



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Hispanic studies at Brandeis focuses on much more than just the Spanish language. Students can immerse themselves in language courses, whether they are just beginning or are working to perfect their fluency. Hispanic studies courses also involve literature and film, art and politics, cultures and places from Spain to Latin America and the United States — from the remote past to tomorrow. Further, students engage in the analysis of cultural artifacts and movements as they learn more about language and their own place in the world.

What makes the program distinctive?

The Hispanic studies program at Brandeis is interdisciplinary. The interests and affiliations of our faculty extend across the campus to many other programs, including film studies, women's and gender studies, theater arts, comparative literature, and Latin American and Latino studies. Books and other publications bring Brandeis Hispanic studies faculty members

national and international recognition as leading scholars, and they in turn encourage creative and thoughtful exchange of ideas in the classroom. Students pursue their own scholarly interests by writing a senior paper or thesis in which they can explore whatever Hispanic cultural expression they have found most compelling during their time at Brandeis.

FAST FACTS

Current number of majors and minors: 74

Number of faculty: 10

Can you minor in this program? Yes

Emphasis within the major: 19th- to 21st-century Spanish cultural studies, colonialism and post-colonialism in Latin America, early modern Spanish theater, Latinos in the United States

Popular second majors: economics, history, international and global studies, politics, psychology

Website: brandeis.edu/departments/roms/hispanic

ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

Independent projects

The Senior Seminar is a capstone course in which students reflect on and bring together their academic experiences at Brandeis to produce a senior paper. Students choose and research a particular Hispanic or Latino cultural text — anything from a poem or novel to a play, film, newspaper column or political or marketing campaign. They share with each other the process of researching and developing a thesis and presenting their research.

International research

Simona Lang '10 studied abroad in Chile to carry out a large-scale investigation on sexual health. As a double-major with health: science, society and policy, Lang used what she had learned in the classroom to understand the impacts of Chilean culture, church and government on sexual health, as well as the impacts they have on Chilean youth. Lang was able personally to interview and observe students at four public high schools in Santiago for her research.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Study abroad

Most Hispanic studies majors choose to enroll in an educational program abroad during all or part of the junior year. Students may count up to four courses taken abroad toward the major and two toward the minor. Recently, majors have studied in places like Buenos Aires, Argentina; Santiago, Chile; Quito, Ecuador; San Juan, Costa Rica; and Barcelona, Spain.

Student-run clubs

Related extracurricular opportunities for students include AHORA, a Hispanic/Latino awareness group at Brandeis dedicated to educating and exploring the political, social and cultural differences of the Latino/Hispanic community; and Charlamos, which hosts weekly social gatherings held in Spanish and organizes events such as film screenings and discussions, native cuisine samplings, and theater and dance expeditions.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Student awards

Anna Panchesnikov '10, a premed student who majored in Hispanic studies and Latin American and Latino studies, won a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship in 2010 to fund her research examining the availability and use of prenatal HIV/AIDS prevention resources in the Dominican Republic.

Distinguished faculty

Fernando Rosenberg teaches courses in Latin American and Latino studies, as well as international and global studies. His broad perspective on the Hispanic world allows him to give students a more accurate idea of the global culture. He has been recognized for his achievements many times over the years, and in 2005 received the Latin American Studies Yale University Faculty Curriculum Improvement and Innovations Development Grant.

AFTER BRANDEIS

Where are they now?

Jessica Finkle '01 interned and then worked for the CIA following graduation. She's now an attorney in private practice in the Washington, D.C., area.

Brita Gaffey '01 had a job with a major international artist management firm in New York City in which she was working with the artists while using her language skills in Spanish, French and Italian.

James McBean '05 went on to receive a master's in public policy. He has lived and taught in Mexico City at the Escuela Bancaria Comercial and has worked on aid projects in disadvantaged communities.

Leila Bilick '06 spent a year in Mumbai as a volunteer in a Jewish center. She has used her writing skills to write grant applications for Pro Mujer, dedicated to empowering poor women in Latin America, and was a fellow for a year with Avodah, the Jewish Service Corps. She plans to pursue graduate study in comparative literature.

Kendra Harrison '07 went on to do graduate language study and is now a high school Spanish teacher in Acton, Mass.

“Full of engaging professors, the Hispanic studies major has given me the opportunity to expand upon my knowledge of Spanish language, literature, culture and history. I have traveled with Don Quijote and Sancho Panza through Spain, explored the realm of magical realism, been involved with recent immigrants in the Waltham community and not regretted a single class.”

Amy E. '12

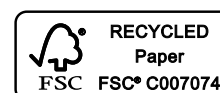


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