

Hispanic Studies

In today's global society, knowledge of a second language is a necessary bridge to understanding human diversity. Spanish is one of the 10 most widely used languages in the world and is spoken by nearly 40 million people in the United States. The rich cultural legacy of the Spanish-speaking world makes the study of Spanish language and cultures an exciting and useful window to the many aspects of our world, whether you are motivated by an interest in literature, history, politics, social work, business, nursing, science or the arts.

Why Hispanic Studies at Illinois Wesleyan?

- Curriculum introduces students to the Spanish language as it is spoken all over the world, in Spain and the Americas.
- Offers studies in literature and cultural history in addition to language and linguistics.
- Teaches cultural history courses that stress the connections between literature, the other arts and the sociopolitical environment from which they emerge.
- Provides literature courses that sharpen analytical skills and foster greater sensitivity to language as an expression of culture.
- Offers specialized minors for students majoring in either Nursing or Business Administration.
- Offers a Spanish Teacher Licensure.

Putting Your Learning into Practice

- The Illinois Wesleyan Language Resource Center (LRC) is a tutoring center that provides students with facilities for foreign language computer-based activities as well as one-on-one help with Spanish studies.
- Hispanic Studies majors can satisfy their required semester abroad through numerous programs in different Spanish-speaking countries around the world.
- The Department of Hispanic Studies, Spanish and Latino Student Association (SALSA), and the Spanish Club put together a dynamic calendar of co-curricular activities throughout the year highlighting both local and global Hispanic culture.

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A Sampling of Courses Offered by Hispanic Studies:

Medical Spanish and Cultural Competency of Health Care
Spanish for Social Justice
Iberian Culture and Civilization
Studies in Media and Film
Introduction to Spanish Linguistics
History of the Spanish Language
Early Spanish Literature
Modern Spanish Literature
Latin American Literature: Short Narrative and Essay
Latin American Literature: The Novel
The Legacy of the Spanish Civil War
Latin American Revolutionaries
Translation: Principles and Practices
Business Spanish
Community-based research project
Internship

Recent May Term Courses Related to Hispanic Studies:

Latin American Short Story
Advanced Conversation
Art and Architecture of Barcelona (*travel course*)
Cultures of the Yucatan: Mayan, Spanish, Afro-Caribbean (*travel course*)
The Spanish Revolution (*travel course*)
Surrealism and the City (*travel course*)



“By completing a major in Hispanic Studies you will be working with professors who are genuinely interested in your advancement as a

critical thinker, communicator and as a student that is knowledgeable of Latin American and Spanish language, literature, and the history and politics of cultural production. The courses in our program offer opportunities to interact with the Hispanic community, collaborate with faculty and present your own research. The study abroad requirement to a Spanish-speaking country is usually a highlight for many students. We look forward to chatting with you about your interests!”

Dr. César Valverde

Associate Professor of Hispanic Studies and Department Chair



ILLINOIS WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

**For Further Information,
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The Luis Leal Scholarship Fund

- Competitive scholarships for qualified students who carry out Hispanic Studies research off-campus in the U.S. or abroad while enrolled in an IWU-affiliated program.
- Scholarship recipients document and share their research during and/or after the off-campus experience.

Learning from a Quality Faculty

Hispanic Studies faculty teach general courses in language as well as courses within their area of specialty.

- **Carmela Ferradáns**, *Professor of Hispanic Studies*
Ph.D. — University of California, Irvine
Teaches contemporary Spanish literature and cultural history, concentrating on the avant-garde movement of the 1920s, the Spanish Civil War, and the transition to democracy at the end of the 20th century.
- **Daynalí Flores-Rodríguez**, *Assistant Professor of Hispanic Studies*
Ph.D. — University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Specializes in contemporary US Latin/a/o/x and Caribbean Studies, particularly narratives that examine historical fictions, pop culture, power dynamics, and identity politics.
- **Christina Isabelli**, *Professor of Hispanic Studies*
Ph.D. — University of Texas, Austin
Specializes in Applied Linguistics, particularly Sociolinguistics (Spanish in the U.S.) and Second Language Acquisition.
- **Carolyn Nadeau**, *Byron S. Tucci Professor of Hispanic Studies*
Ph.D. — Pennsylvania State University
Specializes in sixteenth and seventeenth century Spanish literature and culture, particularly the works of Cervantes and food culture.
- **Mauricio Parra**, *Professor of Hispanic Studies*
Ph.D. — University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Specializes in contemporary Latin American narrative and teaches his additional interests in film and Hispanic writers of the U.S.
- **César Valverde**, *Associate Professor of Hispanic Studies and Department Chair*
Ph.D. — University of California, Irvine
Specializes in Latin American literature (theatre and prose) and gender studies.