



Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

PROPOSAL TITLE: Establish a Graduate Concentration in Romance Linguistics in the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, the Department of French, and the Department of Linguistics, School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

SPONSOR:

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

This proposal is to establish a new ‘floating’ graduate concentration in Romance Linguistics, using existing courses. Collaborating departments are the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, the Department of French and the Department of Linguistics, all three within the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics, in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Students pursuing a PhD in Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, French or Linguistics would be eligible to enroll in this concentration.

We would like to establish as an official concentration (that appears on the transcript) a program that has existed as an informal specialization for the PhD in Spanish, Italian and Portuguese for over 20 years. The Departments of French and of Linguistics also include Romance linguistics already as an informal specialization. Relevant paragraphs from the existing Programs of Study are included in an appendix.

JUSTIFICATION:

Our motivations for proposing this doctoral concentration are:

1. To make official an informal specialization that has existed for many years and in which students are currently enrolled.
2. To strengthen interdepartmental collaboration within the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics.
3. To increase the value of the degree our students receive.
4. To promote greater visibility of an existing institutional strength at no cost.

Romance Linguistics is a thriving field of scholarship (with its own international journals and annual conferences), in which a sizable number of graduate students in the participating units tend to specialize (this is especially true in the Spanish PhD, but also in the other programs). Over the years we have noticed a certain amount of frustration among our graduate students, when they become aware that even though they are specializing in this area, their transcript only indicates that they have a “PhD in Spanish” (or another language), without indication of a specialization in Romance Linguistics. We would like to enhance the value of our students’ degree by officially recognizing their training in Romance Linguistics. This concentration (which already exists as an informal specialization) would make our students more competitive in the job market. In addition, we believe that this concentration would help us attract top students to our doctoral programs.

Some other institutions have similar academic programs, although with some differences in how they are structured. Examples are: University of Washington (PhD in Romance Linguistics), University of Texas at Austin (Doctoral Portfolio in Romance Linguistics), University at Buffalo-SUNY (MA Concentration in Romance Linguistics), Indiana University (Romance Linguistics), and University of Michigan (joint PhD program between the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures and the Department of Linguistics). Several other universities, including the University of Southern California, offer a formal specialization in Hispanic Linguistics. Given our faculty strengths, we expect to be able to compete very favorably with these other institutions.

Among the participating doctoral programs the largest in terms of number of students who might opt for this concentration is Spanish. A few years ago we officially established an MA Concentration in Spanish Linguistics. This MA-level concentration has proven to be very successful and at present over half of all graduate students in the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese (SIP) specialize in Linguistics as opposed to Literature and Culture of the relevant languages. Most of these students continue to the PhD program, where, however, the specialization in Spanish/Romance Linguistics is at present unofficial and not recorded on the transcript.

There are several reasons to prefer a single concentration in Romance Linguistics at the PhD level, rather than separate concentrations in French Linguistics, Spanish Linguistics, etc. First of all, it would be a more efficient use of School faculty, by allowing us to unify efforts and include students in the different doctoral programs in the same courses. Second, the concentration would also serve students in Portuguese and Italian whose numbers are too small for individual programs. Third, it would expand significantly the options for specialization to students in the sponsoring departments: SIP, French and Linguistics. Finally, this concentration would give our students in the PhD in Spanish, French, Italian or Portuguese an advantage over other institutions by emphasizing linguistic expertise in Romance languages beyond the language of the doctoral

degree. Students in the Linguistics Department with an interest in the Romance languages would also increase their employability.

The job prospects of graduates with this concentration would be very good. In any given year, a high proportion of all tenure-track jobs in Spanish that are advertised are in Spanish Linguistics and many of them list expertise in a second Romance language as a plus. This is also true of French, Italian and Portuguese to a great extent. Typically such jobs require a degree in “Spanish Linguistics” or “Spanish and Linguistics” (or French, etc.), as in this recent ad from Purdue University: “Qualifications: Ph.D. in hand by August 2012 in general or theoretical Spanish linguistics.” At present our students who should qualify for such jobs have only a degree that specifies “Spanish”, which, per se, does not indicate any expertise in the field of Linguistics. Having this concentration in Romance Linguistics would thus be very beneficial for our students when they apply for such jobs.

Currently we have 5 students in the Spanish PhD program specializing in comparative Romance Linguistics (out of 10 doctoral students in Spanish with a focus on Spanish Linguistics). If the PhD Concentration in Romance Linguistics were in place, it is likely that a majority of students in the PhD in Spanish specializing in Spanish Linguistics would choose to pursue it. In addition, we currently have 4 students in the MA in Spanish with Concentration in Spanish Linguistics who would likely pursue this new PhD Concentration if approved. This year we have received 37 applications for our graduate program in Spanish with specialization in Spanish or Romance Linguistics. If the concentration in Romance Linguistics is approved, we expect this number to go up to perhaps about 50. It is expected that the existence of this official Concentration would result in our ability to recruit the very best students. Approval of the Concentration, on the other hand, should have no effect on how many new students are admitted per year. It will allow us to attract better students and to be more selective.

The greatest impact is expected to occur in French. Currently there are 4 doctoral students in French Linguistics, as least two of whom would be interested in the Concentration. Three of the 5 students who have been admitted to the graduate program in French with specialization in French Linguistics for next year have explicitly expressed an interest in this Concentration, including a student who has been awarded an Illinois Distinguished Fellowship from the Graduate College. A concern of the faculty in French Linguistics is that these students will decline our offer precisely because we do not have an official Concentration in Romance Linguistics. The Faculty in French Linguistics expects the number of applications to double with the approval of the Concentration. They have already seen a surge in interest in this area this year, after advertising Romance Linguistics more prominently as an area of study within the French Department.

The impact of the Concentration on the graduate program in the Department of Linguistics, on the other hand, should be relatively small. Currently there is one student who has just passed his MA exams who would most likely pursue the Concentration in Romance Linguistics within the PhD in Linguistics.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:

a. Additional staff and dollars needed

No additional staff or budget is needed at this time, as no new courses are being proposed. This concentration would create synergies among units, leading to a more efficient use of existing resources.

Certification of the concentration would not create a new administrative burden. Graduate Services are already unified at the level of the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics.

Two graduate courses under the label Romance Linguistics are already included in the course catalog: RMLG 435 *Introduction to Romance Linguistics* and RMLG 559 *Seminar in Romance Linguistics*. These courses are already taught on a regular basis, are controlled by Spanish and are also crosslisted with FR, ITAL, PORT and LING. Other existing courses that students could apply towards this concentration are listed in Appendix B.

b. Internal reallocations (e.g., change in class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratio, etc.)

There are no envisioned changes in internal reallocations. We expect some classes to experience a moderate growth in number of students (4-5), as completion of an official concentration may result attractive to some students who are not already pursuing a specialization in Romance Linguistics and as there would be a greater exchange of students between departments, but nothing that would require implementing any changes.

We estimate that with current faculty strength we can guarantee offering at least 1 seminar under RMLG 559 every semester and RMLG 435 every other year. Other courses that can count toward the 8 hours of 400- or 500- level linguistics courses in the concentration are regularly taught. Please see Appendix B for the list.

Core faculty in Romance Linguistics would include: M. Bowles (SIP), A.M. Escobar (SIP), R. Foote (SIP), Z. Fagyal (French), J.I. Hualde (SIP/Linguistics), P. Golato (French), C. R. Girju (Linguistics), J. McDonald (SIP/Linguistics), S. Montrul (SIP/Linguistics), D. Musumeci (SIP), R. Shosted (Linguistics), A. Tremblay (French)

c. Effect on course enrollment in other units and explanations of discussions with representatives of those departments

It is already the case that students specializing in Romance Linguistics take relevant courses in all participating units. If the concentration is approved, we expect, for instance, students in Spanish to populate French Linguistics courses in greater numbers than until now and vice versa. This should help to keep enrollments healthy without creating any significant burden for the instructors.

Students who decide not to complete the concentration would still be able to finish their PhD without any added obstacles, since most or all of the hours would count towards their major.

Students currently in the participating departments will be given the option to complete this concentration if it is approved.

This proposal has the support of relevant faculty members of all three Departments. Letters of support for the proposed graduate Concentration in Romance Linguistics from the EO's of the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, the Department of French and the Department of Linguistics are included with this proposal.

d. Impact on the University Library

The University Library already has excellent holdings in Romance Linguistics and subscribes to all major relevant journals. No impact on the University Library is envisioned. A letter from the University Librarian is included.

e. Impact on computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.

We do not anticipate any impact on computer or laboratory use.

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:

Fall 2012

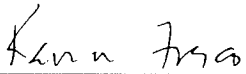
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Signatures:



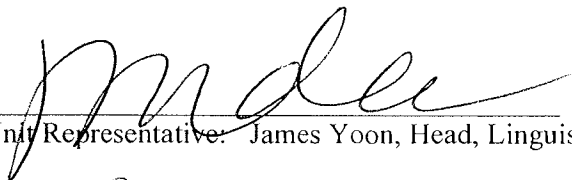
Unit Representative: Silvina Montrul, Head, SIP

11-9-11
Date:



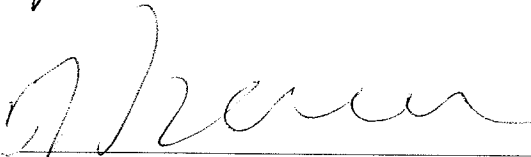
Unit Representative: Karen Fresco, Head, French

11-10-11
Date:



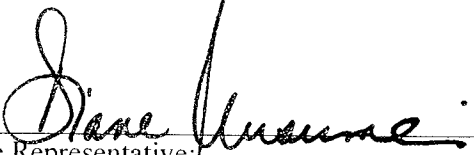
Unit Representative: James Yoon, Head, Linguistics

Nov 9, 2011
Date:



School Representative: Elabbas Benmamoun, Director, SLCL

11/11/11
Date:



College Representative:

2/8/12
Date:



Graduate College Representative:

4/23/12
Date:

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:

Romance Linguistics

Director: Professor José Ignacio Hualde
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Graduate concentration: Romance Linguistics

Participating programs: Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese (Spanish or Italian or Portuguese Ph.D), French (Ph.D), Linguistics (Ph.D)

Graduate Degree Program:

The concentration in Romance Linguistic requires a minimum of 24 hours of graduate-level coursework and it is open to PhD students in the participating Departments.

Admission:

PhD students in any of the participating Departments within the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics are admitted into the program with the consent of their advisor and the director of the program

Degree requirements

<i>Required courses:</i>	<i>Required hours:</i>
RMLG 435 Introduction to Romance Linguistics	4 hours
RMLG 559 Seminar in Romance Linguistics (3 courses on different topics)	12 hours
2 400- or 500-level courses in the linguistics of other Romance languages and/or in general linguistics, as approved by the student's advisor.	8 hours
TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS	24 hours
Language Requirement: Reading knowledge or completion of two-semester language courses with a minimum grade of B in two Romance languages other than the student's major language , or an equivalent approved by the Romance Linguistics Advisory Committee. (Language courses taken to satisfy this requirement do not count towards the total number of hours.)	(n.a.)
Other Requirements:	
A dissertation or thesis in the area of Romance Linguistics. It must include significant research on at least 2 Romance languages. Whether this requirement is satisfied is determined by the Romance Linguistics Advisory Committee. We expect that a member of one of the cooperating departments external to the student's home department will normally be a member of the student's dissertation committee.	
In addition to the graduate concentration requirements, students must also complete the requirements of their major degree. The major department	

determines which and how many concentration hours may also be applied to the major degree ¹ . Please contact your department for more information.	
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1. SIP: All hours taken to complete the Concentration in Romance Linguistics count towards the PhD in Spanish, Italian or Portuguese.

French: Sixteen of the proposed twenty-four concentration hours will count towards coursework for the Ph.D. in French.

Linguistics: All hours taken to complete the Concentration in Romance Linguistics count towards the PhD in Linguistics.

Appendix A:

Evidence that Romance Linguistics already exists as an area of specialization in all three participating Departments. Relevant text is in **bold**.

Copied from existing UIUC Graduate Programs of Study
(http://courses.illinois.edu/cis/2011/fall/programs/graduate/grad_majors.html)

Spanish, Italian and Portuguese

Doctor of Philosophy, Spanish, Italian or Portuguese

Areas of specialization offered in Spanish are Medieval, Early Modern, Modern and Contemporary Spanish (Iberian) Studies, Latin American colonial studies, and modern and contemporary Latin American studies, Spanish linguistics (with various subfield specializations), and **Romance linguistics** (with various subfield specializations). Areas of specialization offered in Italian are literary and cultural studies, Italian linguistics, and **Romance linguistics**. Areas of specialization offered in Portuguese are Luso-Brazilian literary and cultural studies and **Romance linguistics**. We also teach Catalan and Basque.

French

Specialization in French Linguistics

This Ph.D. curriculum in linguistics offers training in French and Romance linguistics in cooperation with the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese and the Department of Linguistics. Candidates selecting this option are required to complete course work in at least three areas of linguistic theory, advanced study of French language and culture, and French and **Romance linguistics** beyond the requirements of the M.A. Advanced course work related to the candidate's research area is chosen in consultation with the advisor from courses offered by participating departments. Students are expected to demonstrate proficiency in at least one other Romance language and may select a concentration in Romance Linguistics.

Linguistics

Graduate Degree Programs

The Department of Linguistics offers graduate programs leading to the Master of Arts in Linguistics, Master of Arts in Teaching English as a Second Language (MATESL), and Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics degrees. Work toward these degrees is divided into eight major areas: computational linguistics, historical linguistics, phonology/phonetics, psycholinguistics (including language acquisition), second language studies, semantics/pragmatics, sociolinguistics, and syntax. Other **areas of concentration** are artificial intelligence, cognitive science, and area linguistics (with concentration in African; Germanic; **Romance**; Semitic; and South, West, or East Asian linguistics). More detailed information on departmental programs, offerings, admission, degree requirements, and financial aid, may be found at: www.linguistics.uiuc.edu.

Appendix B Courses List for Graduate Concentration in Romance Linguistics

These courses can be used to complete the 8 hours of 400- or 500-level linguistics courses in a Romance language other than the student's major language:

SPAN 430 *Spanish Phonology*,
SPAN 431 *Spanish Morphology*,
SPAN 432 *Spanish Syntax*,
SPAN 433 *Spanish Sociolinguistics*,
SPAN 434 *History Spanish Lang*,
SPAN 558 *Sem Spanish Synchronic Ling*,
SPAN 559 *Sem Spanish Diachronic Ling*,

FR 413 *French Phonetics and Phonology*,
FR 414 *Advanced Grammar and Style*,
FR 416 *Structure of French Language*,
FR 417 *History of the French Language*,
FR/ITAL/PORT/SPAN 418 *Language & Minorities in Europe*,
FR 529 *Studies in French Linguistics*.
FR 531 *Intro to Old French Language*,

ITAL 450 *Italian Syntax & Phonology*.

LING 506 *Topics in Computational Ling*,
LING 507 *Formal Semantics I*, LING 509 *Topics in Cognitive Ling*,
LING 512 *Language and Culture*, LING 514 *Design & Stats in Lang Study*,
LING 516 *Field Methods*,
LING 520 *Acoustic Phonetics*,
LING 521 *Speech and Hearing Acoustics*,
LING 522 *Articulatory Phonetics*,
LING 524 *Dev Psycholinguistics*,
LING 525 *Psycholinguistics*,
LING 529 *Second Lang Acq & Bilingualism*,
LING 541 *Syntax II*, LING 542 *Phonology II*,
LING 547 *Formal Semantics II*,
LING 550 *Sociolinguistics II*,
LING 551 *Pragmatics*,
LING 560 *Seminar in Bilingualism*,
LING 570 *Seminar in Cognitive Science*,
LING 575 *Exper Phon I Spch Physiol*,
LING 576, *Exper Phon II Spch Acous Perc*,
LING 581 *Topics in Syntactic Theory*,
LING 582 *Topics in Phonological Theory*,
LING 584 *Theories in SLA*,
LING 587 *Topics in Sociolinguistics*,
LING 588 *Sem Second Lang Learn*,
LING 590 *Special Topics in Linguistics*,
LING 591 *Seminar in Linguistic Analysis*