In today’s global society, intercultural competency and knowledge of a second language are key to understanding human diversity. Spanish is one of the 3 most widely used languages in the world, spoken by more than 40 million people in the United States.

The rich cultural legacy of the Spanish-speaking world makes the study of the Spanish language and the societies where it is spoken an exciting and useful window to the human experience whether you are motivated by an interest in the arts, history, politics, education, business, the medical professions, or social justice.

**Why Hispanic Studies at Illinois Wesleyan?**

- Join the 400+ million Spanish speaking people in more than 20 countries.
- Learn about the cultural practices of Spanish-speaking societies around the world in our integrated courses in language, culture, and literature.
- Put your Spanish language skills and cultural competency to work in the local and global community through our supervised academic internships and courses with field-components with local businesses, health care providers, and non-for-profit organizations serving the Hispanic and Latinx communities in Central Illinois.
- Complete your State of Illinois Professional Education License (PEL) PK-12 in Spanish.
- Study in Barcelona, Spain, in the spring semester of your sophomore year with the IWU Spain Program, designed especially for Nursing students.
- Intern or study abroad for a semester, short term, or summer with one of many IWU’s affiliated programs in Latin America and Spain.
- Present your independent research at the John Wesley Powell Undergraduate Research Conference held every April on the IWU campus.

**Learning from a Diverse Faculty**

Hispanic Studies faculty teach all levels of Spanish language, literature and culture as well as courses in the Humanities and the International and Global studies program.

- **Jessie Dixon-Montgomery**, Associate Professor of Spanish
  Ph.D. — University of Chicago
  Specializes in Afro-Hispanic and Caribbean literature.

**A Sampling of Content Courses Related to Hispanic Studies:**

- Medical Spanish and Cultural Competency for Health Care
- Spanish for Social Justice
- Business Spanish and its Cultural Context
- Muslim Spain: The Rise and Fall of the Caliphate of Cordoba
- The New Spanish Citizen
- Latin American Film
- Underground Hip Hop Culture in the Spanish-speaking Caribbean
- Visual Cultures of Modern Spain
- Latin American Women Writers
- Afro-Latino/x Literature

**For Further Information, Write or Call:**

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309/556-3332
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[www.iwu.edu/hispanic](http://www.iwu.edu/hispanic)
• **Carmela Ferradáns**, Professor of Spanish  
  Ph.D. — University of California, Irvine  
  Specializes in contemporary Spanish cultural studies, especially the cultural production of the Spanish transition to democracy.

• **Carolyn Nadeau**, Byron S. Tucci Professor of Spanish and Department Chair  
  Ph.D. — Pennsylvania State University  
  Specializes in sixteenth and seventeenth century Spanish literature, particularly the works of Cervantes and the picaresque novel.

• **César Valverde**, Associate Professor of Spanish  
  Ph.D. — University of California, Irvine  
  Specializes in Latin American literature (theatre and prose) and gender studies.

**Putting Your Learning into Practice**

• Our introductory courses in Spanish for the professions (business, health, and non-profit work) provide rich experiential learning opportunities in the local community. Students apply their language skills and cultural competency knowledge working with community partners for up to 3 hours a week.

• The Illinois Wesleyan Language Resource Center (LRC) is a tutoring center that provides students with resources for second language learning as well as peer-to-peer sessions that focus on practicing written and oral skills.

• The Hispanic Studies Program, the Spanish and Latino Student Association (SALSA), the Spanish Club as well as the National Hispanic Honorary Society Sigma Delta Pi, put together a dynamic calendar of co-curricular activities throughout the year highlighting both local and global Hispanic and Latinx cultures.

By completing a major or minor 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 who is knowledgeable of Latin American and Spanish language, literature, and who is aware of the rich and diverse cultural production of the Spanish-speaking societies. The on-campus courses in our program offer opportunities to interact with the local Hispanic and Latinx communities, collaborate with IWU faculty, and present your own research at the IWU John Wesley Powell Undergraduate Research Conference. Studying abroad in a Spanish-speaking country has been a highlight for our students for more than 30 years. We look forward to chatting with you about your interests and how you can contribute to the IWU broader community!

“As a Hispanic Studies major, I had the opportunity to study abroad at Illinois Wesleyan. I studied in Quito, Ecuador and was able to live with several different host families during my semester there. I was inspired by my rural homestay family and the way that they embraced their culture. Their way of life was different from my own, and living with them gave me a greater understanding of what it means to show compassion towards others. The experience allowed me to observe the diverse world around me, and inspired me to continue to show kindness and compassion towards others in the future.”

**Megan Frederick ’21**  
IWU Majors: Hispanic Studies and Biology  
Hometown: Naperville, IL  
(graduated in 4 years)