminar		
5-7: Spanish—Intermediate	5-7: Spanish—Intermediate	5-7: Spanish—Intermediate

**First Class Meeting: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at 10am in Sem 2 E3105**

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Do I need to have studied Spanish before in order to take this program?**

**A:** No. Although any amount of prior exposure to Spanish is helpful, no previous language study is required to enter the program. **Please note that all sections of Spanish language classes are integrated into the program so you do not have to register for them separately!**

**Q: Is this program appropriate for me if I am a native speaker?**

**A:** Yes. In addition to providing language support for students who are learning Spanish, this program also offers an in-depth study of Latinx and Latin American cultures that is appropriate for those at more advanced levels of Spanish. As a native or advanced speaker, you will have the opportunity to read the texts in the original and discuss the materials in Spanish.

**Q: What are some of the key themes and questions explored in the program?**

**A:** *Historia* in Spanish means both "history" and "story," and the program explores the relationships between stories told, remembered, written, or invented around various critical moments in Latin American history. Some of the many questions we will explore include: How do certain versions of history become dominant narratives? How might those narratives be contested and told from differing perspectives? Are there artistic strategies (i.e., certain styles of literature or film) that work more effectively for particular aims, such as resistance, self-determination, and collective memory? Are there strategies that tend to undermine those aims? How can artistic production persist within contexts of coloniality and oppression and how does ongoing creative work foster social change? And given our own diverse positionalities, how can we study about, learn from, and engage with other cultures in non-dominating ways?

**Q: What is the difference between the 16 and 8 credit options in this program?**

**A:** Enrollment is open for the 16-credit program at all four levels of Spanish. Students enrolled for 16 credits attend all weekly sessions listed in schedule above. **The 8-credit option is open ONLY to Advanced and Advanced Intermediate students (i.e., these students may take the program for 8 or 16 credits);** those enrolled for 8 credits attend only Tuesday lecture, Spanish classes (T, Th, F), and one additional hour/week of Spanish conversation but do not participate in seminars, film screenings, or workshops. Admission to the 8-credit Advanced/Advanced Intermediate option requires a language assessment with faculty and carries a signature requirement for registration. Interested students should be able to read literature in Spanish and have strong conversation skills; contact faculty for more information.

**Q: What kinds of writing assignments will there be in this program?**

**A:** Expository and creative writing assignments in English and Spanish (as appropriate for your particular level) will include seminar responses, analysis essays, personal narrative, poetry, and collaborative projects. In addition to reading and writing assignment, students will also have grammar assignments at the appropriate level of Spanish.

**Q: When will you announce the book list for fall quarter?**

**A:** We will send a letter out to all enrolled students during the summer with complete information about readings, as well as further updates about the program. Core texts for this program for the fall have included Eduardo Galeano's trilogy *Memory of Fire*, poetry and essays by Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, *Broken Spears: the Aztec Account of the Conquest of Mexico*, and articles from NACLA connecting past histories with current issues.

**Q: Will there be field trips or community-based learning in this program?**

**A:** Yes! We will have field trips and community-based experiences every quarter. In addition, students will have the opportunity to engage in internships during the spring quarter, whether in Olympia or as part of study abroad in Mérida, México.

**Q: What's happening with the study abroad option for spring 2025?**

**A:** Spring quarter will offer the opportunity to study abroad in Mérida, Yucatán, México. The Mexico program is co-coordinated with Habla Center for Language and Culture in Mérida. [More information is available online](#) as well; we will also have a detailed presentation on the program early in the fall quarter. All classes during the spring quarter will be conducted in Spanish.

**Q: What if I don't go abroad in the spring? Does the program continue in the Olympia campus?**

**A:** Yes, the program continues in Olympia. Students staying on campus will have ongoing Spanish classes plus options for projects and/or internships with local organizations serving Latinx communities. All classes during the spring quarter will be conducted in Spanish.

**Q: Can I take this class as a freshman?**

**A:** No; this program is for sophomores to seniors. If you do not have sophomore standing but will achieve that before fall quarter, speak with us at the academic fair.

**Q: When will this class be offered again? A: 2026-27**

**Q: What can I do over the summer to get ready for this program?**

**A:** The most important thing is to recharge over the summer! We will be sending out a summer letter with more information about readings, and an invitation to start our first book. In the meantime (entirely optional!), you could find ways to bring more Spanish into your life, whether music, podcasts, films, or conversation...