SPANISH DEPARTMENT STATEMENT

(Chair: Ariana Huberman ahuberma@haverford.edu)

The Department of Spanish aims to give students a thorough knowledge of the Spanish language and the ability to understand and interpret Spanish, Latin American, and Latino texts and cultures.

Learning Goals

• Students interact effectively with Spanish speakers in Spanish-speaking countries.
• Students critically analyze literary, media and/or language-related products and processes.
• Students reflect on the world and on themselves through the lens of the Spanish language and cultures.
• Students develop interpretive, critical thinking and research skills through their study of the Spanish language and of Hispanic cultural narratives.

Why take Spanish?

• It is the second language of the United States, with more than 40,000,000 speakers, and growing. Courses at Haverford, however, are more than just language study, and introduce the literature, history, film, and cultures of Spanish America, Spain, and Latinos/as in the USA.
• Many students enroll in the department in preparation for study abroad, which requires competence in the language.
• Proven competence in Spanish is also necessary to obtain CPGC internships in Latin America or Spain or to take part in other CPGC programs related to the area.

Fall 2017: Upper level courses offered:

SPAN 203: Writing the Jewish Trajectories in Latin America
SPAN 210: Spanish and Spanish American Film Studies
SPAN 221: Narrating Modern Mexico
SPAN 230: Medieval and Golden Age Spain: Literature, Culture, and Society
SPAN 311: Green Latin America: Culture and the Environment
SPAN 340: The Moor in Spanish Literature
SPAN 360: Learning-Teaching a Foreign Language

The Spanish Department at Haverford offers a major and a minor, and coordinates the interdisciplinary Concentration in Latin American, Iberian, and Latino Studies (LAILS).
Participating departments include Anthropology, Economics, History, History of Art at BMC, Cities at BMC, and Political Science). Department faculty and courses are also part of the bi-college Major in Comparative Literature.

**Requirements for the Spanish major**
Six courses in Spanish and Spanish American literature or film are required for a major in Spanish, in addition to two semesters of Spanish 490, in which students prepare for, research, and write a senior thesis.
Of the six required courses, **three** should be at the 200-level and **three** at the 300-level (Students studying abroad or with previous advanced training may substitute 300-level courses for the 200-level offerings).
**Two** of the 300-level courses should be taken at Haverford or Bryn Mawr. The program must include at least **two** courses at the 200- or 300-level that focus substantially on literature or culture prior to 1898.

**Requirements for the Spanish minor**
Six courses at the 200 or 300 level, with a minimum of **one course** at the 300-level to be taken at Haverford or Bryn Mawr. One of the six courses should focus substantially on literature prior to 1898.

**THE CONCENTRATION IN LATIN AMERICAN AND IBERIAN STUDIES**
Concentration Coordinator: **Prof. Jim Krippner (History Department)**

**Requirements for the Concentration** (6 courses and one long paper):
- Competence in Spanish to be achieved no later than the junior year, demonstrated by the completion of at least one course in Spanish at the 200 level or above.
- Core course: Spanish 240.
- Four other related courses, two of which must be taken outside the major department; one of these four courses should be at the 300 level.
- A long paper (at least 20 pages) on Spain or Latin America, to be completed no later than the end of the first semester of the senior year.

Haverford has joined other distinguished colleges and universities in an agreement with the Center for Latin American Studies at Georgetown University to participate in a five-year joint degree program. The program offers the opportunity to qualified students to count four courses from their undergraduate study toward the M.A. degree in Latin American Studies at Georgetown. See the coordinator for more details.
The Spanish Placement Test.

**ALL** first-year students who have studied Spanish in high school are required to take the online placement test. The Spanish Placement Test (available in Moodle) must be taken before arriving on campus, even if students are not planning on taking Spanish during their first year. Students who are planning or just considering enrollment in a Spanish course at Haverford or Bryn Mawr College at any point in the future must take the Placement Test.

Students who have never taken Spanish do not need to take the placement test. The should enroll in any Elementary Spanish section.

Native speakers of Spanish do not need to take the test and are automatically allowed to enroll in any upper-level course in the department. Please note that a native speaker normally fulfills both of the following criteria:
1) anyone raised in a Spanish-speaking country (including certain regions in the US) whose main language of communication is Spanish, and, 2) those whose schooling was done primarily in Spanish.
This definition of a native speaker is not absolute. If students don’t know whether they qualify as native speakers of Spanish, they should contact the Department Chair.

Any student who, for valid reasons, was unable to take the placement exam before arriving on campus, should contact the Department Chair immediately upon arrival for information about taking it. **Please note that students who have had previous coursework in Spanish will not be able to enroll in a Haverford Spanish course if they have not taken the Placement Test.**

The Placement Test and the Haverford Honor Code:

Placement in Spanish at Haverford takes into account your placement test score, your background and performance in Spanish classes in high school, and your previous experience in the language. In order to help us place you at the level best suited to your preparation and potential, you are expected to give your best effort while taking the exam, under the principles of the Haverford Honor Code.

**After taking the test.**

Students and advisors will be informed about placements on Thursday August 31st, by 7pm. Students are expected to enroll in Spanish Department courses at the level of
**placement.** After carefully considering background and test results, students will be placed in one of the following categories:

- Elementary (SPAN 001-002)
- Basic Intermediate (SPAN 100)
- Intermediate (SPAN 101)
- Advanced Intermediate (SPAN 102)
- Upper Level (any 200- or 300-level course)

Please remember that placement test results are **mandatory. Student “self-placement” or advisor-directed placements are entirely inappropriate and will not be allowed.** On rare occasions, the Department will consider requests by individual students to be moved to a higher or lower placement level after close and detailed consultation with the instructor and the Department Chair.

**Commitment**

Due to the special demands of learning a language at the elementary level, the Department requires that the Elementary sequence (001-002) be taken in the same academic year.

Students enrolling in **Elementary Spanish** should be aware that they are making a commitment to a one-year sequence to be fulfilled in a single year (fall semester ’17 and spring semester ’18, e.g.). The Department will not support petitions for exceptions to the College rule that requires completion of the full two-semester sequence for credit to be granted. **Students who take the first semester of Elementary Spanish have priority in registering for the Spring semester** (second semester of Elementary Spanish)

Language courses taught in the Spanish department require attendance to all classroom sessions and all tutorials. Successful language learning demands continuous study and practice, and tutorials provide crucial complementary activities to fulfill this goal. Classroom and tutorial participation are integral parts of the coursework and therefore will be part of the final grade. Tutorial sections will be scheduled with each class TA during the first weeks of classes.