

Spanish and Portuguese: A Profile



RICE HUMANITIES

Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures

Spanish and Portuguese are global languages — from Spain and Portugal to Latin America and the United States and parts of Africa, including Angola and Mozambique.

Our program focuses on the intersection of the local and the global, studying the literatures and cultures of the Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking world across the Atlantic and the Caribbean.

Studying this multilingual world allows our students to critically evaluate political and social systems and to develop an appreciation for the multiple cultural expressions of these contemporary societies.

Rice's major and minor in Spanish and Portuguese are part of the Department of Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures. We offer a full range of undergraduate courses from the medieval period to contemporary literature, from visual culture to environmental policies, and from colonial to postcolonial studies to language policies. Linguistic diversity, the development of heritage languages, bilingualism and multilingualism are a valuable cultural capital.

The program stresses linguistic competence, interdisciplinary study, and a truly transnational perspective on Spanish, Latin American and Brazilian literature and culture. Courses are offered on the novel, poetry, essay, film, art, cultural theory, translation and gender and provide foundational knowledge about Latin America, Spain and Portugal, as well as Latinx culture in the United States. The major provides Rice students with a comprehensive professional program of studies focused on the development of critical thinking through faculty-guided academic research and experiential learning opportunities, including internships and study abroad.

Our students are highly motivated and have the opportunity to choose from a variety of innovative academic courses. Through these courses, students develop the critical skills to identify and

articulate areas of inquiry, debate and investigation associated with Spanish and Portuguese speaking communities; the ability to engage, communicate and develop productive interactional abilities with multilingual communities; and the academic foundation to pursue an advanced graduate or professional degree.

Our students follow many different professional paths, including business, education, health services, international relations and political science, interpretation or translation, linguistics and psychology.

Requirements

For the Spanish and Portuguese major, students must complete 30 credit hours (10 courses) listed under Spanish and Portuguese. These courses include core requirements, such as the Hispanic Writing Seminar, *Brasil Atual*, *Approaches to Hispanic Literatures* and one Hispanic linguistics course.

For the minor in Spanish and Portuguese, students must take a minimum of 18 credit hours (six courses), including three core requirements. Additionally, students can choose from a range of survey courses and advanced courses as well as focused research seminars.

Detailed requirements can be found in Rice University's General Announcements.

Study Abroad in Madrid and Cuba

While Houston is an important center for cultural production in the Spanish and Portuguese languages and provides many opportunities for service-learning programs and cultural events, the Spanish and Portuguese program also allows students to study these contemporary cultures outside the United States.

The Spanish and Portuguese program's Cuba Research Seminar examines the ways in which politics and the practices of artistic representation intersect in postrevolutionary Cuba. The course also offers a rare opportunity to visit Cuba, a country that has been off-limits to U.S. citizens for decades. The trip allows students to meet artists, intellectuals and other professionals from the island, providing students the opportunity to focus on the historical developments that have shaped contemporary Cuba.

Spanish and Portuguese also offers a unique academic and professional experience with a faculty-led, six-credit hour program in Madrid, Spain. Students take two classes — one is a full-time, six-week internship in a company or NGO in Madrid and the second course explores contemporary Spanish culture and society. Students stay with Spanish families and participate in cultural activities planned by Rice faculty.

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**For additional information,
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