The Spanish and Spanish American Studies Program offers an ideal academic setting and numerous opportunities for students to sharpen their skills and broaden their understanding of the language, literatures, and cultures of the world's Spanish-speaking peoples, while enhancing their professional options. Our program is guided by the notion that socially responsible individuals in today’s world must be able to cross linguistic and cultural boundaries. Consequent with this principle, lower- and upper-division courses in our program offer students a unique educational experience to help you meet the complex challenges that characterize today’s globalized world.

The Spanish and Spanish American Studies student has the opportunity to acquire a solid knowledge of the richness of Hispanic and Latino/a cultural and literary traditions, in preparation for graduate studies in Spanish or for work in any field requiring excellent skills in Spanish and an understanding of Hispanic and Latino/a culture.

Students who wish to major in Spanish and Spanish American studies are encouraged to pursue the individualized major option. Interested students should see a Spanish and Spanish American studies faculty member to declare this major option. An example of the courses that might constitute an individualized major in SSAS is available in the individualized major section of the catalog.

For those who envision training in Spanish language and culture as an auxiliary skill to be coupled with another field of study, we recommend a Minor in Spanish and Spanish American studies requiring a total of 23 semester course credits to complete.

In addition to courses taught in Spanish, we offer a number of interdisciplinary courses taught in English that can be taken as electives.

Students wishing to practice their conversational skills and share their interest in Hispanic culture can benefit from two complementary opportunities. The Spanish Club is open to all students who want to participate in conversation and peer-led activities. The program is also linked to the Mills Peer Tutoring Program.

We encourage our students to study in Latin America or Spain for one or two semesters in a Mills affiliated program. This gives the students an invaluable opportunity to perfect language skills and to obtain firsthand knowledge of the areas they are studying.

In addition to study abroad, students at an advanced level of Spanish may also take advantage of cross-registration in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at UC Berkeley to enroll in courses complementing those offered in our program.

Our students increase their knowledge of Hispanic/Latino/a cultures by attending a wide variety of events in the Bay Area. These are complemented by our own annual spring lecture series, film series, and guest lecturers. Recent topics include “Images of Women in Cuban Literature,” “Rethinking Cultural and National Identity,” “Images of Hispanic Women in Film,” “Memory and Imagination,” “Latin American Jewish Women Writers: Identity and Writing,” “Contemporary Mexican Literature and Music,” “Modernity and Cultural Pluralism in Spain and Latin America,” “Latin American Film and Latin America in Translation” and “Latin American Poetry.”

Entering students unsure of their placement should take the Spanish placement test. Available on Blackboard through the Mills Portal (http://portal.mills.edu).

For more information on placement exams, visit the Office of the Provost’s information page (https://inside.mills.edu/administration/provosts_office/placement.php) on the Mills website.

**Program Goals**

- Possess a relevant level of linguistic proficiency in Spanish.
- Knows canonical and non-canonical literary works within socio-historical, gender, and structural framework of analysis and understanding.
- Value the diversity of Hispanic peoples and cultures.
- Possess a relevant level of cultural literacy, both in mainstream and popular forms of Hispanic cultural expressions.
- Acquire a relevant knowledge of the historical tradition in Hispanic literatures, and of contemporary concepts for literary study.

**Minor**

**Major**

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**Minors**