ABOUT THE PROGRAM
Hispanic studies at Brandeis provides students the opportunity to develop advanced competence in the Spanish language while also allowing them to explore the cultural diversity of the Spanish-speaking world. Hispanic studies courses also involve literature and film, art and politics, and cultures and places — including Spain, Latin America and the United States — from the remote past to tomorrow. 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, gender and sexuality 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 may also receive credit toward the major for internships. In the senior year, students pursue their own scholarly interests by writing a paper or thesis.

FAST FACTS
Current number of majors and minors: 44
Number of faculty: 10
Can you minor in this program? Yes
Emphasis within the major: 19th- to 21st-century Spanish and Latin American cultural studies, Cervantes, colonialism and post-colonialism in Latin America, early modern Spanish theater, Latin@s in the United States, media and film
Popular second majors: economics; health, science, society and policy; history; international and global studies; politics; psychology
Website: brandeis.edu/departments/roms/hispanic
Academics And Research

Independent projects
The Experiential Research Seminar is a capstone course in which majors reflect on and bring together their academic experiences on and off campus to produce a senior paper. Students choose and research a particular Hispanic or Latin@ 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 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/Latin@ awareness group at Brandeis dedicated to educating and exploring the political, social and cultural differences of the Latin@/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

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.

Jerónimo Arellano teaches courses in contemporary Latin American fiction, colonial Latin American studies, hemispheric and comparative literature, and the history and theory of screenwriting in transnational contexts. Exploring a range of artistic and literary movements that are directly relevant to the study of Latin American culture, Arellano’s classes transcend this regional focus by placing Latin American cultural production in conversation with other cultures and traditions (such as the art and literature of the Latin@ diaspora in the United States, minority fiction and cinema, and the cultural production of the Southern United States). They also feature experiential and artistic components through which students connect academic study to specific professional fields and creative projects.

After Brandeis

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.

Dara Rosenkrantz '12 completed the Master Teacher Fellows Program in Spanish at the Department of Education at Wake Forest University.

Nicole Tiger '13 is a student at Georgetown University Law School.

Kara Factor '14, after spending a year as a Fulbright Fellow in Honduras, is now attending Harvard Medical School.

“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