Department of Hispanic Studies  
Undergraduate Courses - Spring 2016

(N.B. all courses are subject to change; refer to Banner for the most up-to-date information)

HISP0710B - Hispanic Culture through Cinema, Prof. Mercedes Vaquero
This course will examine eleven cinematic works of the contemporary Hispanic world (Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Spain, and the USA) from 1999 until 2012. We will focus on the cultural, thematic, technical and aesthetic aspects of the films, as well as on their socio-historical and political context. Every movie will be discussed in class integrating sociological, historical, political and aesthetic contexts, as well as a critical analysis of the film as artistic expression. This is a course also designed to improve students’ speaking abilities while learning about Hispanic cultures and cinema.

HISP0750B - Hispanics in the US, Prof. Felipe Martinez Pinzon
Designed to bridge academic learning about Hispanic/Latino culture and volunteer work in agencies serving Hispanics in Providence. Readings, films, and guest presentations focus on issues of concern to these groups. Spanish language learning occurs in the classroom and the community, where students have the opportunity to enrich and test course content.

HISP0750N - Muslims, Jews and Christians in Medieval Iberia, Profs Mercedes Vaquero & Sheila Bonde
The cultural diversity of medieval Spain and Portugal is proclaimed by their Christian cathedrals, Islamic palaces, and Jewish synagogues. The three distinct cultures that produced these buildings lived together for centuries in medieval Iberia, sometimes in peace, sometimes not. This convivencia of Jews, Muslims, and Christians will be examined from the perspectives of literature, art, architecture, archaeology and history.

HISP0760 - Transatlantic Crossings, Prof. Sarah Thomas
This course provides students a comprehensive introduction to literature and culture of the Spanish-speaking world, through exploration of a wide range of genres (short story, poetry, theater, novel, and film) and periods of production. The course not only gives students a contextualized historical panorama of literature in Spanish, it also equips them with strategies for reading, thinking, and writing about texts and films in Spanish, preparing them for more advanced literature and culture courses in Hispanic Studies.

HISP1330C - Indigenous Literature of Latin America, Prof. Jose Antonio Mazzotti
This course explores the presence of indigenous cultures in Latin American literature over the last five centuries. Blending historical and literary analysis, we will delve into foundational indigenous narratives (with a stress on Nahuatl, Mayan and Quechua variants); the vision of Colonial mestizo and bilingual go-betweens; othering discourses in antiquarian, archeological and travel narratives; and the indigenous imprint in contemporary novels, short stories and poetry, including indigenous, women and transnational authors. Through this journey, marginalized cultures throughout the continent show their resilience as the multicultural plot of Latin American history comes to the fore.

HISP1330U - Hauntings: Gothic Fictions, Banditry and the Supernatural in Latin American, Prof. Felipe Martinez Pinzon
A specter haunts Latin America. The constitution of the nation-state in the region after the Wars of Independence (1810-1830) entailed creating fictions to include (and, naturally, exclude) those who belonged to the community of the nation. Usually the left-outs were the ones who did not comply with the profile of the desired citizen: lettered, male, white and urban. This course will focus on narrations about those ‘left-outs’ after the constitution of the Nation-States in the region. We will read fictions about mad monster women, spectral slaves, bloodthirsty bandits, priests-turned-sorcerers, dwarfs, animal rebellions, and many other “exceptions to the norm.”
HISP1330V - Gender Trouble in Spanish America, Prof. Jill Kuhnheim
This course will explore the construction of gendered identities in Spanish American literature and film after 1960. Questioning normative constructions of gender roles, we will see how masculinities and femininities are represented and respond to changing politics and power, often redefining earlier “gender contracts.” Works studied will include novels by Angeles Mastretta, José Donoso, Mario Bellátín and Diamela Eltit, short stories, theater, poetry, and 2-3 films, as well as pertinent theoretical and critical approaches to the study of gender in Latin America.

HISP1700A - Dismantling the Clockwork: Creative Writing and Narrative Techniques, Prof. Carlos Yushimito
This class focuses on creating literary texts in Spanish, which involves the development of a sensibility to appreciate narrative texts and the skills to employ writing techniques, e.g., use of the first person, free indirect speech or the stream of consciousness. Drawing from theoretical reflections on writing made by Latin American and Spanish canonical writers as well as examples of its use, we’ll explore the creative possibilities of narrative forms: aphorisms, prose poetry and short stories. Our objective is to strengthen students’ skills as individual and collaborative authors through exercises in literary production and techniques, strategies, and habits of good writing.