

# Masters Curriculum

## Modern Languages and Literatures: Spanish

Students complete the Masters in Spanish by successfully fulfilling 30 hours of coursework, according to the Academic Policies set by the Graduate School of Loyola University Chicago. The required 30 hours may be fulfilled in one of two ways: 1) a student successfully completes 10 courses at three credit hours each, or 2) a student successfully completes 9 courses at three credit hours each, plus the three-credit SPAN 501 for Thesis Research (please see the Research Thesis Guidelines of the Spanish graduate program for more information on this option). For academic credit towards the Masters in Spanish, priority is given to the 400-level SPAN graduate seminars offered in the department of Modern Languages and Literatures. Upon completion of the Masters degree, 21 hours (or seven courses), should be from the SPAN 400-level offerings or above.

### Masters Coursework and Academic Credit

#### SPAN 400-level courses

In order to fulfill the 30 hours of required coursework for the MA in Spanish, students enroll primarily in the SPAN graduate seminars offered in their home department of Modern Languages and Literatures. These courses are listed in the 400 level, and are considered graduate seminars. It is expected that in any given semester a student will enroll in the SPAN 400-level course offerings as a matter of priority. The graduate program currently offers two SPAN graduate seminars each semester. If a student wishes to take a third course, he or she may consider the options, below.

#### SPAN 300-level courses

Upon approval of the Graduate Program Director (GPD), students may take up to one or two SPAN courses in the 300 level. However not all of these courses will be accepted for graduate-level credit. Please see the program director for clarification. Normally, no more than three or six hours of credit at the 300 level will be applied toward the Masters degree. It is expected that graduate students will complete these courses beyond the undergraduate level by meeting the graduate-level requirements set by the instructor or professor. Since graduate students in 300-level SPAN courses are receiving a grade, they may not serve as Graduate or Teaching Assistants to the instructor or professor.

300-level SPAN courses accepted for graduate-level credit include courses in literature, film, culture and linguistics.

#### Other 400-level LUC courses

Upon approval of the GPD, students may also take up to two courses at the 400 level in other academic departments of the university. Please note that these classes should be semester-long graduate seminars, whose original design is to teach graduate students. Courses offered in other LUC departments or programs at lower levels may not apply for credit towards the Masters degree. Courses that are cross-listed or tagged across different academic levels (such as a 200 or 300-level course) may not count for credit. Please see the program director for clarification. Summer coursework in another academic department is acceptable, as long as the course is designed for graduate students and meets regularly in the format of a graduate seminar. Courses taken at the 300-level or lower in other LUC departments will not be applied for credit towards the Masters in Spanish.

## Other course options

Independent Studies / Directed Readings: Occasionally the department of Modern Languages and Literatures offers independent studies at the graduate level (SPAN 500: Directed Readings). When applicable, students may take up to one or two of these courses for credit towards the Masters in Spanish. Normally, independent studies in other LUC departments or academic programs do not apply.

Internship: On occasion, the graduate program also offers academic credit towards the Masters in Spanish in the form of an internship (SPAN 499). Please see the program director for more details. Most recently, students have received internship credit for serving as Graduate Assistant to the director of the department's summer study abroad program at Universidad Loyola Andalucía in Córdoba, Spain (summer 2016 and summer 2017).

Masters Study: Also on occasion, a graduate student will be enrolled in SPAN 605: Masters Study. This course is for zero academic credit and will not count toward the Masters degree, but serves the purpose of showing that a student has fulltime status in the program.

## Thesis Research

Those students who have permission to write a Research Masters should enroll in the course SPAN 501: Thesis Research in their final semester before graduation. Normally, the professor of this course will be the student's thesis director. This course counts for three academic credits towards the 30 required hours of the Masters in Spanish. Students may also enroll in the course SPAN 595: Thesis Research while working on their thesis, but not for credit towards the degree.

## Transfer Credit

Upon approval of the GPD, students may also transfer up to two graduate-level courses, or six credit hours of graduate-level coursework, completed at other academic institutions and apply it toward their Masters in Spanish. Please see the University's policy on the transfer of credit. Only courses with a grade of B or higher will count for credit, as long as they are listed as graduate-level courses in their home institutions.