SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE ADVISING FAQs

November 2010

This FAQ is a compilation of the most-commonly asked questions about the Spanish major and minor and current answers. It is an ongoing project. If you have a question to add to this FAQ sheet, please address an e-mail to Heather Mathy <hmathy@northwestern.edu>.

200-LEVEL LANGUAGE COURSES

Q: I need credit for SPAN 201 (or SPAN 202). May a Study Abroad course that was conducted in Spanish count as 201 (or 202)?

A: Regardless of content, one course taken completely in Spanish in a Spanish speaking country may be credited as SPAN 201 or 202, as long as no credit is sought for it in another Northwestern University department or program.

Q: I took SPAN 205 (or SPAN 206) during the 2008-2009 academic year. Will 205 (or 206) count toward Minor or Major requirements?

A: If you took either SPAN 205 or SPAN 206 in Winter 2009 or Spring 2009, either (but not both) of those courses may be applied toward the Minor or Major.

Q: May I count SPAN 202, SPAN 205, and SPAN 206 towards the Major in Spanish?

A: Beginning in Fall 2009, only one of the following three courses -- SPAN 202, SPAN 205, or SPAN 206 -- may count towards the Major in Spanish, as an elective only.

Q: May I count SPAN 202, SPAN 205, and SPAN 206 towards the Minor in Spanish?

A: Beginning in Fall 2009, only one of the following three courses -- SPAN 202, SPAN 205, or SPAN 206 -- may count towards the Minor in Spanish.

200-LEVEL LITERATURE COURSES

Q: May I take SPAN 250 (or SPAN 251, 260, or 261) concurrently with 310-395 courses?
A: If you have already completed SPAN 220, you may register for one of the following 200-level literature courses -- SPAN 250, 251, 260, or 261-- concurrently with one 300-level literature course (310, 320, 321, 323, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, or 395). [Note: The prerequisites for 301, 360, 361, and 380 differ significantly from the prerequisites for 300-level literature courses listed here. See prerequisites as stated in the Catalog.]

300-LEVEL LANGUAGE COURSES

SPAN 301

Q: I have taken two SPAN 301 courses on different topics. May I apply both toward Major or Minor requirements?

A: Departmental advisors have generally accepted more than one SPAN 301 for Major or Minor credit, provided the topics for each course differ significantly. For instance, one 301 might deal with sociolinguistics, another with advanced grammar and translation.

300-LEVEL LITERATURE COURSES

Q: I want to take an Independent Study, SPAN 399. May I?

A: WCAS rules limit 399s to juniors and seniors with high GPAs. In addition, Department of Spanish and Portuguese regulations require that a student seeking to register for SPAN 399 submit to the Director of Undergraduate Studies a petition with a description of the project, a substantial bibliography, and the endorsement of the supervising faculty member at the end of the quarter preceding the requested enrollment in a 399. Students interested in pursuing a subject should first take a relevant 300-level course, consult with faculty members in the field, and only then submit a petition. Independent Study 399 petitions may be obtained from the Spanish and Portuguese web site and from the Department office, Crowe 1-141. Submit the petition to the Director of Undergraduate Studies by the deadline noted on the petition.

COURSES OFFERED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE IN ENGLISH

Q: May I count a course on Latin American or Spanish literature or culture taught in English translation in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese toward satisfaction of major requirements?
A: One course on Latin American or Spanish literature or culture taught in English in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the 200 or 300 level (SPAN 223, 225, 230, 231, 232, 397) may be counted toward the core courses in the Major in Spanish.

Q: May I count a course taught on Latin American or Spanish literature or culture taught in English translation in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese toward satisfaction of minor requirements?

A: One course on Latin American or Spanish literature or culture in English translation offered in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the 200 or 300 level (Span 223, 225, 230, 231, 232, 397) may be counted toward the Minor in Spanish.

COMPARATIVE LITERARY STUDIES (CLS) COURSES

Q: May I count a course in CLS toward satisfaction of major requirements?

A: With an advisor’s approval, one 300-level CLS course that includes a substantial component of Latin American and/or Spanish literature and is taught by a faculty member of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese may be substituted for one 300-level course requirement in Spanish, provided the course does not duplicate a Spanish course you have taken or plan to take.

Q: May I count a course in CLS toward satisfaction of minor requirements?

A: No CLS courses may count toward the minor.

STUDENT-ORGANIZED SEMINARS (SOS)

Q: I wish to apply a Student-Organized Seminar toward my Major (or Minor) requirements. Will the Department accept an SOS credit?

A: Student Organized Seminars taken during the academic year 2008-2009 may be applied towards the requirements for the Major or the Minor. A Student Organizes Seminar taken after June 2009 will not be approved for Major or Minor credit.

AP CREDIT

Q: I have scores of 5 in my two Spanish AP exams and have therefore been awarded two credits by NU. Is my requirement in my Spanish major reduced to
thirteen courses? Is my requirement in my Spanish minor reduced to six courses?

A: NO is the answer to both questions. If you scored 4 or better in Spanish, you have satisfied the Weinberg Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement. But you must still take fifteen courses to complete the Major or eight courses to complete the Minor. AP credits do not reduce the number of courses required to complete the Major or the Minor in Spanish.

DECLARATION OF SPANISH MAJOR

Q: I have just signed the WCAS Declaration of Major form. Will I get preference for pre-registration, which begins tomorrow?

A: No, it ordinarily takes two weeks for your declaration to be processed. Moreover, in order for your declaration to take effect, you must take the cover sheet of the declaration form to the Office of Studies and see a WCAS adviser at 1908 Sheridan Rd.

Q: I want to switch from major to minor or vice versa. How do I do that?

A: Make an appointment with an advisor; pick up an advising folder and declaration form in the main office of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese; print a current transcript; and bring all of these items to the appointment.

STUDY ABROAD

Q: Next year I will study abroad. How will my Study Abroad credits satisfy my Spanish major or minor requirements?

A: The Department of Spanish and Portuguese strongly encourages students to study abroad. After you return to the Northwestern campus, the Spanish and Portuguese Department will evaluate your Study Abroad credits in language, literature, and culture and, as appropriate, award credit toward your major or minor requirements. This evaluation will be conducted as follows: 1) Make an appointment with an adviser to obtain approval for any courses that you want to apply toward Spanish major or minor requirements. 2) Bring the following items to the appointment: your NU advising transcript; your transcript from your Study Abroad program; Study Abroad course descriptions, course syllabi, papers, and examinations (if returned); and the Petition for Credit for Courses Taken Abroad, which may be found on the Weinberg College website (http://www.wcas.northwestern.edu/advising/studyabroad/PetitionforCredit.pdf).
Q: I studied in the Barcelona Summer Program in Summer 2009. How many of the Summer Program credits will the Department approve toward my major or minor requirements?

A: Students who completed the Advanced or Superior Tracks of the Barcelona Summer Program in summer 2009 may receive up to three (3) credits toward major or minor requirements. This policy is applies only to students enrolled in summer 2009. A student must petition for such credit in the manner prescribed in departmental policies: 1) Make an appointment with an adviser to obtain approval for any courses that you want to apply toward Spanish major or minor requirements. 2) Bring the following items to the appointment: your NU advising transcript; your transcript from your Study Abroad program; Study Abroad course descriptions, course syllabi, papers, and examinations (if returned); and the Petition for Credit for Courses Taken Abroad, which may be found on the Weinberg College website (http://www.wcas.northwestern.edu/advising/studyabroad/PetitionforCredit.pdf).

Q: I plan to study in the Barcelona Summer Program in Summer 2010. How many of the Summer Program credits will the Department approve toward my major or minor requirements?

A: There are three possible tracks for Northwestern students who enroll in this program.

1) Track One – Intermediate (for students who have taken 101-3/115-2 at NU, prior to departure) Students choosing Track One take: Español nivel intermedio; Clase de conversación. Nivel intermedio; Barcelona: The City and its History. Upon their return they receive: 3 general credits, but none of these 3 credits will satisfy major or minor requirements in Spanish. Once back at Northwestern, students who have elected Track One place into either 121-1 or 125, to be determined by the placement exam. Their results on the placement exam may also place them out of the WCAS language requirement (121-3/125-0) altogether. Students may petition to have general credits be included in other majors and minors (History, English, etc.)

2) Track Two – Advanced (for students who have taken 121-3/125-0 at NU, prior to departure) Students choosing Track Two take: Español nivel avanzado; Clase de conversación. Nivel avanzado; Sociedad y cultura en la España moderna. Upon their return they receive: SPAN 199 waived; one credit for SPAN 201; one credit for SPAN 210 for Sociedad y cultura en la España moderna. Note that students in this track receive two credits (201 + 210) that can count toward the Spanish major or minor. Students may petition to have the remaining course credited in other major and minors (History, English, etc.)
3) Track Three – Superior (for students who have taken 199 or higher at NU, prior to departure) Students choosing Track Three take: Español nivel superior; Clase de conversación. Nivel superior; Sociedad y cultura en la España moderna. Upon their return they receive: **two (sequential) credits** according to where they start in the language sequence, ranging from SPAN 201/ 202 / 203 / 204 / 301, plus **one credit** for 210 for the course Sociedad y cultura en la España moderna. Note that students enrolling in this track will have fulfilled the 199 requirement before going to Barcelona. Thus, a student in this track ends up with up to **three credits** that can be used toward the major/minor.

B. A student must petition for such credit in the manner prescribed in departmental policies:

1) Make an appointment with an adviser to obtain approval for any courses that you want to apply toward Spanish major or minor requirements.

2) Bring the following items to the appointment: your NU advising transcript; your transcript from your Study Abroad program; Study Abroad course descriptions, course syllabi, papers, and examinations (if returned); and the Petition for Credit for Courses Taken Abroad, which may be found on the Weinberg College website (http://www.wcas.northwestern.edu/advising/studyabroad/PetitionforCredit.pdf).

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**ELECTIVE COURSES FOR THE MAJOR IN SPANISH**

**Q:** What is an Elective Course for the Spanish Major?

**A:** An elective course for the major in Spanish is any course taught in Spanish or in English at the 200 or 300 level that focuses on Hispanic traditions—literature, culture, history, society, art, etc.—whether taken in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese or in another department. Students should consult an advisor about elective courses in which they plan to enroll.

**PETITION TO GRADUATE AND MAJOR/MINOR WORKSHEET**

**Q:** My school of record is not WCAS (that is, Spanish is my second major;
my school of record is Medill [or Communication or McCormick School or Bienen Music or SESP]). Must I fulfill the Spanish Elective Courses requirement?

A: Yes, you must complete the Elective Courses as delineated on the major worksheet, that is, you must complete all the Spanish major requirements. However, you do NOT need to complete the WCAS language and distribution requirements. Check the regulations for Medill [or Communication or McCormick School or Bienen Music or SESP] regarding the school's language and distribution requirements.

Q: My school of record is SESP. May I double count a course for my SESP concentration and a second major or minor in WCAS?

A: Yes, according to the following guidelines: If you wish to double count a course between your SESP concentration/core and a second major or minor within WCAS, you may double count three courses for a second major in WCAS and two courses for a minor or adjunct major in WCAS. For SESP, these two numbers are irrespective of each other. In other words, three concentration classes may be double counted toward a second major and another two courses (separate courses) may be double counted toward a minor or adjunct second major.

Q: May I double-count Elective Courses for the Major in Spanish toward Related Courses in my second major in WCAS?

A: The Department has received at least two different answers to this question, one from the Weinberg College Dean’s Office and the other from the Registrar’s Office. From the Registrar’s office: “the final decision is No, you may not double-count Elective Courses in the Spanish major toward Related Courses in your second major.” From Dean Weimer: “A student may count the same course as a major requirement in one major and a related [or elective] requirement in another, but may NOT count the same course for either major requirements in two majors or related [elective] requirements in two majors.” If you find yourself in the situation of needing to double-count Elective Courses for your Major in Spanish toward Related Courses in your second major, please make an appointment with a departmental advisor.