

## PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY TO ESTABLISH OR MODIFY AN UNDERGRADUATE MINOR

**Title of the proposed minor:** Revision of the Undergraduate Minor in Spanish, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

**Sponsoring unit(s):**

Profs. Silvina Montrul, Elena Delgado, and Department Head Diane Musumeci, Spanish, Italian & Portuguese, 4080 FLB, MC-176, phone: 333-1780, [montrul@uiuc.edu](mailto:montrul@uiuc.edu)

**COLLEGE SPONSOR:** Ann Mester, Associate Dean, College of LAS, 294 Lincoln Hall; MC 448; 3-1350; [mester@uiuc.edu](mailto:mester@uiuc.edu)

**Brief description of the program of study:** Please explain how the proposed minor meets each of the following criteria:

- The minor program of study should require some depth in the subject, but not as extensive as the major.
- Ordinarily, the minor should be 1) a comprehensive study in a single discipline, or 2) an interdisciplinary study focusing on a single theme. If this minor is an exception, please explain and justify.

The proposed revision requires 18 hours in Spanish, including 12 hours of required 'core' courses and 6 hours of electives. The major differences between the current and the proposed minor are 1) All three 'basic skills' courses (SPAN 200, SPAN 204, and SPAN 228- reading, grammar and composition) are required for the minor; 2) All minors will complete one of the three "Introduction to the discipline" courses (SPAN 250, SPAN 252, and SPAN 254) that stress the development of analytical skills in each of the disciplinary areas represented in the unit (literature, linguistics and culture); 3) The total number of required courses will be increased by one and the number of electives will be reduced by one; 4) Students will be able to complete the minor by selecting courses in one of the three disciplinary areas (literature, linguistics, and/or culture); and 5) By removing the requirement of a conversation course (always taught in small sections), students will be able to complete the minor more readily. (see *Appendix 1: Proposed Minor in Spanish* for a list of elective courses)

**Justification:**

The revision of the curriculum is a modernization to reflect the current state of the field, to bring it in line with sister disciplines in the humanities, and to create a coherent curriculum that conforms to the most recent recommendations of the Modern Language Association (May, 2007). The redesign is motivated by two major, interrelated and complex factors. First, over the last decade, the Humanities in general and departments of foreign language in particular, have been undergoing significant transformation. There is a growing move towards decentralizing a predominantly literature-based curriculum and placing the study of languages and cultures other than English at the center of many related disciplines. A comparison of our curriculum with those of peer institutions in the

Big Ten places Illinois clearly behind when it comes to re-conceptualization of intellectual mission and object of study.

The second major factor relates to current demographic and social changes in the world around us, and especially in the U.S, where it is projected that by the year 2050 one quarter of the population will be Hispanic. Not only has this demographic explosion endowed the Spanish language with increasing visibility in U.S. society, but it has also generated growing interest in issues particularly relevant to the extremely diverse Hispanic population. For our department, this translates into increased enrollments and high demand for Spanish.

### **Budgetary and Staff Implications:**

- a. Additional staff and dollars needed: None. All changes will be accommodated with existing funds.
- b. Internal reallocations (e.g. change in class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratio, etc.).

Spanish courses are in high demand, especially at the 200-level. The proposed revision of the curriculum does not create any additional prerequisites that might exacerbate this situation. In fact, by reducing the number of required courses in literature, we expect that the demand will distribute more evenly across the course offerings. By allowing courses in addition to literature to count toward the major, the unit's strength in linguistics will be made available to undergraduates.

As the curriculum currently stands, the huge demand for Spanish means that many of the undergraduate courses, which are typically small, lecture-discussion format classes, are taught by graduate Teaching Assistants. As a result, undergraduates in Spanish rarely experience a course that is faculty-taught before their final semester. The proposed change in the curriculum has taken the demand for Spanish into account in the following ways:

- 1) The required 'basic skills' courses (SPAN 200, SPAN 204, and SPAN 228) will be offered in three different formats, each appropriate to the course content. SPAN 204 has recently been converted to a large, faculty-taught lecture with accompanying small, TA-led discussion sections. The change has allowed the unit to enroll 28% more students with no increase in FTE. SPAN 200 (Reading), on the other hand, will be converted to a primarily online format, with testing done in a controlled setting. It will continue to be supervised by a non-tenure-track faculty member, with one TA. Because of its focus on intensive and extensive writing, SPAN 228 (Composition) will continue to be taught by TAs in computer classrooms with a maximum section size of 18. The TA FTE that have been saved by the conversion of SPAN 204 and the "Introduction to the discipline" courses (SPAN 250, SPAN 252, and SPAN 254) will be used to accommodate more students in SPAN 228. This will entail access to additional computer classroom space.

- 2) In order to both meet student demand for the introductory-level courses and increase contact with faculty, the three 'Introduction to the discipline' courses will also be offered as faculty-taught lectures with accompanying, small TA-led discussion sections. In addition to introducing faculty to undergraduates much earlier in the

curricular sequence, this format will accommodate more students in the high demand courses and make better use of our graduate teaching assistants by giving them experience teaching within their discipline under the direct supervision of a faculty member. The addition of small discussion sections will ensure that students will have the opportunity to develop their expressive skills in Spanish.

<b>Course</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>Faculty FTE</b>	<b>TA FTE</b>
(Fall 2007) SPAN 200	123	0.50	0.33
(proposed) SPAN 200	400	0.50	0.33
(Fall 2006) SPAN 204	354	0	2.33
(Fall 2007) SPAN 204	489	0.50	1.83
(Fall 2007) SPAN 228	191	0	1.8
(proposed) SPAN 228	300	0	2.6
(Fall 2007) SPAN 225/227	106	0	0.67
(proposed) SPAN 250 Intro to Literary Analysis	150	0.25	0.33
(Fall 2007) SPAN 302	75	0.50	0.17
(proposed) SPAN 252 Intro to Hispanic Linguistics)	150	0.25	0.33
(Fall 2007) SPAN 301	50	0	0.33
(proposed) SPAN 254 Intro to Cultural Analysis	150	0.25	0.33

The change in delivery format for the “Introduction to the discipline” courses (SPAN 250, SPAN 252, and SPAN 254) will require access to large lecture halls with IT capability. On the other hand, each course will free up from 6 to 32 regular classrooms, particularly at peak times of the day.

The current undergraduate curriculum restricts the number of minors at the entry point in the system, due to the unit’s inability to accommodate large numbers of students in the early, required courses since they are all taught as small, lecture-discussion sections with a maximum enrollment of 23-25 students each. The proposed curriculum seeks to increase accessibility to the early, required courses by changing the way in which instruction is delivered in those classes where it is most appropriate. The small lecture-discussion format will continue to be used in the more advanced courses at the 300- and 400-level.

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

The change in delivery format for several courses, both basic skills and Introductions to the disciplines, at the 200-level will provide increased access for Spanish majors and minors as well as for the many students who wish to combine Spanish with their primary course of study. The Division of General Studies has already noticed the positive impact of the revision of SPAN 204. The unit has been working closely with Assistant Dean Penny Soskin to ensure increased access for James Scholar students. The majors in International Studies with a concentration in Spanish will directly benefit from increased access at the 200-level as well as from expanded course offerings at the 300-level,

including a variety of courses in cultural studies focusing on Spain and Latin America. The creation of Topics courses at the 200- and 300-levels will facilitate the transfer of credit earned during study abroad.

d. Impact on library, computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.

This is a revised program. The Library holdings are more than adequate.

SPAN 204 (max. enrollment 250/lect) and the three “Introduction to the disciplines” courses (SPAN 250, 252 and 254, max. enrollments 150/lecture each) will require large lecture halls with IT capability. Additional sections of SPAN 228 to better meet student demand will require additional access to networked computer lab space (max. enrollment 18/section). A letter of support from ATLAS and one from FMS have been requested and will be attached to this document.

**Requirements:** list the hours and course requirements for the proposed minor. The minor should consist of at least 16 and no more than 21 hours of course work. At least six hours of the minor must be advanced (300 or 400) level courses. If the proposed minor fails to meet these criteria, please provide a reason.

Hours	Requirements
	Basic Skills courses
3	SPAN 200—Readings in Hispanic Literature and Culture
3	SPAN 204—Practical Review of Spanish
3	SPAN 228—Spanish Composition
3	Choose one of the following:
	SPAN 250 Introduction to Literary Analysis, or
	SPAN 252 Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics, or
	SPAN 254 Introduction to Cultural Analysis
6	Electives from among SPAN courses at the 300 or 400 level chosen from a list maintained at the SIP advisor’s office
18	Total hours

**Prerequisites for the minor:** describe the prerequisites (if any) for the proposed minor. Prerequisite courses within the sponsoring unit count toward the total hours of coursework; prerequisite courses outside the sponsoring unit ordinarily do not.

The prerequisites for the ‘basic skills’ courses (SPAN 200, SPAN 204, and SPAN 228) are successful completion of fourth semester Spanish or its equivalent.

**Expected enrollment in the minor:** provide an estimate of the total number of students expected in the minor once it achieves its full enrollment.

Currently we accommodate about 75 minors per year. We expect to accommodate approximately 125 minors per year.

**Admission to the minor:** describe how the department will monitor the admission process for the minor. If the department intends to limit enrollment in the minor, tell how this will be done.

Enrollment in the minor is limited to available space. Students taking Spanish as a major have priority for enrollment in the various courses. Students are advised to plan early and to consider a study abroad option to complete the minor.

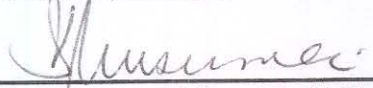
**Minor advisor:** describe how students enrolled in the minor will be advised.

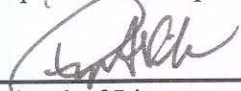
The department has a full-time academic advisor to advise both majors and minors.

**Certification of successful completion:** describe the system that has been set up within the department and college of the sponsoring department/unit for certifying successful completion of the minor.

The academic advisor for Spanish certifies successful completion of the minor.

**CLEARANCES:**

  
Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese 10/22/07  
Date

  
School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics 10/23/07  
Date

  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences 4/4/08  
Date

Office of the Provost Date

**Statement for the Programs of Study Catalog:** provide a brief description of the minor that includes a list of the specific courses and hours required.

## Minor in Spanish

E-mail: [sip@uiuc.edu](mailto:sip@uiuc.edu)

Hours	Requirements
	Basic Skills courses
3	SPAN 200—Readings in Hispanic Literature and Culture
3	SPAN 204—Practical Review of Spanish
3	SPAN 228—Spanish Composition
3	Choose one of the following:
	SPAN 250 Introduction to Literary Analysis, or
	SPAN 252 Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics, or
	SPAN 254 Introduction to Cultural Analysis
6	Electives from among SPAN courses at the 300 or 400 level chosen from a list maintained at the SIP advisor's office
18	Total hours