

Graduate Courses in French and Spanish | George Mason University | Spring 2022

Our French and Spanish graduate courses in linguistics, literary studies and cultural studies offer you the opportunity to pursue advanced study in the language(s) that is relevant to both academic and professional contexts.

We are excited to offer the following courses in the spring of 2022!

*** SPAN 574: Critical Approaches to Teaching Culture in Spanish. Wednesday, 4:30-7:10pm. (Online synchronous)**

Dr. Lisa Rabin, lrabin@gmu.edu

How can literature, film and other cultural practices be used in the Spanish classroom? As teachers we understand intuitively that literature, film and art offer windows onto the rich and diverse Spanish-speaking world, but we need strategies for building students' encounters with texts and cultural artefacts into our language lessons. This online course introduces critical approaches to teaching literature and culture in bilingual, heritage, mixed and L2 Spanish classrooms. We will focus on how critical perspectives that locate texts and other artefacts in social and historical processes can guide students towards understanding the key role that culture plays in social identity, and how culture can be a vehicle for agency and empowerment in our students' own lives. Teachers and prospective teachers will develop strategies in task-based, technology-enhanced and differentiated learning for integrating a range of cultural practices into their Spanish-language lessons, including short stories, mural art, contemporary film, radio podcasts, television series and popular music. Taught in Spanish.

*** SPAN 575 - Teaching Spanish for Social Justice. Monday, 4:30-7:10pm (Online synchronous) | Dr. Ellen Serafini, eserafi2@gmu.edu**

This language teacher education course exposes students to the core concepts and methods in critical approaches to language pedagogy with a focus on teaching Spanish in instructed heritage, second language, and mixed settings. The course builds on knowledge of basic sociolinguistic concepts, fosters a critical understanding of the sociopolitical dimensions and outcomes of language teaching in the U.S., and provides students with rich opportunities to examine relationships between language and race, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality in educational contexts as well as how such relationships lead to either oppression and exclusion, or access and empowerment. To demonstrate their growing awareness and agency as critical language educators, students will have multiple opportunities to identify, interrogate, and question their own inherent biases and ideologies about language and their potential impact in the classroom. In addition to critiquing mainstream language teaching materials, students will design language tasks and whole teaching units that reflect principles of critical language pedagogy and devise formative assessments to measure critical learning objectives. Taught in Spanish.

FREN 465/565: Special Topics in French: French Phonetics and Phonology. Thursday, 4:30-7:10pm. (Online synchronous) Dr. Vincent Chanethom, vchaneth@gmu.edu

This course discusses the theoretical and practical aspects of French phonetics and phonology. It focuses on the detailed study of the French sound system, including the investigation of both its articulatory and its acoustic properties. Through an overview of various theories and empirical studies, we will discuss the different research methods utilized in speech analysis, examine the cross-linguistic differences between French and other languages, explore the world varieties of spoken French, and reflect on the issues of pronunciation instruction in French language courses. In addition to learning the International Phonetic Alphabet to transcribe speech sounds, students will also be provided with hands-on experience to conduct experimental linguistic studies, including speech sample collection and analysis using acoustic software. Taught in French.

****SPAN 574 and SPAN 575 count toward the new ONLINE Graduate Certificate in Spanish Heritage Language Education (SHLE) launched in Fall 2021.***

For more information, please consult: <https://spanish.gmu.edu/programs/LA-CERG-SHLE>

FAQs. Where can I find more detailed information on a specific course? Please feel free to contact the professor with any questions.

As a graduate student at another university, can I use your online courses toward my degree? Check with your adviser on transfer credit processes. The Washington Consortium allows a course with us for the same cost you pay at your home campus (a distance learning fee may apply): <https://www.consortium.org/cross-registration-calendars>.

I attend a university outside the Consortium. How can I register for your courses? First apply for admission as a non-degree student to George Mason here: <https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/how-apply/non-degree>. Once you have non-degree status, you can register for the course you want on PatriotWeb: <https://patriotweb.gmu.edu/>. Please note that non-degree graduate student applications are due in August prior to Fall enrolment. We encourage you to apply early to ensure a space in the class you want.