

## GRADUATE PROGRAM IN HISPANIC LITERATURES

### Mentors

Every incoming student (both MA and PhD candidates) will be assigned a mentor before the start of classes. The main role of the mentor is to facilitate the student's adjustment to the program, the Department, and UCSB. The mentor should provide the student information about the institution, the Department, advise him/her about the courses and requirements in collaboration with the Graduate Advisor and monitor the student's progress. Mentorships' may be extended until the completion of the MA and PhD program, although a different mentor may be assigned upon the student's request.

### MA Reading List

At the beginning of the academic year, all graduate students will meet with members of the Graduate Committee. These are open forum meetings to discuss students' experiences and answer questions regarding program requirements and to provide the reading lists.

### Courses and Areas of Study

The areas of study in the field of Hispanic Literatures are divided geographically and chronologically as follows:

- Peninsular Spanish literature: Medieval, Golden Age, 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century, 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> century
- Spanish American literature: Colonial, 19<sup>th</sup> century, 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> century; US Latino/-a literature. This applies both at the MA and PhD level.

The following courses are specific to one area in particular:

Peninsular Medieval: Spanish 222A-B: Studies in Medieval Peninsular Literature; Peninsular Golden Age: Spanish 230B: Studies in Spanish Literature of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries, Spanish 240: Studies on Cervantes; Peninsular 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century: Spanish 260: Studies in Nineteenth-Century Spanish Literature; Spanish American 19<sup>th</sup> Century: Spanish 283: El Modernismo; Spanish American 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Century: Spanish 287: Literature and Culture of the Postmodern Americas.

The following courses may belong to any of the areas above depending on the instructor and the content of the syllabus:

Spanish 215: Women Authors of the Spanish Language, Spanish 218: Individual Hispanic Authors and Special Topics, Spanish 293: Translation: Literacy and Linguistics Approaches, Spanish 295A-B: Research Seminar in Spanish Literature, Spanish 294A-B: Research Seminar in Spanish American Literature, Spanish 594: Special Topics, Spanish 596: Directed Reading and Research.

## MA PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

### Course Requirements

The student must complete a minimum of nine (9) courses (1 course = 4 units). A Research Seminar (Spanish 294A-B or Spanish 295A-B) is equivalent to two courses (2x4=8 units total) and is given in two consecutive quarters. At least seven (7) of the required courses must be in the graduate series, and the remaining two (2) may be upper division courses. A maximum of two (2) graduate or upper division courses in Portuguese or Brazilian literature may count toward the MA Degree. Two elective courses are allowed upon approval by the Graduate Advisor.

The minimum of nine (7) graduate courses must include the following:

- Spanish 212: Theories and Methodologies for Literary Studies.

- Spanish 294A-B: Research Seminar in Spanish American Literature (2 quarters, 8 units) or Spanish 295A-B: Research Seminar in Peninsular Spanish Literature (2 quarters, 8 units).
- A minimum of eight (8) units (normally equivalent to 2 courses) in two or more of the following areas: Peninsular Medieval, Golden Age, 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century, 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Century.
- A minimum of eight (8) units (normally equivalent to 2 courses) in two or more of the following areas: Spanish American Colonial, 19<sup>th</sup> Century, 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**Policy on Individual and Independent Studies Courses:** Students in the Hispanic Literatures Program are not allowed to take Independent Study courses in lieu of required courses. Students may complete a maximum of 8 units of independent studies courses before passing their MA Examination, with no more than 4 units during the same quarter. Within these 8 units, MA students may take Spanish 597 (Preparation for the Comprehensive Examination) only once and for a maximum of 4 units.

### **Portuguese Language Requirement**

Students are required to demonstrate a reading knowledge of Portuguese. The exam will be administered at the end of every winter quarter. This requirement may be fulfilled in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

### **Minimum GPA**

All students need to maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0. Students must take courses for a letter grade to achieve the minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 required to remain in good standing academically. Students who take only courses graded Pass/No Pass or Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory will earn a cumulative GPA of 0.0, which is unacceptable.

Students must receive a grade of B or better in a required course for it to count toward fulfillment of departmental degree requirements. A grade of B- is considered unsatisfactory.

The Graduate Division monitors the grades of all students, and will intervene if a student's GPA falls below the minimum. If it is not remedied by the deadline, the student may be subject to academic probation and subsequently to academic disqualification. For additional information see the [Graduate Division's Graduate Handbook](#). Students are allowed to carry No Grades (NG) and No Record (NR) for only one quarter after the course was originally undertaken before the NG or NR automatically reverts to a failing grade. Incompletes will automatically revert to a failing grade unless the work is completed and a grade reported to the registrar by the end of the subsequent quarter (this rule also applies to courses numbered 597 through 599).

## **THE MA COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION**

The objective of the MA Comprehensive Examination is to assess the student's general knowledge in all areas of study included in the MA Reading List, as well as her/his ability for textual analysis and writing and oral skills in the main language of specialization. The Examination should be taken by the end of the second year. The committee in charge of administering the exam will consist of the MA Program Director and three additional faculty members appointed by the Program Director.

The Examination consists of a **written part** and an **oral part**. All the examination questions (both written and oral) will be related to works included in the MA Reading List.

**Written Examination:** It is administered in two consecutive days (see below) and consists of questions provided by the faculty and selected by the MA Program Director. The student must take this part on or before the 8<sup>th</sup> week of the Spring quarter. Upon completion of the written examination, students are provided with a copy of their answers, which may be used in preparation for the oral examination.

**Day One (4 hours):** The MA candidate is given two (2) questions related to each one of the four areas of Peninsular Spanish literature (Medieval, Golden Age, 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century, 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Century; eight questions in total). The student must answer one of the two questions for each different area, for a total of 4 answers.

**Day Two (4 hours):** The MA candidate is given two (2) questions related to each one of the three areas of Spanish American literature (Colonial, 19<sup>th</sup> Century, 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Century) and two

(2) questions related to the area of US Latino/-a literature (8 questions in total). The student must answer one of the two questions for each different area, for a total of 4 answers.

**Oral Examination (90 minutes):** It is administered five days after the written part. Questions in this part may be related to the responses in the written examination. Only the student and the members of the MA Examination Committee may be present during this part of the examination.

Upon completion of the oral examination the student will be informed of the results, which may be: passed both the written and oral part, passed only one part, or failed both parts. If a student fails any part of the examination, he/she will be allowed to retake it one more time and no later than the 8<sup>th</sup> week of the following quarter. Passing the written and oral parts of the MA Comprehensive Examination does not automatically entail admission to the PhD Program. Continuation is highly competitive and the student must demonstrate an ability to work independently and to make innovative and original contributions to the critical literature of the field.

On the basis of the exam the Examination Committee will submit a written recommendation about the student's qualifications to pursue doctoral studies to the Graduate Committee. The Graduate Committee will review the Examination Committee recommendation and the student's overall performance (including exams, grades, coursework, timely progress toward the degree, and teaching) and will then issue a final decision regarding the student's advancement into the PhD program.

### PHD PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

#### Admission to the PhD Program and Requirements for the Degree

Students who have fulfilled the MA degree requirements are admitted to the PhD Program upon approval by the Graduate Committee. The Chair of the Graduate Committee is the Graduate Program Advisor, who will help coordinate the appointments of the PhD Examination and Dissertation committees and the scheduling of the qualifying examination.

In the case of students who have earned an MA degree or similar in another program or institution, the Graduate Committee will decide whether the student can be admitted directly to the PhD Program or must fulfill additional MA course requirements. By the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter in residence the Graduate Program Advisor will inform the student of this decision in writing. Once admitted to the PhD Program all students must complete the following in order to earn the degree:

- All PhD course requirements
- All language requirements
- The PhD Qualifying Examination
- Successfully complete the PhD dissertation, including all the steps specified below.

#### PhD Course Requirements for PhD-only Students

Forty Four (44) units are required, or a minimum of 36 units with acceptable substitutions. Students who have earned an MA degree elsewhere may petition to the Graduate Committee to substitute an equivalent course or courses (up to 8 units) taken at another institution for any of the requirements listed below except Spanish 294A-B and Spanish 295A-B.

- Spanish 212: Theories and Methodologies for Literary Studies
- Spanish 294A-B: Research Seminar in Spanish American Literature
- Spanish 295A-B: Research Seminar in Spanish Literature
- Two graduate courses in Portuguese-Brazilian Literatures
- One graduate course in US Latino/-a literature

- One of the following two possibilities (1 or 2). Independent Studies may not fulfill this requirement:
  1. At least two courses in two different fields of Peninsular Spanish literature (Medieval, Golden Age, 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century, 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Century), plus at least one course in Spanish American literature (Colonial, 19<sup>th</sup> Century, 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Century)
  2. At least two courses in two different fields of Spanish American literature (Colonial, 19<sup>th</sup> Century, 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Century), plus at least one course in Peninsular Spanish literature (Medieval, Golden Age, 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century, 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Century).

#### **PhD Course Requirements for MA/PhD Students (i.e. Continuing Students)**

Courses taken at the MA can be used to fulfill any of these requirements, but all PhD students must take a minimum of 36 units.

- Spanish 294A-B: Research Seminar in Spanish American Literature.\*
- Spanish 295A-B: Research Seminar in Spanish Literature.\*
- Two graduate courses in Portuguese-Brazilian Literatures.\*
- One graduate course in US Latino/-a literature.\*
- One of the following two possibilities (1 or 2). Independent Studies may not fulfill this requirement:
  1. At least two courses in two different fields of Peninsular Spanish literature (Medieval, Golden Age, 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century, 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Century), plus at least one course in Spanish American literature (Colonial, 19<sup>th</sup> Century, 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Century)
  2. At least two courses in two different fields of Spanish American literature (Colonial, 19<sup>th</sup> Century, 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Century), plus at least one course in Peninsular Spanish literature (Medieval, Golden Age, 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century, 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Century).

(\* If not taken previously)

In addition to the course requirements listed above, all PhD students are encouraged to take additional courses, including courses offered in other departments.

**Policy about Individual and Independent Courses:** Students may complete a maximum of 8 units of Independent Studies courses between the completion of the MA and the PhD Qualifying Examination. Within these 8 units, MA students may take Spanish 597 (Preparation for the Comprehensive Examination) only once and for a maximum of 4 units.

#### **Foreign Language Requirement and Examination**

All students are required to demonstrate a reading knowledge of another language other than Spanish, Portuguese and English. In order to fulfill this requirement the student must take the Foreign Language Examination, in which he/she is asked to translate a text in a foreign language. The text should be approximately 300-400 words in length and the student has a limit of two hours to complete the translation.

#### **STEPS LEADING TO THE PHD QUALIFYING EXAMINATION**

##### **Selection of Main Area(s) of Specialization and Core Advisor**

By the end of the Spring Quarter of the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the PhD, the student should:

- Select her or his **Main Area(s) of Specialization** among the following: Peninsular Medieval, Golden Age, 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century, 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Century; Spanish American Colonial, 19<sup>th</sup> Century, 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Century; or US Latino/-a Literatures.
- Select one Faculty member as his/her **Core Advisor**. The Core Advisor will replace the Mentor initially assigned to the entering student, although the Core Advisor and the Mentor can be the same

person. The student must officially notify the Graduate Committee about his/her choice, specifying that the Core Advisor has agreed to serve as such.

In addition, students are strongly encouraged to begin consulting with her/his Core Advisor and other faculty about possible Core and Supplementary areas for the PhD examination, as well as possible entries for the reading lists, so as to allow ample time to prepare the lists and study for the exam.

### **Preparation of Core Proposal and Reading Lists for the PhD Examination**

By the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the PhD, the student must have a clear idea of a general topic that will serve as a point of departure for the Doctoral Dissertation, as well as the genre(s) in which she or he wishes to focus in the Doctoral Dissertation (for example: Main Area of Specialization: Peninsular 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Century; genre(s): narrative prose and lyric poetry; topic: visions of urban life).

No later than the 5<sup>th</sup> week of the Fall term of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the PhD, the student will submit the following materials to the Graduate Committee for approval:

- The Core Reading List
- The Core Proposal
- The Supplementary Reading List

**The Core Reading List:** This list is prepared in close consultation with the Core Advisor. It consists of a selection of readings considered canonical or particularly relevant within the Main Area(s) of Specialization, the genre(s), and the general topic that will serve as a point of departure for the PhD Dissertation. In addition to literary works, the list may also include texts on other disciplines relevant to the student's preparation (for example, theory, criticism, history, anthropology, etc.). The Core Reading List must contain a minimum of 15-20 books. For MA/PhD students the Core Reading List must be substantially different from the MA Reading List.

**The Core Proposal:** The aim of the Core Proposal is to present the rationale and criteria followed by the candidate in the composition of the Core Reading List. It should specify the Main Area(s) of Specialization chosen by the student, as well as the genre(s) and the general topic that will serve as a point of departure for the PhD Dissertation. In this proposal the student will justify the general relevance of the topic within the selected Area(s) of Specialization and the selected genre(s), and will explain why and how the items of the Core Reading List can contribute to an understanding of the topic and lead to the production of original research. Normally, the Core Proposal should be no more than 10 pages long.

**The Supplementary Reading List:** In consultation with the Core Advisor, the student must choose **four Supplementary Areas**, two belonging to the set of Iberian literatures (Spain or Portugal) and two belonging to the set of literatures of the Americas (Spanish America, Brazil, or US Latino). Alternatively, one of these four areas may be substituted by a topic in linguistics. Each of the four Supplementary Areas must be different from the Main Area(s) of Specialization.

Upon the student's selecting the four Supplementary Areas, the Graduate Committee will appoint four different faculty members, each one covering one Supplementary Area, who will select the items of **the Supplementary Reading List** and normally will serve as part of the PhD Examination Committee (see below). In consultation with the student, each faculty member must choose a minimum of 3-5 books related to the corresponding Supplementary Area. The selection of readings should focus on canonical works within their specified area, and emphasize as much as possible issues or texts related to the Core Proposal.

### **THE PHD QUALIFYING EXAMINATION**

The objective of the PhD Qualifying Examination is to assess the candidate's knowledge of the Core and Supplementary Reading Lists, and his/her mastery of the general topic that will constitute the basis for the PhD dissertation. Overall, the student must demonstrate that he/she has the necessary scholarly preparation and skills to carry out independent research.

The PhD Qualifying Examination is normally taken during the Spring term of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the PhD.

Normally, the Committee in charge of administering the Examination will consist of the Core Advisor plus the four faculty members who chose the items for the Supplementary Reading Lists (see above). All five members will vote. The Examination is based on the Core and Supplementary Reading lists and it will consist of a written part and an oral part, administered on two different days as described in this scheme:

**The Written Examination (Day One / 6 hours)** consists of:

- Three (3) questions based on the Core Reading List, of which the student must choose and answer two (2).
- Two (2) questions for each of the four Supplementary Areas, of which the student must choose and answer one (1) for each Supplementary Area.

| <b>Reading List</b>               | <b>#Questions</b> | <b>#Answers</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Core                              | 3                 | 2               |
| Supplementary Iberian (2 areas)   | 2+2               | 1+1             |
| Supplementary Americas' (2 areas) | 2+2               | 1+1             |
| Total                             | 11                | 6               |

**Oral Examination (Day Two / 2-3 Hours)**: It consists of two parts:

- An oral defense of the answers to the Written Examination.
- Additional questions on the Reading Lists (both the Core and Supplementary Sections).

**Advancement to Candidacy (ABD)**: Upon passing both parts of the Examination (written and oral) the student advances to candidacy. If a student fails any part of the examination, he or she will be allowed to retake it one more time and no later than the 8<sup>th</sup> week of the following quarter.

### **THE PHD DISSERTATION**

Upon passing the PhD Qualifying Examination, and no later than the following week, the student must submit in writing to the Graduate Committee the names of all the faculty members willing to serve in the student's Dissertation Committee. The Dissertation Committee is in charge of supervising and evaluating the dissertation work. It is comprised of the Dissertation Advisor serving as Chair plus two or more faculty members chosen by the student. Three of the members, including the Chair, must be from the UCSB Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

By the 7<sup>th</sup> week of the quarter following the PhD Qualifying Examination the student will submit the Dissertation Proposal. It should be in the range of 20 pages and specify the Dissertation topic, its relevance, the methodology and approaches to be followed, and a tentative description of the chapters. No later than 3 weeks after submitting the Proposal, the student will do an oral presentation to the Dissertation Committee for approval. Starting two quarters after the approval of the Proposal, the student must meet formally with the full Dissertation Committee at least once per year in order to assess the progress of the Dissertation. If satisfactory progress is not made, the Dissertation Committee will report this information to the Graduate Committee and the Graduate Division.

When all the corrections and revisions have been made, a final version will be submitted to the Committee. After the Dissertation committee has approved the dissertation and signed the signature page, the student will file the dissertation according to university guidelines. The final version must meet the filing and formatting requirements spelled out in the UCSB Guide to Filing Theses and Dissertations available at the Graduate Division website: [www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/pubs/filingguide.shtml](http://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/pubs/filingguide.shtml).