



SPANISH

Students who wish to fulfill the RC's language requirement with *Spanish* must complete RCCORE 194 Intensive *Spanish* I, RCCORE 294 Intensive *Spanish* II (or demonstrate an equivalent level of skill), pass the proficiency Examination, and complete a "Readings" course (RCCORE 324). Courses are offered in both the fall and winter terms.

Placement Policy

1. Students with little or no background in Spanish elect Spanish 194. Students with no background at all ("true beginners") must take Spanish 194 in the winter term.
2. First-year students with some background in Spanish should take the LSA Placement Test and consult with an academic advisor for placement at the appropriate level, either Spanish 194 or 294.
3. For students entering the program with more extensive background and higher scores on the LSA Placement Test, an academic advisor will decide if they are eligible to take the Residential College Spanish Proficiency Exam. Dates and times for this exam (administered before the term begins) will be posted outside 107 Greene, East Quad or at the RC Academic Services Office.
4. Students who do not pass the Proficiency Exam normally enroll in RCCORE 314, Spanish Accelerated Review. This is a 4-credit review course for students who have not quite reached the required level of proficiency at the end of the RCCORE 294 intensive course and for incoming students who do not need the 8 hours of the RCCORE 294 intensive course to reach the proficiency level. Depending on performance, some students who do not pass the Spanish Proficiency Exam may still be advised to enroll in RCCORE 294 (8 credits).

The Proficiency Examination

The Spanish Proficiency Exam is administered three times each year: at the end of August, in December, and in April. All RC students who have completed the second-year level or the accelerated review, including RC students who take Spanish through LSA, are required to pass proficiency before they can take the required third year Readings course.



Students who let more than one semester elapse between passing the proficiency exam and enrollment in the Spanish Readings course (without having taken a Spanish course in the interim) must re-take the Spanish Proficiency Exam.

The Proficiency examination is a five-part, comprehensive test of language ability that measures: 1) listening comprehension; 2) reading comprehension; 3) mastery of Spanish grammar; 4) ability to write; and 5) ability to speak (interview). Conscientious work in our first and second-year intensive courses normally develops sufficient linguistic ability to pass this exam.

Other Activities

The Residential College Spanish program offers the Spanish lunch table and Spanish coffee hours (Tertulia) to provide the opportunity to practice Spanish in informal situations. Anyone—students, faculty and friends—who can say something in Spanish are welcome. The Spanish table is held 4 days per week in the South Dining Hall: Monday through Thursday 11 a.m.-12 p.m., and Monday and Thursday 12-1 p.m. There are always several teachers on hand ready to converse with students. On occasion, we invite special guests to join us.

The Tertulia is held every Wednesday from 3:00–5:00 p.m. in the Greene Lounge. Casual conversation and other forms of cultural exchange take place. Occasionally guests also visit the Tertulia. Both activities are excellent opportunities for students to practice the skills they have been acquiring in the classroom. Both activities are integral parts of the R.C. Spanish Program and enrolled students are expected to participate in them on a regular basis.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

As in all RC language courses, emphasis is placed on communicative competence. The normal course sequence in Spanish is two eight-hour courses (RCCORE 194 followed by RCCORE 294). These courses are designed to take beginners to the level of Proficiency at the end of two semesters. Accelerated Review, Spanish 314, is a four hour course for students who have not reached the level of Proficiency at the end of 294 and for incoming students who do not need the eight hours of the 294 intensive course to reach the Proficiency level.

RCCORE 194: Intensive Spanish I (8 hrs. per week, 8 credits)

This is a first-year intensive course designed to provide a basic but solid knowledge of Spanish morphology and syntax, functional vocabulary, and practice in speaking and writing. The lecture gives a thorough introduction to Spanish grammatical structures as used in cultural contexts, and students



meet in small discussion groups in the afternoon to practice this material in a more focused, intensive manner.

The final exam measures reading and writing proficiency levels through three hour-long exercises in class: a grammar test, a reading comprehension test, and a composition. Speaking and listening are not formally tested at this point, but student performance in class, especially in the discussion, weighs heavily in the final decision on whether or not the student can proceed to RCCORE 294. Attendance at lunch-tables and coffee-hours is also a determining factor.

RCCORE 294: Intensive Spanish II (8 hrs. per week, 8 credits)

This is a second-year intensive course designed to achieve proficiency in Spanish. The lecture component emphasizes mastery of grammatical structures and syntax, whereas the discussions, devoted to the critical analysis of authentic texts and visual sources, address issues relevant to the Hispanic experiences in the United States. Through their interaction with the material and instructors, both in formal and informal contexts, students develop their speaking, aural comprehension, and writing skills. By the end of the term, students are able to read journalistic or academic prose with ease as well as write essays of an academic nature.

At the end of the term, the RC Proficiency Exam evaluates the level of performance in communicative skills achieved by each student (see description below).

RCCORE 314: Accelerated Review Spanish - A review course (4 hrs. per week, 4 credits)

This course is designed for students with a fairly extensive background in Spanish who have already taken the equivalent of three/four semesters of language but still need further reinforcement in two or more linguistic areas and are too advanced for second year intensive. The main focus of this class is the discussion of primary source materials of literary, cultural and political nature pertaining to the Spanish-speaking world, as well as the review of advanced grammar. Students work towards proficiency with several listening and reading comprehension exercises, grammar tests, and frequent written assignments evaluated for accuracy of expression.

At the end of the term, the RC Proficiency Exam evaluates the level of performance in communicative skills achieved by each student (see description below).

RCCORE 324: Spanish Reading (3 hrs. per week, 4 credits)

The Spanish Readings course is open to all students who have passed the Proficiency Exam. In these seminars, language is used as a tool to study other subjects and is not studied as an end in itself. The class sessions are on an informal lecture-discussion basis. Emphasis is placed on student participation. Interdisciplinary by nature, seminars provide students with a way of expanding their studies of the foreign language and culture as well as with opportunities for applying their language skills to explore their specific interests in more depth. The Spanish Program makes every effort to present Readings related to Spain and Latin America every semester.



The amount of reading may be equivalent to three medium-length books; students write an average of four papers of four to six pages in length and often give presentations involving research on a topic related to the basic theme of the class. Active participation in the discussion is required.

