

PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

MAJOR: B.A. IN HISPANIC STUDIES

SUBMITTED BY PALOMA MARTÍNEZ-CARBAJO, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SPANISH

APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES, APRIL 6, 2009

PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT AND/OR PROGRAM GOALS:

The Hispanic Studies Program introduces students to the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures. The different courses offered allow students to lay the groundwork for fluency in Spanish and to enhance practical language skills for specific career purposes. Currently in the US, a degree in Hispanic Studies proves to be invaluable for those seeking careers in business, medical and legal professions, education, international affairs, foreign service, media, social and community services, law enforcement, and scholarly research, to name just some of the professions in which knowledge of Spanish is beneficial. Students who participate in our program's intentional service-learning opportunities abroad are well positioned to explore careers in non-profit organizations around the world.

PLU students in the Hispanic Studies Program are challenged to think critically in an increasingly global world and to see the complexity of Hispanic cultures from many perspectives. The understanding of a language includes the understanding of the cultures and peoples who speak it. We aim at educating students to become more effective participants in the global community of the twenty-first century by promoting awareness and sensitivity to Spanish language and Hispanic cultures. Our program expects students to develop their proficiency in the language by focusing on the four skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Content area courses serve the purpose of improving upon skills, broadening cultural knowledge, and gaining a deeper understanding of history, politics, art, and geography.

The program fulfills its mission by teaching the language, cultures, and literatures associated with Spanish, by promoting cross-cultural awareness and understanding, and by presenting models of effective pedagogy. It also does so by encouraging students to participate in the various study-abroad programs such as the ones in Oaxaca (México), León (Spain), Granada (Spain), and Ecuador.

Our program offers a wide variety of co-curricular activities, including our popular immersion weekend with students and faculty, as well as Hong International Hall living-learning community events and activities. The Language Resource Center offers study and work opportunities for Spanish students at all levels.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

A. Below is an outline of student learning outcomes at yearly milestones of our program. Attached is a draft of our curriculum that more specifically outlines each course.

Program Year (Exiting)	Learning Outcomes: Skills & Abilities (*)	Learning Outcomes: Knowledge
First Year	Students will read, write, speak, and understand Spanish at the Novice-high level.	Students will have an initial understanding and awareness of the diversity and complexity of the Hispanic world.
Second Year	Students will read, write, speak, and understand Spanish at the Intermediate-mid level.	Students will describe and identify major regions and cultural themes in the Hispanic world.
Third Year	Students will read, write, speak, and understand Spanish at the Advanced-low level.	Students will contextualize and comprehend literary texts from all major genres, and apply appropriate literary terminology; students will also examine and analyze contemporary social and political issues in the Hispanic world within the context of their historical relevance.
Fourth Year	Students will read, write, speak, and understand Spanish at the Advanced-mid level.	Students will formulate a hypothesis; research and apply critical theory to literary texts; analyze and evaluate primary and secondary sources; identify variety of linguistic systems in the Hispanic world.

*For all references to ACTFL national guidelines, see <http://www.actfl.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=4236>.

B. Senior Capstone Outcomes: The Senior Capstone for Hispanic Studies is an extensive research project that concludes in a written paper and formal presentation to an open audience, all in Spanish. Students will demonstrate their ability to:

- read, write, speak, and understand Spanish at the Advanced-mid level;

- formulate an original hypothesis to analyze and evaluate literary texts, then research and apply critical theory to support their hypothesis;
- increase trans-linguistic competence by working simultaneously on Spanish and English texts;
- analyze and evaluate primary and secondary sources;
- utilize sufficient and appropriate resources, most of which are in Spanish.