Why Spanish Language and Literature at Brandeis?
In addition to providing students with the knowledge, skills, and cultural information that are necessary in today’s workplace, the study of Hispanic and Latino languages, literature, and cultures helps to develop the critical and analytic skills needed to be an effective participant in local and national discussions. The study of the Spanish language in the context of literature, film, history, politics, and popular culture will allow students to follow international events with insight, opening up perspectives to make them informed and responsible members of the international community.

Curriculum Overview
Students have the option of completing a major or minor in Spanish language and literature.

The major requires nine courses, including three core courses:
- Spanish Composition, Grammar, and Stylistics (SPAN 106b)
- An introductory survey of literature and culture (SPAN 109b, SPAN 110a, or SPAN 111b)
- Seminar in Literary and Cultural Studies (SPAN 198a), taken in the senior year
- Six electives chosen from a wide range of topics on literature and culture

Additionally, students interested in receiving departmental honors may complete a senior thesis in the spring semester of their senior year.

The minor requires five courses:
- Spanish Composition, Grammar, and Stylistics (SPAN 106b)
- An introductory survey of literature and culture (SPAN 109b, SPAN 110a, or SPAN 111b)
- Three electives

Electives for the program include a wide variety of courses on literature, music, and visual and popular culture. Topics span at least five centuries, as well as different regions throughout Spain and Latin America. The curriculum uses a multidisciplinary approach in order that students achieve cultural and linguistic literacy in Spanish, as well as a deeper understanding of the Hispanic world. Moreover, because Latinos are the largest minority group in the United States, we offer students the opportunity to study, from an interdisciplinary perspective, the varied Latino communities within it.

The Senior Seminar
Students conclude the major in Spanish language and literature by participating in a senior seminar in which they choose and research a particular Hispanic or Latino cultural “text”—
anything from a poem or novel to a play, film, newspaper column, or political campaign. They share with each other the process of researching and developing a thesis and presenting their research. The class culminates in an extended written analysis.

Hands-On Learning Experience
Most of our students choose to study abroad during all or part of the junior year. Students may count up to four courses taken abroad, two courses per semester, towards the major, and two towards the minor. These courses must be taught entirely in Spanish and must correspond to our definition of upper-level courses.

Areas of Special Interest
Students are encouraged to explore interdisciplinary and intercultural connections across campus. The faculty in the program are themselves affiliated with the programs in film studies; Latin American studies; women's and gender studies; and peace, conflict, and coexistence studies, and are happy to provide students with personal connections and academic advising.

Career and Education Opportunities
Career opportunities for students who major in Spanish language and literature are diverse and multifaceted. Our majors find jobs in government agencies (the FBI, the U.N., and various offices in Washington, D.C.), as Foreign Service officers and translators, in social services and public relations in the U.S. and abroad, in the Peace Corps, the armed forces, and law enforcement. There are also professional career opportunities for our majors in private business (international relations and marketing in the U.S. and abroad), and in the paramedical and paralegal professions. Another promising career for Spanish majors is teaching at all levels. Many students also choose to pursue graduate studies in such fields as law, medicine, business, international relations, education, and social services.

Faculty
Following is a list of department faculty members and their areas of specialization:

- **Jorge Arteta**  
  Spanish language
- **Roxanne Dávila**  
  Nineteenth- and twentieth-century Latin American literature, travel literature
- **Dian Fox**  
  Early modern Spanish drama, poetry, and prose
- **Elena González Ros**  
  Spanish language and language pedagogy
- **Olmanda Hernandez-Guerrero**  
  Spanish language and Hispanic cultures
- **James Mandrell**  
  Modern and contemporary Spanish and comparative literature, film, and culture
- **Raysa Mederos**  
  Spanish language
- **Mary Nasielskier de Burstin**  
  Spanish language
- **Marisol Negrón**  
  Latin American and Latino studies
- **Angela Pérez-Mejia**  
  Colonial Latin American literature, Latin American film and cultural studies
- **Esther Ratner**  
  French and Spanish language
- **Lucia Reyes de Deu**  
  Latin American indigenous novel and the configuration of national and ethnic identities in the Andes
- **Fernando Rosenberg**  
  Latin American and Latino studies