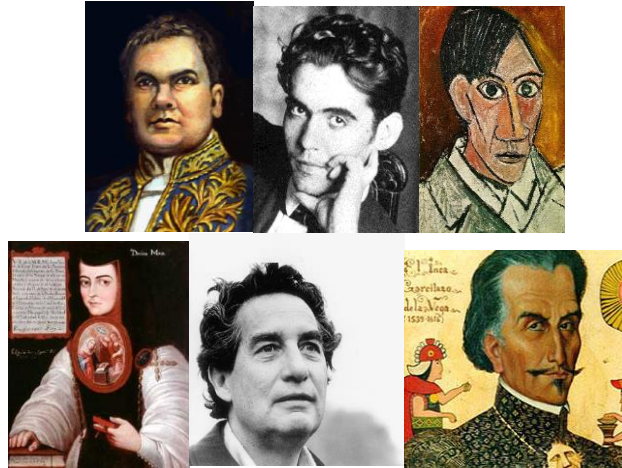


# MASTERS OF ARTS IN SPANISH



## GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK

Department of World Languages

4202 East Fowler Avenue  
University of South Florida  
Tampa, FL 33620



## THE GRADUATE PROGRAM IN SPANISH

The Spanish Section of the Department of World Languages supports a broad, intellectually-driven approach to teaching language, culture, and literature in higher education. Languages and cultures are complex, multifunctional phenomena that link an individual to other individuals, to communities, and to national cultures. The Graduate Program in Spanish offers students academic and practical training in the languages, literatures, and cultures of the Spanish-speaking communities of Spain, Latin America, and the United States. Students who receive a Masters of Arts in Spanish from the Department of World Languages at USF become well-educated communicators with translingual and transcultural competence. Thus, they are well prepared to continue studies leading to the PhD or pursue careers in related fields such as teaching, translation, government and civic service agencies, legal and paralegal services, or foreign and domestic business enterprises.

### USF REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

Students are required to meet the admission requirements of both the USF Graduate School and the MA Program in Spanish. For additional information concerning the admission to the USF Graduate School, please visit <http://www.grad.usf.edu>.

### SPANISH PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

The requirements for acceptance into the Spanish MA Program are:

- **Graduate School:**
  - Application for admission to USF (<https://secure.vzcollegeapp.com/usf/>)
  - BA Degree from an accredited US University with a 3.0 GPA or above (4.0 scale).
  
- **Graduate Program Director:**
  - Three (3) letters of recommendation.
  - A statement of purpose, written in Spanish, of three (3) pages in length.
  - An oral interview in Spanish. Applicants are expected to be proficient in the language and must be able to understand, speak, read, and write standard Spanish.
  
- **International students** who do not have a BA from the United States must show proof of a comparable degree from an international university. In order to be considered official, all transcripts submitted must be translated and certified by an approved agency. Have your transcripts and translations sent to: University of South Florida. Office of Admissions. 4202 East Fowler Avenue. SVC 1036. Tampa, FL 33620.
  
- **International students**, or those who do not have BA from an accredited institution in the United States, must take the TOEFL ([www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl)) and score at least 79 (internet-based test), 213 (computer-based test), or 550 (paper-based test) in order to be admitted to the Program. Those students who wish to be considered for a Teaching Assistantship must also show a score of at least 26 in the speaking portion of the exam. Students who score 20-25 in the speaking portion may also be considered, provided they take an additional course. For the TOEFL, please use code 5828 for the University of South Florida.

## PROGRAM ADMISSION DATES

Fall                February 15<sup>th</sup>  
Spring             October 15<sup>th</sup>

## MASTER OF ARTS REQUIREMENTS

### Degree Information

Program Level: Masters  
CIP Code: 16.0905  
Dept Code: WLE  
Program (Major/College): SPA AS

### Program Information

Accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges & Schools

### Degree Program Requirements

The Master of Arts in Spanish consists of twelve (12) courses or thirty-six (36) credit hours:

- 6 credit hours (2 courses) of core courses:
  - *SPW6806: Introduction to Hispanic Graduate Studies.*
  - *SPW5525: Modern Latin American Civilization.*
- 30 credit hours (10 courses) of elective courses in literature, culture, and linguistics.
  - Up to 6 credits (2 courses) may be taken outside of the Spanish Section if approved in advance by the Graduate Program Director. Notice that, for Teaching Assistants, one of these courses will be the Teaching Methodology class.
  - Students who choose to write a Master's Thesis will enroll in 6 credits (2 courses) of *SPW6971: Master's Thesis*, which are counted towards the total 30 credits of coursework.
- MA Comprehensive Exam, usually taken in the second semester of the second year.

## INDEPENDENT STUDY COURSES

Independent or Directed Research courses require the authorization of the Graduate Program Director before registration. The purpose of directed research is to allow students to explore topics in a field for which no regular graduate courses may be available. Directed research may also be allowed in exceptional cases not contemplated in the description above. However, directed research cannot be considered a substitute for regular coursework. Independent study is a service provided by members

of the faculty in addition to their regularly assigned courses; the decision to honor requests for independent study is entirely at the discretion of a particular faculty member.

### **PROGRESS TOWARDS THE M.A. DEGREE**

A grade of C- or lower does not count for graduate coursework. The minimum grade a student must obtain is a C for the graduate coursework to count. However, all students, and especially those with a Teaching Assistantship, must maintain a B average (3.00) at all times. Failure to do so will place a student in probation (P1). At that point the student may continue in the Program and be employed as a Teaching Assistant. If the student's GPA average continues to be under 3.00 in a second semester, the student will enter probation (P2) and will not be able to be employed as a Teaching Assistant. Notice that students that fail to maintain a GPA of 3.00 or above may also be dismissed from the Program.

### **TIME LIMITS FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAM**

All work leading to the Master's Degree (courses, comprehensive examination, thesis, etc.) must be completed within five (5) years, according to university regulations: "All requirements for Master's degrees must be completed within five (5) calendar years from the student's date of admission for graduate study. In the event that a student nears the end of the time limitation as specified above, but the student needs more time to complete the degree, the student may submit a request for an extension using the *Time Limit Extension Request Form*, available at [http://www.grad.usf.edu/newsite/forms/grad\\_forms.asp](http://www.grad.usf.edu/newsite/forms/grad_forms.asp). Requests must include the reasons for the delay in completion, the anticipated time needed for completion, and endorsements from the graduate faculty advisor, graduate program, and College Dean or designee, prior to submission to the Graduate School for approval. Students who exceed the time limitations may have their registration placed on hold until a request for extension has been approved. Students who are temporarily unable to continue the program should submit a Leave of Absence Request, which extends the time limit for the duration of the approved Leave". Please note that the five-year limit has no bearing on the four-semester limit stipulated for Teaching Assistantships.

### **TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS**

Grants and fellowships are available through different university programs. Please refer to the appropriate academic unit or program. For Spanish MA students, a limited number of Teaching Assistantships is available. Teaching Assistants typically teach one or two courses of Beginning Spanish in return for a stipend and a percentage of their tuition. They, in turn, must be full-time students (enroll in a minimum of 9 credits in Spring and Fall; 6 credits in Summer; 2 credits in their last semester) and maintain a 3.0 GPA. Teaching Assistantships are awarded competitively based on academic merits, and they are only awarded for four (4) semesters of the regular academic year. Students who are interested in being Teaching Assistants during the Summer must consult with the Graduate Program Director.

### **M.A. COMPREHENSIVE EXAM**

The M.A. Comprehensive Exam is administered twice a year, in the Spring (early April) and the Fall (early November). Requests for Summer examinations must be made in writing and shall be granted

only in exceptional cases. The Graduate Program Director, in coordination with the Graduate Faculty, will make the final decision on the request.

**The Comprehensive Exam is divided into four (4) areas:**

- Medieval & Golden Age Spanish Literature. Two (2) out of 3 (Three) questions.
- 19<sup>th</sup>- to 21<sup>st</sup>-c. Spanish Literature. Two (2) out of 3 (Three) questions.
- Colonial Latin American Literature. Two (2) out of 3 (Three) questions.
- 19<sup>th</sup>- to 21<sup>st</sup>-c. Latin American Literature. Two (2) out of 3 (Three) questions.

Students who choose to write a Master's Thesis on a specific topic are exempt from the portion of the Reading List covering that specific area.

The Exam is usually administered on two (2) consecutive days. Students will take two parts of the exam on the first day, and two parts of the exam on the second day. Students must receive a passing grade in 7 out of 8 questions. Students must answer each question at a "B" level or higher to obtain a passing grade.

A student who fails the M.A. examination may ask to be reexamined. The second exam shall be only on the section(s) that did not receive a satisfactory grade on the first exam. Such retaking will be offered no earlier than the following semester after the failed examination. Exam retaking is limited to one attempt.

Exceptional circumstances may prevent a student from taking a scheduled MA exam. These circumstances must be appropriately documented and must be explained in writing. The Graduate Faculty shall make the final decision on the request. Students in need of academic accommodations for a disability may consult with the office of Students with Disabilities Services to arrange appropriate accommodations. Students are required to give reasonable notice prior to requesting an accommodation. Contact SDS at 974-4309 or [www.sds.usf.edu](http://www.sds.usf.edu).

## **GRADUATE FACULTY**

**David Arbesú** (Ph.D., U of Massachusetts Amherst, [arbesu@usf.edu](mailto:arbesu@usf.edu)). Medieval & Golden Age Spanish literature. Culture & civilization of Spain. Florida Transatlantic Studies.

**Pablo Brescia** (Ph.D., U of California, Santa Barbara, [pbrescia@usf.edu](mailto:pbrescia@usf.edu)). Latin American short fiction. 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>-century Mexican and Southern Cone literatures & cultural histories. Colonial Mexico. Philosophy & literature. Film and literature.

**Madeline Cámara** (Ph.D., State U of New York, Stony Brook, [camaram@usf.edu](mailto:camaram@usf.edu)). Contemporary Latin American Literature. Cuban culture. Race & gender issues. Literary theory.

**Heike Scharm** (Ph.D., Brown U, [heikescharm@usf.edu](mailto:heikescharm@usf.edu)). 18<sup>th</sup>- to 21<sup>st</sup>-century Spanish literature & film. Transatlantic studies. Philosophy & literature. Modernisms & discourses on Modernity.

**Sonia Ramírez Wohlmuth** (Ph.D., U of Florida, [swohlmuth@usf.edu](mailto:swohlmuth@usf.edu)). Hispanic Linguistics.