

Northeastern Illinois University
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

GRADUATE STUDENT MANUAL

Master of Arts in Latin American Literatures and Cultures

I. ADMISSION:

The department Graduate Committee and the department Chair evaluate all graduate applications. In addition to the Graduate College's criteria for regular degree students, we require all entering students to have near-native proficiency in understanding, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish.

Applicants must submit a 2-3 page "Statement of Purpose" written in Spanish to demonstrate that they have met the proficiency requirement. If in the judgment of the Graduate Committee and the department Chair the student's written Spanish is deficient, s/he may be required to enroll in FL-SPAN-317 (Intensive Writing in Spanish) during his/her first semester as a condition of acceptance. FL-SPAN-317 does not count toward the 39 hours required for the M.A. degree.

Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test scores are not mandatory for admission.

Students should contact the Financial Aid Office for the availability of various fellowships and other forms of financial assistance.

II. ADVISING:

New graduate students are required to select their first-semester courses in consultation with the Graduate Advisor. Before the end of the student's third semester in the program, s/he must form an M.A. Supervisory Committee (MASC). The MASC, which advises the student in all matters pertaining to the M.A. program, will consist of three members of the department's graduate faculty.

III. PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

The M.A. Program in Latin American Literatures and Cultures offers students an opportunity to explore the rich and diverse literatures and cultures of Central and South America, Mesoamerica, and the Caribbean. By fostering an understanding of cultural forms of expression and their socio-historical contexts, the program aims to prepare students for success in multilingual and multicultural metropolitan, state, national, and international arenas. The program reflects the University's mission of providing academic coursework that utilizes a variety of perspectives to enrich the teaching and learning experience and to prepare students for the multicultural society in which we live. Courses are offered during the late afternoon and evening hours in order to accommodate students who are pursuing the MA degree on a part-time basis.

IV. PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

The program offers students ample opportunities to attain the following goals:

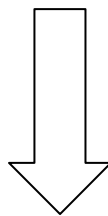
- To improve their communicative competencies in oral and written Spanish.
- To acquire a keen understanding of the rich cultural traditions (broadly defined) of the Spanish-speaking peoples in the Americas.
- To learn about and appreciate the perspectives, values, beliefs, ideologies, and world-views of Spanish-speaking peoples.
- To demonstrate proficiency and independence in the use of information resources (library data-bases, internet/virtual libraries and galleries, printed materials) related to the field of Latin American literary and cultural studies.

V. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES / PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Goal 1

To help students master all communicative competencies in oral and written Spanish.

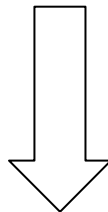
Intended Outcomes	Performance Indicators
Students will write in Spanish at an educated native or near-native level of proficiency.	Research papers, critical reviews, comprehensive exam, MA thesis.
Students will demonstrate an oral and aural proficiency in Spanish equal to that of an educated native or near-native speaker of Spanish.	In-class discussions, audio recordings or videos of class presentations, oral exams.
Students will master the skill of essay/article writing, compiling bibliographies, & proper citation practices as per the MLA Guidelines.	Research papers, thesis, submissions to professional journals in Latin American Literatures and Cultures.
Students will identify the many linguistic varieties in spoken and written Spanish (differences among and between nations, regions, populations).	Class presentations, successful completion of an advanced linguistics course such as FL-SPAN-410 (History of the Spanish Language).
Students will demonstrate appropriate socio-linguistic usage (both oral and written).	In-class discussions, research papers, comprehensive exam, MA thesis.



Goal 2

To foster a solid understanding of the cultural and literary histories of all Spanish-speaking peoples in the Americas, which includes those residing in the U.S.

Intended Outcomes	Performance Indicators
Students will identify, understand, and analyze the rich cultural and literary productions of the Latin American peoples.	Research papers, oral exams, written comprehensive exams, MA thesis.
Guided by the reading list provided by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, students will have read works that are representative of each phase of the cultural and literary histories of the Spanish-speaking Americas.	Successful completion of in-class exams and presentations, oral exams, written comprehensive exam, MA thesis.
Students will analyze extra-literary cultural productions, including the mechanisms of “pop culture”(film, television, plastic arts, theatre, music, etc.) as a reflection of Latin America’s past and present realities.	Successful completion of courses that include literary and cultural criticism and theory, research papers.



Goal 3

To foster an understanding of the relationship between literary/cultural productions and historical realities vis-à-vis the perspectives, values, beliefs, ideologies, and world-views of Spanish-speaking peoples from the time of the Conquest (and before) to the present.

Intended Outcomes	Performance Indicators
Students will identify perspectives, values, beliefs, ideologies, and world- views of the artist in each of the cultural productions they study.	Essays, research papers, in-class discussions, oral presentations, comprehensive exam, MA thesis.
Students will have a firm grasp of the predominant social paradigms reflected in cultural artifacts.	Essays, research papers, in-class discussions, oral presentations, comprehensive exam, MA thesis.
Students will readily be able to identify a period of Latin American history upon close analysis of a cultural artifact.	Oral and written exams, final comprehensive exam.

Goal 4

To foster an awareness of and the ability to engage modes of inquiry (i.e. use of the World Wide Web, technological resources, library collections, etc.) as related to the field of Hispanic Latin American literatures and cultures.

Intended outcomes	Performance Indicators
Students will use technology to explore information resources related to Latin American and Latino literatures and cultures, both present and past.	Research papers, MA thesis.
Students will demonstrate an ability to conduct original research, to prepare bibliographies, and to follow MLA guidelines regarding the proper citation of source materials, etc.	Research papers, annotated bibliographies, MA thesis.

IV. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

A. NON-THESIS OPTION

Students must complete 39 credits of graduate-level coursework distributed as follows:

- Core courses: FL-SPAN-400 and FL-420 (6 credits).
- One course on colonial literature (3 credits).
- Two courses on 19th century literature (6 credits).
- Six courses on 20th and 21st century Latin America (18 credits).

Three of the five courses may be graduate-level courses taught in another department in a related field such as History, Political Science, Linguistics, etc. Students should be aware, however, that graduate-level courses in other departments usually have course prerequisites.

A limited number of 300-level courses (no more than three) may be substituted for 400-level courses on the 20th and 21st centuries. These include the following:

FL-SPAN-352 (Puerto Rican Literature)

FL-SPAN-358 (Modernismo)

FL-SPAN-365C (El cuento hispanoamericano)

FL-SPAN-365R (Literatura del Caribe).

NEIU undergraduate students who took any of these 300-level courses toward completion of the B.A. degree may not repeat them for graduate credit.

- A two-semester sequence of courses in one of two ancillary languages, which include Portuguese and French (any level).

Written Comprehensive Exam

At the end of their course of study and before graduating, students must take and pass a nine-hour written comprehensive examination based on coursework and the M.A. Reading List. The exam is administered in three parts (3 hours each). Part I will consist of three questions on colonial literature and culture. Part II will consist of three questions on 19th-century literature and culture. Part III will consist of three questions on 20th and 21st century literature and culture. Students must pass part I before completing part II, and they must pass part II before completing part III. The student's MASC will administer the exams. A student will be allowed three and only three opportunities to pass any part of the exam.

Examining Committee

The Committee Chair is responsible for setting up the exam schedule. Under the Chair's coordination, the MASC is responsible for the preparation of all parts of the exam, its administration, and evaluation. Members of the committee will be given ten (10) days to read and evaluate the exam. Immediately afterward, The Chair of the MASC will notify the student of the outcome.

B. Thesis Option

Students must complete 39 credits of coursework distributed as follows:

- Core courses: FL-SPAN-400 and FL-420 (6 credits.)
- One graduate-level (400) course on colonial literature (3 credits).
- Two graduate-level courses on 19th century literature (6 credits).
- Five graduate-level courses on 20th and 21st century Latin America (15 credits).

Three of the five courses may be graduate-level courses taught in another department and in a related field such as History, Political Science, Linguistics, etc.

- A two-semester sequence of courses in one of two ancillary languages, which include Portuguese and French (any level).
- A capstone thesis seminar—FL-SPAN-499 (3 credits).

M.A. Thesis

In lieu of completing a nine-hour written comprehensive examination, students who choose this option will enroll in the capstone thesis seminar. Degree Candidacy is a prerequisite for registration. In the seminar students spend the semester researching a topic under the guidance of a faculty member who has agreed to serve as the Thesis Advisor and primary reader of the thesis. The thesis committee will consist of the Thesis Advisor and two other full-time faculty members who offer courses in the program. These are normally the same faculty members who administered the comprehensive exam.

All theses must be written in Spanish, and they must demonstrate familiarity with the most important primary and secondary sources relevant to the topic as well as an ability to place the discussion in the context of previous discussions and critical approaches. It must include a bibliography and must follow MLA Guidelines. It must also adhere to the Graduate College's guidelines as outlined in the Manual of Thesis Procedures (available at the Graduate College Office). The average length of the thesis is 45-50 pages plus bibliography.

Prior to enrolling in the capstone seminar, students must submit a thesis proposal to the Thesis Director. The Director and the Chair of the Department must approve the prospectus before the student is allowed to proceed. At a minimum, the proposal must include a description of the topic to be studied; a statement as to why the topic is important; an assessment of the critical literature on the topic; a framework for structuring the thesis (chapter titles, etc.); and a detailed list of secondary sources related to the topic.

V. GENERAL POLICIES:

M.A. students may transfer up to nine semester hours (maximum) of graduate-level coursework toward completion of the degree, provided they

have the approval of the Graduate Advisor, the department Chair, and the Graduate College. Only courses related to the scope and goals of the program will be acceptable.

Students who wish to transfer courses must write a letter of petition to the Dean of the Graduate College. A transcript of the work to be transferred must be submitted to the Graduate College. The work must have been completed at an accredited institution, and it must be relatively recent (within six years). The grades must be at least a B, and the courses must be applicable to the degree sequence. Courses used as part of a previous degree cannot be applied toward meeting degree requirements.

The M.A. program must be completed within a period of six years.

Students enrolled in graduate-level courses as students-at-large may count up to but no more than nine credits toward completion of the degree.

Graduate students are expected to maintain a B (3.0) average in all coursework required for the degree. If a student earns a grade of C (2.0) in any graduate-level course, s/he must meet with the Graduate Advisor and the department Chair to discuss his/her progress in the program. A student who earns more than two C's in a course taken to satisfy program requirements will be dropped from the program.

No courses taken to satisfy program requirements may be taken on a pass-fail basis.

The M.A. comprehensive exam is given in the fall and spring semesters only. Faculty members are not required to be on campus during the summer months. Students are expected to plan their schedules accordingly.

The capstone thesis seminar is only offered in the fall and spring semesters. Students should plan their schedules accordingly.

VI. IMPORTANT NOTICE:

This manual is not intended to replace or supersede Northeastern Illinois University's Catalogue or any other official document issued by the Graduate College. Please visit the Graduate College's website at www.neiu.edu/grad.htm.

SAMPLE GRADUATE CALENDARS

Non-thesis Option:

Fast tracks



	Fall	Spring	Summer
Year 1	1 grad sem (3 cr.) + lang req (3 cr.)	2 grad sem (6 cr.) + lang req (3 cr.)	2 grad sem (6 cr.)
Year 2	2 grad sem (6 cr.)	2 grad sem (6 cr.)	2 grad sem (6 cr.)
Year 3	Comp Exam		

	Fall	Spring	Summer
Year 1	1 grad sem. (3 cr.) + lang req* (3 cr.)	1 grad sem. (3 cr.) + lang req* (3 cr.)	2 grad.sem. (6 cr.)
Year 2	2 grad sem (6 cr.)	2 grad sem (6 cr.)	2 grad sem (6 cr.)
Year 3	1 grad sem (3 cr.) + Comp. Exam		

Three-year plan



	Fall	Spring	Summer
Year 1	1 grad sem (3 cr.)	1 grad sem (3 cr.)	2 grad sem (6 cr.)
Year 2	1 grad sem (3 cr.)	1 grad sem (3 cr.)	2 grad sem (6 cr.)
Year 3	1 grad sem (3 cr.) +lang req (3 cr.)	1 grad sem (3 cr.) + lang req (3 cr.)	1 grad sem (3 cr.)

Four-year plan



	Fall	Spring	Summer
Year 1	1 grad sem (3 cr.)	1 grad sem (3 cr.)	1 grad sem (3 cr.)
Year 2	1 grad sem (3 cr.)	1 grad sem (3 cr.)	1 grad sem (3 cr.)
Year 3	1 grad sem (3 cr.)	1 grad sem (3 cr.)	1 grad sem (3 cr.)
Year 4	1 grad sem (3 cr.) + lang req (3 cr.)	1 grad sem (3 cr.) + lang req (3 cr.)	

Thesis Option:

Fast track



	Fall	Spring	Summer
Year 1	1 grad sem (3 cr.) + lang req (3 cr.)	1 grad sem (3 cr.) + lang req (3 cr.)	2 grad sem (6 cr.)
Year 2	2 grad sem (6 cr.)	2 grad sem (6 cr.)	2 grad sem (6 cr.)
Year 3	FL-SPAN-499 (3 cr.)		

Three-year + plan



	Fall	Spring	Summer
Year 1	1 grad sem (3 cr.)	1 grad sem (3 cr.)	2 grad sem (6 cr.)
Year 2	1 grad sem (3 cr.) + lang req (3 cr.)	1 grad sem (3 cr.) + lang req (3 cr.)	2 grad sem (6 cr.)
Year 3	1 grad sem (3 cr.)	1 grad sem (3 cr.)	Prepare thesis proposal
Year 4	FL-SPAN-499 (3 cr.)		

Four-year plan



	Fall	Spring	Summer
Year 1	1 grad sem (3 cr.)	1 grad sem (3 cr.)	1 grad sem (3 cr.)
Year 2	1 grad sem (3 cr.)	1 grad sem (3 cr.)	1 grad sem (3 cr.)
Year 3	1 grad sem (3 cr.) + lang req (3 cr.)	1 grad sem (3 cr.) + lang req (3 cr.)	1 grad sem (3 cr.)
Year 4	1 grad sem (3 cr.)	FL-SPAN-499 (3 cr.)	

GRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS

FL-SPAN-400

FL-SPAN-401A

FL-SPAN-401B

FL-SPAN-405A

FL-SPAN-405C

Visión de América I

Los cronistas

Literatura barroca

El Romanticismo

La primera generación modernista

FL-SPAN-405D	La narrativa del modernismo
FL-SPAN-405E	El ensayo del neoclasicismo al positivismo
FL-SPAN-405G	José Martí
FL-SPAN-409A	El postmodernism
FL-SPAN-409B	La novela de la Revolución Mexicana
FL-SPAN-409C	La novela indigenista y regionalista
FL-SPAN-409F	La poesía de Neruda, Paz, y Borges
FL-SPAN-409H	El teatro del siglo veinte
FL-SPAN-409I	El realismo mágico
FL-SPAN-409N	Gabriel García Márquez
FL-SPAN-410	History of the Spanish Language
FL-SPAN-420	Visión de América II

300-level courses approved for graduate credit:

FL-SPAN-352	Puerto Rican Literature
FL-SPAN-358	Modernismo
FL-SPAN-365C	El cuento hispanoamericano
FL-SPAN-365R	Literatura del Caribe

Participating Faculty:

Dr. Lucrecia Artalejo, Ph.D., Cornell University.
 Dr. Denise Cloonan, Ph.D., University of Delaware.
 Dr. John S. Geary, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley
 Dr. Lucía Lombardi, Ph.D., University of Chicago.
 Dr. Vicki Román-Lagunas, Ph.D., Florida State University.
 Dr. Esther Santana, Ph.D., University of Chicago.
 Dr. Paul A. Schroeder Rodriguez, Ph.D., Stanford University, Stanford

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