

Department of Foreign Languages  
Spanish Section  
Southern Connecticut State University

# Manual for Graduate Students

Revised Fall 2006

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## PREFACE

All graduate students in Spanish are expected to familiarize themselves with the contents of this manual. As part of admission to the program, they will already have spoken with the chair and drawn up a planned program of study. Before registering for each semester they should discuss with the graduate adviser the most appropriate courses to take. Students are encouraged to consult both of these persons at any time about any matter touching their graduate careers. Reminder: Students must apply and be formally accepted by the Graduate School and by the Department before they are considered matriculated students in the program and become eligible to receive a degree.

## THE MASTER'S PROGRAMS

**Purposes.** The Department of Foreign Languages offers the Master of Arts and Master of Science degrees in Spanish. The programs are devoted to the study of language, literature, and culture. Either degree meets the needs of those who intend to teach in secondary schools, whether public or private; the Master of Arts degree is also suitable for those who intend to teach in a college or university and expect to pursue doctoral studies.

**Course requirements.** Ordinarily students take 30 credits of graduate course work (but see next section). For those aiming at the Master of Arts, all credits must be in Spanish courses; for those aiming at the Master of Science, up to 6 may be in cognate courses approved by the chair. Although there is no further requirement about the distribution of courses, students are urged to include both Spain and the Spanish Americas in their programs and to study linguistics and literary theory. Those pursuing the Master of Arts are permitted to take up to two undergraduate classes, provided that they are in literature or civilization, not language; those pursuing the Master of Science are permitted to take one such class. Research papers are assigned in all graduate courses. Students must maintain an average of B (3.0) or higher.

**Exit requirements.** In addition to the course work, students must satisfy an exit requirement, for which there are two or three options. The Special Project (Applied Research) option is available only to candidates for the Master of Science.

1. **Comprehensive examination.** After completing 30 credits of course work, candidates may pass a comprehensive examination. The examination has written and oral parts, and it tests both their general knowledge of the language and literature and the specific material covered in the courses they have taken. It is given only in October and April.
2. **Thesis.** With the permission of the faculty and the chair, candidates may exercise the thesis option. They earn 27 credits in course work and receive 6 credits for completion of the thesis; in order to do this, they must register for *SPA 590—Thesis Seminar*.

3. ***Special project (applied research)***. With the permission of the faculty and the chair, candidates for the Master of Science (only) may exercise the special project option. They earn 33 credits in course work, of which up to 6 may be in cognate courses approved by the chair; they also receive 3 credits for completion of the applied research project.

***Completion of degree.*** All requirements must be met within six years, although a one-year extension may be granted by the Dean of the Graduate School. Students must apply for the awarding of their degree at the beginning of the semester in which the degree is to be awarded. They must file an application at the Records Office. About the application deadline they should consult the Graduate School.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CANDIDATE FOR THE SPANISH COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION**

The candidate should advise the coordinator of the Spanish Graduate Program, in writing, at least six weeks ahead of time of his or her intention to take the comprehensive examination. The examination is given only in October and April. The student's letter should include a list of the Spanish graduate courses taken and the names of the instructors of the courses (a sample letter is attached). The coordinator will then inform the student, in writing, of the time and place of the examination, both written and oral parts, and will list the members of the examining committee.

In case of inclement weather or any other emergency, the candidate has the responsibility of verifying with the secretary or the coordinator or the chairperson of the examining committee whether the exam, either the written or the oral part, is to be held as scheduled or is to be postponed. If the student fails to appear for the exam without prior notice, he or she must begin the process again by advising the coordinator of his or her intention to take the comprehensive examination.

## **DESCRIPTION AND GUIDELINES FOR THE SPANISH COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION**

### A. Written Examination

The student will have between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. on the assigned day to complete the examination in a specified room on the Southern campus. There will be a time limit for each section of the exam. The student will be provided with a computer on which to write the answers.

The examining committee will consist of three faculty members. All will read the entire examination.

The essay questions will deal with the material of both the reading list and the Spanish courses taken at Southern. The student will be given a choice of essay topics. The essays must be written in proficient graduate-level Spanish. Language structure and mechanics will be evaluated and will be reflected in the grade. Sample questions from old examinations will have been made available to the student.

The candidate will be informed within one week of the results and will be informed at the same time of the date, hour, and place of the oral examination, which will occur within two weeks of the written comprehensive.

Students who have passed at least half the parts of the examination may retake the parts not passed. Those who have not passed half the parts must retake all of them. In either case, the examination may be repeated only once.

The candidate will be given an opportunity to review briefly the results of the written examination in the presence of the secretary or the coordinator or a member of the committee, who will be responsible for returning the examination to a designated place. The candidate should be advised that any areas of weakness in the written part of the examination will be included in the questions asked of the student during the oral part. The interval between the written and oral parts will allow the student to review and rectify the questions or essays that were not well answered on the written part.

#### B. Oral Examination

The oral examination, which will take place within two weeks of the written, will be two hours in length. The questions will deal with the material both of the reading list and of the Spanish courses taken at Southern.

The student will be expected to discourse knowledgeably and perceptively about authors, works, culture, literary movements, and the development of peninsular and Spanish American literatures in their social and historical context.

After a brief consultation among the members of the committee, the candidate will be told whether he or she has passed.

**SAMPLE LETTER: Candidate's intention to take the comprehensive examination**

Clara De la Valle y Trueba  
123456 Chapel Street  
New Haven, CT 06515

*Today's date goes here.*

Dr. Rubén Pelayo  
Department of Foreign Languages  
Southern Connecticut State University  
501 Crescent Street  
New Haven, CT 06515

Dear Professor Pelayo:

This is my formal request to take the Comprehensive Examination for my Master of Arts/Master of Science degree in Spanish. To date, I have taken the following courses:

1. SPA 5XX—*Course title goes here.* Professor's name goes here.
2. SPA 5XX—*Course title goes here.* Professor's name goes here.
3. SPA 5XX—*Course title goes here.* Professor's name goes here.
4. SPA 5XX—*Course title goes here.* Professor's name goes here.
5. SPA 5XX—*Course title goes here.* Professor's name goes here.
6. SPA 5XX—*Course title goes here.* Professor's name goes here.
7. SPA 5XX—*Course title goes here.* Professor's name goes here.
8. SPA 5XX—*Course title goes here.* Professor's name goes here.
9. SPA 5XX—*Course title goes here.* Professor's name goes here.
10. SPA 5XX—*Course title goes here.* Professor's name goes here.

Please let me know if my selected date of (*date goes here*) is convenient for you and for my examination committee composed of Professors (the names of the professors go here.)

Yours truly,

Clara De la Valle y Trueba

## MASTER'S READING LIST

Note: All works are to be read in their entirety, unless otherwise indicated.

### SPANISH LITERATURE

#### Edad Media y Siglo de Oro

- *El cantar de mio Cid*
- Juan Ruiz, Arcipreste de Hita, *El libro de buen amor*
- Fernando de Rojas, *La Celestina*
- *Lazarillo de Tormes*
- Garcilaso de la Vega, *Sonetos*
- San Juan de la Cruz, *El cántico espiritual*
- Miguel de Cervantes, *Don Quijote*
- Lope de Vega, *Fuenteovejuna*
- Pedro Calderón de la Barca, *La vida es sueño*
- Luis de Góngora y Argote, *La fábula de Polifemo y Galatea*
- Francisco de Quevedo, *El buscón*, “Amor constante más allá de la muerte”, “Poderoso caballero es Don Dinero”, “Miré los muros de la patria mía”

#### Siglo XVIII

- Benito Jerónimo Feijoo, *Teatro crítico universal*
- Nicolás Fernández de Moratín, *El sí de las niñas*

#### Siglo XIX

- Mariano José de Larra, “Vuelva Ud. mañana”, “El casarse pronto y mal”, “La nochebuena de 1836” (siempre de *Artículos de costumbres*)
- José de Espronceda, *El estudiante de Salamanca*
- José Zorrilla, *Don Juan Tenorio*
- Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer, *Rimas*
- Benito Pérez Galdós, *Doña Perfecta*

#### Siglos XX y XXI

##### **Poesía**

- Selecciones: Miguel de Unamuno, Pedro Salinas, Jorge Guillén, Federico García Lorca, Rafael Alberti, León Felipe, Ángel González, José Ángel Valente, Ana Rosseti
- Juan Ramón Jiménez, *Segunda antología poética*
- Antonio Machado, *Campos de Castilla y Soledades, galerías y otros poemas*
- Federico García Lorca, *Romancero gitano, Poeta en Nueva York*
- Miguel Hernández, *El rayo que no cesa*

## **Drama**

- Ramón del Valle-Inclán, *Luces de Bohemia*
- Federico García Lorca, Escoger una: *La casa de Bernarda Alba*, *Bodas de sangre*, *Yerma*
- Antonio Buero Vallejo, *Historia de una escalera* o *El tragaluz* o *En la ardiente oscuridad*
- Alfonso Sastre, *Escuadra hacia la muerte*
- Fernando Arrabal, *El triciclo*
- Antonio Gala, *Los campos del edén*, o *Anillos para una dama*

## **Prosa**

- Ramón del Valle-Inclán, *Tirano Banderas*
- Miguel de Unamuno, *San Manuel Bueno, mártir*
- José Ortega y Gasset, *La rebelión de las masas* o *La deshumanización del arte*
- Camilo José Cela, *La colmena* o *La familia de Pascual Duarte*
- Carmen Martín Gaité, *Entre visillos* o *El cuarto de atrás*
- Luis Martín Santos, *Tiempo de silencio*
- Miguel Delibes, *El camino* o *Las ratas*
- Juan José Millas, *El desorden de tu nombre*
- Juan Goytisolo, *Señas de identidad*
- Rosa Montero, *Crónica del desamor* o *Te trataré como a una reina* o *La loca de la casa*

## **SPANISH-AMERICAN LITERATURE**

### Época colonial

- Cristóbal Colón, *Diario del viaje*
- Bartolomé de las Casas, *Historia de las Indias*
- Hernán Cortés, *Cartas de relación*
- Bernal Díaz del Castillo, *Historia verdadera de la conquista*
- Álvaro Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, *Naufragios*
- Alonso Ercilla y Zúñiga, *La Araucana*
- El Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, *Comentarios reales*
- Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, *Respuesta de la poetisa a la muy ilustre Sor Filotea de La Cruz*, *Poesías completas*

### Independencia y siglo XIX

- Carrió de la Vandra, *El lazarrillo de ciegos caminantes*
- Esteban Echeverría, *El matadero*

- José Hernández, *Martín Fierro*
- José Martí, *Versos sencillos, Nuestra América*, Prologue to *Nuestra América* by Roberto Fernández Retamar
- Rubén Darío, *Poesías completas*
- José Enrique Rodó, *Ariel*

## Siglo XX

- José Eustasio Rivera, *La vorágine*
- César Vallejo, *Los heraldos negros*
- Vicente Huidobro, *Altazor*
- Xavier Villaurrutia, *Nostalgia de la muerte*
- Juan Rulfo, *Pedro Páramo*.
- Miguel Ángel Asturias, *El señor Presidente*
- Jorge Luis Borges, *Fervor de Buenos Aires*
- ---. *Ficciones*
- Octavio Paz, *Poemas*
- ---. *El laberinto de la soledad*
- María Luisa Bombal, *La última niebla*
- Pablo Neruda, *Canto general*
- José Lezama Lima, *Paradiso*
- Julio Cortázar, *Bestiario*
- Alejandra Pizarnik, *Poesía completa*
- Alejo Carpentier, *Los pasos perdidos*
- Carlos Fuentes, *La muerte de Artemio Cruz* o *La región más transparente*
- Gabriel García Márquez, *Cien años de soledad*
- Mario Vargas Llosa, *La ciudad y los perros* o *Conversación en La Catedral*
- Manuel Puig, *El beso de la mujer araña*
- Guillermo Cabrera Infante, *Tres tristes tigres*
- Elena Poniatowska, *Hasta no verte Jesús mío*
- José Agustín, *De perfil* o *Se está haciendo tarde*
- Severo Sarduy, *Cobra*