**HISPANIC STUDIES as part of a Modern Languages Programme**

"Birmingham’s Hispanic Studies section offers one of the most comprehensive programmes I have seen in the field in this country. The breadth of the programme, including culture and language modules from Spain, Hispanic America and the minority languages of Spain, as well as linguistics and translation modules, is outstanding."

Dr. Balibrea, External Examiner’s Report 2011-12.

Hispanic Studies is available as a beginner’s subject and post A-level. You can study it at 40, 60 or 80 credits, alongside:

- Catalan
- German
- Italian
- Japanese
- Mandarin Chinese
- Portuguese
- Russian
- French
- English Language
- Business Management
- Film Studies

"Hispanic Studies staff are excellent in research-led teaching and in Spanish language provision. They clearly inspire their students and motivate them to achieve, yet they are also exacting in their standards [...] Birmingham clearly provides students with a high quality experience in Hispanic Studies and deserves its reputation as a centre of excellence in the discipline."

Dr Harris, External Examiner’s Report 2011-12.

### Year 1 module information (see module descriptions at the end):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Language</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Core module for all Post-A-Level students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intensive Spanish Language</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Core module for all Spanish beginners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic Literature: Texts and Contexts</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>80-credit students (60-credit students must choose this in either Year 1 or Year 2; it is optional for 40-credit students).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History and Politics</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Optional for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Images of Hispanic Identity +</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Optional for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iberian Languages and Linguistics</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Optional for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basque or Catalan or Galician or Portuguese</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Core module for all Post-A-Level students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Year 2 module information (see module descriptions at the end):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Language II</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Core module for all non-beginners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ex-Beginners Spanish Language</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Core module for all ex-beginners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basque Language I</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Optional for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basque Language II</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Optional for all with Level I Basque</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basque Society and Culture</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Optional for all. Y1 Basque is not required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catalan Language I</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Optional for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catalan Language II</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Optional for all with Level I Catalan. Not available as a Hispanic Studies option to those taking Catalan as a BA Modern Languages or European Studies Language.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barcelona: Urban Space and Cultural Identity</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Optional for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constructing Community in the Catalan-Speaking Territories</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Optional for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course</td>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galician Language and Culture I</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Optional for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galician Language and Culture II</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Optional for all with Level I Galician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portuguese Language I</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Optional for all, but students must have &gt; 50% in the Y1 Spanish exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portuguese Language II</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Optional for all with Level I Portuguese. Not available as a Hispanic Studies option to those taking Portuguese as a BA Modern Languages or European Studies Language.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portuguese Literature</td>
<td></td>
<td>Optional for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazilian Literature</td>
<td></td>
<td>Optional for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galician-Portuguese Medieval Lyric</td>
<td></td>
<td>Optional for all Y1 Portuguese or Galician is not required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love, Sin and Death in Medieval Spain</td>
<td></td>
<td>Optional for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Origins of the Spanish Theatre</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Core module for students taking 80 or more credits in Hispanic Studies. Optional for other students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Quixote and C16th Spanish Fiction</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Optional for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narratives of Violence in Spain</td>
<td></td>
<td>Optional for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conquest, Empire &amp; Inquisition</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Optional for all Y1 History is not required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary Latin American History and Society</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Optional for all Y1 History is not required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LI Spanish Cinema Life Writing in Contemporary Spain</td>
<td></td>
<td>Optional for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature and Society in C20th Latin America</td>
<td></td>
<td>Optional for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Latin American Short Story</td>
<td></td>
<td>Optional for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Spanish Caribbean, History, Literature and Popular Culture</td>
<td></td>
<td>Optional for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Linguistics</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Optional for all Y1 Linguistics is not required.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Year 3 information:**

You can study at a University in a Spanish- and/or Portuguese-speaking country (see destinations below), or do a teaching placement organized by the British Council.

**University placements in Spain:** Madrid - Universidad Complutense de Madrid & Universidad Pontificia de Comillas; Salamanca - Universidad de Salamanca; Granada - Universidad de Granada; Sevilla - Universidad de Sevilla; Cádiz - Universidad de Cádiz / Córdoba; Universidad de Córdoba; Huelva - Universidad de Huelva; Málaga - Universidad de Málaga; Murcia - Universidad de Murcia; Badajoz - Universidad de Extremadura; Cáceres - Universidad de Extremadura; Santiago - Universidad de Santiago de Compostela; Oviedo - Universidad de Oviedo; Barcelona - Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona & Universitat de Barcelona; Valencia - Universidad de Valencia; Zaragoza - Universidad de Zaragoza; Vitoria - Gasteiz - Universidad del País Vasco / Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea

**University placements in Portugal:** Coimbra - Universidade de Coimbra; Lisboa - Universidade de Lisboa

**University placements in Spanish-Speaking Latin America:** Argentina: Buenos Aires - Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina; Chile: Santiago de Chile - Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile; Ecuador: Quito - Universidad San Francisco de Quito; Mexico: Monterrey - Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de; Monterrey (ITESM); Guadalajara - Universidad de Guadalajara; Veracruz - Universidad Veracruzana;
University placements in Portuguese-Speaking Latin America: Brazil: Florianopolis - Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina

**Year 4 module information:**

These cover a wide range of specialist topics in culture (literature, history, cinema), language and linguistics.

Both semesters

- Spanish Language
- Dissertation (Compulsory for Single Honours)
- Translation Theory & Practice (Compulsory for Single Honours)
- Advanced or intermediate Catalan (depending on level attained in Y2)
- Advanced or intermediate Galician (depending on level attained in Y2)
- Advanced or intermediate Portuguese (depending on level attained in Y2)
- Advanced or intermediate Basque (depending on level attained in Y2)
- Advanced Spanish Linguistics
- Spanish Caribbean: History & Literature + US Latino: Spanish Caribbean
- Contemporary Spanish Film from Fiction
- Spanish Civil War Literature
- Social and Political Processes in Contemporary Latin America
- Re-Imagining the World: The Comedia in Theory and Practice + Cervantes and the Nature of Fiction

**Semester One**

- Vision of the Vanquished
- Great Power Intervention
- The Contemporary Latin-American Novel
- Brazilian Literature

**Semester Two**

- Investigating Iberia
- Currents in Catalan Literature
- The Contemporary Portuguese Novel
- Spanish Fiction Since 1975
- A Time of Change: Collective and Cultural Memory in Contemporary Spain

**Year 1 module descriptions:**

**Spanish Language (20 credits)**

Taught by a team of native Spanish speakers, the three weekly contact hours integrate the “four skills” of listening, speaking, reading and writing and emphasise form by targeting essential structures for intensive practice within a communicative context. The module aims to consolidate and expand the level of proficiency in Spanish attained in A-level in each of the four skills and to improve discourse competence (writing and speaking). By the end of the module students should be able to engage in formal and informal conversation with native speakers; to understand the main ideas of written texts in different genres containing both concrete and abstract topics; to produce coherent and well-structured written texts using paragraphs and cohesion to organise and link sentences; to understand aural information using a variety of listening skills; to acquire and apply skills for independent learning; and to monitor their own learning process.

Assessment: Coursework, including 2 class tests (25%); Oral/aural (15/15%); Written exam (45%)
Contact: 3 hours per week in both semesters

**Intensive Spanish Language A & B (2 x 20 credits)**

An intensive ab initio Spanish language course that focuses primarily on giving students the necessary organisational competence to be able to cope with levels I (Year 2) and H (Year 4) in Hispanic Studies. The module is constituted as two 20-credit, one-semester, units, each taught by six classes each
week. Two of these hours are dedicated to Grammar and present the grammatical points included in the syllabus by focusing on form within a communicative context. Two more hours serve to reinforce structures and vocabulary aurally/orally and to introduce the students to material that is particular to aural/oral contexts. A further hour introduces students to the online course that supports the module, developing strategies for reading comprehension, translation skills and specific items of grammar and vocabulary. The final hour is devoted to the study of four significant Hispanic literary texts: Lorca’s *Blood Wedding/Bodas de Sangre* and the classic *Lazarillo de Tormes*, in Semester 1; and García Márquez’s *No One Writes to the Colonel/El coronel no tiene quien le escriba* and Sender’s *Réquiem por un campesino español / Requiem for a Spanish Peasant*, in Semester 2. Semester 1 texts are read in parallel text versions (Spanish and English), whilst the texts for Semester 2 are studied in Spanish, though translation of Marquez’s novel is available. Students are required to do preparation between classes, and they should expect to devote between 3 and 5 hours per week to on-line study (WebCT Spanish *Ab Initio* Language Course).

Assessment: A. Spanish language: Coursework (10%); WebCT tasks (5%); Oral (5%); Exam (60%); Selected Texts: One commentary in Semester 1 and one essay in Semester 2 (20%).

Contact: 6 hours per week in both semesters

**Hispanic Literature: Texts and Contexts (20 credits)**

This module provides an overview of Hispanic Literature through a selection of the most important, accessible, and enjoyable texts from Medieval and Golden-Age Spain, 20th-century Spain, Latin-America and the Hispanic Caribbean. Texts studied include examples of poetry, drama, prose narrative and film. Each text is considered in its own terms and within its cultural context, and each is introduced in lectures and then explored in more depth in small seminar groups. Both lectures and seminars are taught by a range of staff, all of whom are specialists in the field, introducing students to a variety of critical approaches and providing a foundation for the choice of optional modules for further study in Year 2.

Assessment: 1 essay in English per semester (2 x 25%); Written examination (50%)

Contact: 2 hours per week in both semesters

**History & Politics (20 credits)**

Semester 1 (History) looks at the history of Spain and Latin America. After a brief introduction to the discovery, colonisation and independence of Latin America, the Spanish-American strand considers the issues of race and ethnicity, and then examines the origins and impact of the Mexican Revolution. The Spanish Peninsular strand examines the origins of the Spanish Civil War, the impact of the Franco regime and the transition to democracy after 1975. Semester 2 (Politics) covers indigenism, populism and zapatismo in Latin America; and Spain since the promulgation of the Constitution in 1978: the transition to democracy, regionalism, responses to terrorism, and electoral politics.

Assessment: 2 x 1500-word Essays in English (2 x 25%); 1 x 2-hour exam (50%)

Contact: 2 hours per week in both semesters

**Images of Hispanic Identity (10 Credits)**

This module provides an introduction to a variety of approaches to the study of Visual Arts, through a diverse range of representative texts. The module is divided into two parts. Semester 1 (Cinema and Representation), examines three films: Pedro Almodóvar’s *Todo sobre mi madre* (1999); Alejandro González Iñárritu’s *Amores perros* (2000); and Joshua Marston’s *Maria Full of Grace* (2004). Semester 2 (Art History and Representation), concentrates on some of the major works of Salvador Dali, Pablo Picasso, and Frida Kahlo.

Assessment: 1 x 1500 word Essay in English (50%); 1 x 1-hour class test.

Contact: 2 hours per week
**Iberian Languages & Linguistics (10 credits)**

The module covers the basic principles of linguistics, with specific emphasis on language change and the minority languages of Spain. Sections include: Introduction to Linguistics/Principles of linguistics; Native speaker's competence; Language change over time; the Indo-European group/Romance Languages; Language change over region; Dialectology; Language change in society; Sociolinguistics; Principles of language planning/Language planning in Spain; Catalan, Galician & Basque.

Assessment: un-assessed class exercises; 2-hr written exam.

Contact: 2 hours per week

**Beginners' Catalan (20 Credits)**

Catalan is spoken in Catalonia, Valencia and the Balearic Islands (Majorca, Menorca, Ibiza and Formentera). This module teaches Beginners Catalan. There is a whole culture to discover, including writers, painters, architects, etc. The three weekly hours include communicative language and grammar classes (2 hours per week) and a culture hour to develop comprehension skills and to provide an introduction to Catalan literature and culture. Students also have the opportunity to achieve an extra qualification by taking the International Certificate of Catalan Language issued by the Institut Ramon Llull.

Assessment: Coursework (10%), Grammar Test (20%), Oral (10%), Aural (10%), Written Exam (50%)

Contact: 3 hours per week.

**Beginners' Galician (20 Credits)**

Galician is the minority language spoken in the north-west of the Iberian Peninsula. It is an official language within the Spanish state together with Basque Catalan, and Castilian (Spanish). Galician and Portuguese were born as the same language in the same kingdom. Therefore with Galician you can communicate both with Portuguese speakers and with Spanish speakers around the world. As well as learning the language, you will learn about Galician culture (cinema, theatre, literature, music, food, wine...) Galicia is a Celtic nation, with ancient festas and festivals, a beautiful landscape and an enchanting literature.

Assessment: Coursework (20%), Oral Exam (15%), Aural Exam (15%), Written Exam (50%)

Contact: 3 hours per week.

**Beginners' Basque (20 Credits)**

*Euskara* is the language spoken in *Euskal Herria*, the Basque Country, a nation that lies in southwestern Europe and that is currently divided between two states: France and Spain. *Euskara* is a language of unknown origin, with no connection to the Indo-European, Uralic or any other family of languages. Reasons for choosing to study *Euskara* include: access to an ancient culture and a language unlike any you have seen before; a rare opportunity to study an important non-Indo-European language; the option to continue to study it for free at an academy in the Basque Country.

Assessment: Coursework (20%), Oral Exam (15%), Aural Exam (15%), Written Exam (50%)

Contact: 3 hours per week.

**Beginners' Portuguese (20 Credits)**

Portuguese is a true world language, being spoken not just in Portugal, itself a uniquely distinctive tile in the Iberian mosaic, but also in Brazil, one of the world’s fastest-growing economies, as well as in Angola, Mozambique, and several other African and Far Eastern countries. This intensive language module is suitable for those with no knowledge of Portuguese (or with Portuguese to GCSE). It introduces students to the vocabulary and structures of Portuguese through a variety of classroom activities, engaging them with a range of written and spoken registers of Portuguese Language through a combination of textual and visual activites. The module also provides an introduction to the culture and society of the Portuguese speaking-world.

Assessment: Coursework (30%), Aural Test (10%), Oral Exam (10%), Written Exam (50%)
Contact: 3 hours per week.

Year two module descriptions

BOTH SEMESTERS

Spanish Language II (20 credits)

Taught by a team of native Spanish speakers, the module aims to practice the four skills (writing, reading, speaking and listening) and engage the student actively in the learning process through debates, class work, and independent learning. The sessions are organised around up-to-date topics relevant to cultural and current affairs in Spain and Latin America. Class and independent learning activities include: debates, translations, listening practice, grammar review and developing writing skills, based on a language textbook and extended by grammar notes/summaries provided by the tutor.

Assessment: Coursework (25%); Oral/aural (20/15%); Written examination (40%)
Contact: 3 hours per week in both semesters

Ex-Beginners Spanish Language (20 credits)

The module aims to practice the four skills (writing, reading, speaking and listening) and engage the student actively in the learning process through group discussion, class work, and independent learning. The sessions are organised according to relevant and up-to-date topics that relate to cultural and current affairs in Spain and Latin America. Both class activities and independent learning include debates, group activities, listening practice, grammar review and developing writing skills, based on a language textbook and extended by grammar notes/summaries provided by the tutor. Contact hours focus on tasks that help develop writing skills for specific functions (e.g. preparing reports, summarizing documents, evaluating advertising, producing translations, etc), reading comprehensions that build vocabulary, idiomatic expressions and grammatical structures; tutor-guided discussions on relevant topics and role-playing simulations of real life situations.

Assessment: Coursework (25%); Oral/aural (20/15%); Written examination (40%)
Contact: 3 hours per week in both semesters

Hispanic Literature: Texts and Contexts L1 (20 credits)

See the details for this module in the Year 1 section above. This is a core module for ex-beginners in year 2. The assessment pattern is the same, but Y2 students write 2,500 word essays.

Beginners Portuguese (20 credits)

The module aims to develop the four skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening) by exposing the students to a range of written and spoken registers of European and Brazilian Portuguese through a combination of textual and visual elements. The sessions integrate contextualized exercises and activities to develop the student’s ability to use the grammar structure and vocabulary in order to communicate effectively in pairs or small groups in a variety of real-life situations related to cultural, social, and political aspects of the Portuguese-speaking world.

Assessment: Coursework (20%); Oral (20%); Written examination (60%)
Contact: 3 hours per week in both semesters

Intermediate Portuguese Language (20 credits)

The aim of the course is to build on language skills obtained in the first year and prepare students for self-motivated learning and development. A variety of methodologies from grammar, grammar-translation, linguistic to purely communicative methods are used. A wide range of grammar points is consolidated and more complex vocabulary and structures are introduced. Familiarity and confidence with registers and advanced grammar are expanded. Progressive use and development of translation and contrastive analytical skills complement advances made in oral and written production.
Assessment: Coursework (20%); Oral (20%); written examination (60%)
Contact: 3 hours per week in both semesters. Informal surgery times arranged when required.

Galician Language and Culture I (20 Credits)

The course employs both traditional reference grammar and communicative methods of teaching in covering the basic structures and vocabulary of the Galician language. It also includes instruction on elements of sociolinguistics, literature, history and other aspects of Galician culture. By the end of the module the students should possess a general understanding and awareness of the distinctive elements of Galician culture, be able to understand written and spoken Galician in its different registers, and to express themselves fluently in simple conversation in the language.

Assessment: Coursework (20%); Oral (20%); written examination (60%)
Contact: 3 hours per week in both semesters.

Galician Language and Culture II (20 Credits)

A variety of methodologies from grammar, grammar-translation, linguistic to purely communicative methods are used. The three hours are fully integrated: topics introduced in the translation and grammar/translation class are expanded upon in the conversation hour, and theoretical language support to aid strategic competence is given in the structures hour. By the end of the module the student should be able to demonstrate and apply good basic knowledge of Galician literary culture, to show ample understanding of the structures of Galician in order to function effectively in a Galician-speaking environment, and demonstrate higher than threshold ability in the four language skills in Galician.

Assessment: Coursework (30%); Oral (20%); written examination (50%)
Contact: 3 hours per week in both semesters. Informal surgery times arranged when required.

Catalan Language and Culture I (20 Credits)

In Semester 1 the three weekly hours are distributed between communicative language and grammar classes (2 hours per week) and a parallel culture hour to develop comprehension skills and to provide an introduction to Catalan literature and culture. In Semester 2 the hours are distributed between communicative language and grammar classes (2 hours per week) and a text reception and production hour to develop reading and writing skills and promote the development of independent responses to Catalan literature and culture. By the end of the module the student should be able to demonstrate above threshold level communication skills in Catalan (as recommended by the CIC); and to read, comprehend, interpret and translate cultural texts of a far higher level, placing them within the wider context of the language and culture of the Catalan-speaking regions.

Assessment: Coursework and grammar test (40%); Oral (10%); written examination (50%)
Contact: 3 hours per week in both semesters. Informal surgery times arranged when required.

Catalan Language and Culture II (20 Credits)

A variety of methodologies from grammar, grammar-translation, linguistic to purely communicative methods are used. The three weekly hours are distributed between translation and grammar/translation classes, structures of the Catalan language (given in Catalan and English), and oral work in small groups with a native speaker alongside an introduction to Catalan literary culture. The three hours are fully integrated: topics introduced in the translation and grammar/translation class are expanded upon in the conversation hour, and theoretical language support to aid strategic competence is given in the structures hour. By the end of the module the student should be able to demonstrate higher than threshold ability in the four language skills in Catalan (as recommended by the CIC); to show ample understanding of the structures of Catalan in order to function effectively in a Catalan-speaking environment; and to demonstrate and apply a good basic knowledge of Catalan literary culture.

Assessment: Non-assessed periodic pieces of language work. Coursework and grammar test (40%); Oral (10%); written examination (50%)
Contact: 3 hours per week in both semesters. Informal surgery times arranged when required.

**Basque Language and Culture I (20 Credits)**

This module's teaching methodology is based on the communicative functions (which are purposes and aims achieved through language when in communication with others). In the three weekly hours the teaching of the four language skills (writing, oral, reading and listening skills) is integrated so that the students are enabled to master the communicative functions set for the course. By the end of the module the student should be able to employ basic *Euskara*; attain proficiency in Euskara at the 150-hour level determined by the Basque Government.

Assessment: Coursework and grammar test (20%); Oral (20%); written examination (60%)

Contact: 3 hours per week in both semesters.

**Basque Language and Culture II (20 Credits)**

The module uses the communicative functions approach and follows on from Basque Language and Culture I to develop further students’ knowledge of and competence in Basque language and culture. By the end of the module the student should be able to: produce grammatically-accurate short texts in Basque; interact with speakers of Basque at a basic level while employing a variety of complex cases and tenses; understand a range of basic written and oral texts in Basque; understand a range of cases and the difference between them.

Assessment: Coursework and grammar test (20%); Oral (20%); written examination (60%)

Contact: 3 hours per week in both semesters.

**Life Writing in Contemporary Spain (20 Credits)**

This module explores the different theoretical and practical approaches to the study of life writing within the context of Contemporary Spain, through readings of biographies, autobiographies, life testimonies, childhood memoirs, collections of letters, confessional writing, political testaments (mainly prison texts) and certain types of travel writing (Spanish exiles accounts of their journey to America), set within the context of theoretical debates concerning the different genres and sub-genres encompassed by the label "Life Writing". This in turn leads to an examination of the relationships between life, history, politics, gender and fiction. The module also provides an understanding of main aesthetic and historical developments in Spain during the 20th century and a consideration of their impact on the process of writing individual and collective experiences.

Assessment: one coursework essay in each semester (50% each).

Contact: 2 hours per week in both semesters.

**Spanish Cinema (20 Credits)**

This module examines the development of a national cinema from the end of the Spanish Civil War to the present day, tracing the development of the Spanish film industry, first under the censorship imposed by Franco's dictatorial regime, and later in the context of the freedom established with the transition to a democracy. While each film is studied within its local context, the module has two main points of focus: 1) the relationship between the films and their socio-political context and 2) Spanish cinema and the exploration of identity. In the first of these, attention is paid to the counter-narratives produced as resistance to the ideology of the Franco regime and, in the later films, to the exploration of new social relationships and attitudes towards subjectivity and gender. Under the general heading of identity, three main areas are highlighted for particular analysis: national identity, the re-evaluation of history, and gender and sexuality.

Contact: One 2-hour seminar per week plus film showings in both semesters.

Assessment: one coursework essay in each semester (40% each); one 1-hour class exam in semester 2 based on the analysis of a scene or sequence from one of the selected films (20%).
SEMESTER ONE

Don Quixote and Golden-Age Prose Fiction (10 Credits)

This module examines Cervantes' creation of the most famous and influential work in Hispanic Literature, considering aspects such as: its inter-textual relations with preceding and contemporary modes of Spanish and European literature such as the pastoral, the chivalric, the picaresque and the novelaesque; its meta-literary concerns with the processes of creation and reception; its philosophical interest in the foundations and nature of knowledge and belief; and its approach to moral, social and political criticism, with particular emphasis on the crisis of the aristocracy at the turn of the Seventeenth Century, on changing attitudes to warfare in a decade marked by significant peace treaties between Spain, England and the Dutch, and on the fears of a resurgent Ottoman Empire. Attention will also be paid to its literary influence in both Spain and the wider world.

Contact: One 2-hour seminar per week in Semester 1.
Assessment: One essay (100%)

Conquest, Empire and Inquisition in 16th Century Spain and Spanish America (10 Credits)

This module makes an in-depth study of the following topics: Native American societies before the Spanish conquest; Encounter between Native Americans and Spaniards; post-Conquest Spanish America; the Spanish Inquisition (the "myth" of the Inquisition; treatment of converted Jews and Muslims; treatment of Old Christians, witchcraft and prophecy). Its aims are to develop an understanding and appreciation of the discovery and colonization of America, and the spread of religious repression through the Inquisition; how perceptions of both native American peoples and Spanish religious deviants changed across time according to predominant intellectual currents and changing social conditions; how Spanish society could be characterized by both repression and free inquiry, both the broadening and the narrowing of horizons, at the same time; the interaction of economic, social, political, and intellectual factors in accounting for the historical development of societies; and the complexity of key historical issues.

Contact: One 2-hour seminar per week in Semester 1.
Assessment: One essay (100%)

Contemporary Latin American History & Society (10 Credits)

This module makes an in-depth study of the following topics: the Cuban revolution and its impact; Chile under Allende and Pinochet; dictatorship and democracy; relations between the USA and Latin America. Its aims are to develop an understanding and appreciation of the interaction of economic, social, political, and intellectual factors in accounting for the historical development of societies; the complexity of key historical issues; and the cultural context of Latin American history

Contact: One 2-hour seminar per week in Semester 1.
Assessment: One essay (100%)

Barcelona – Urban Space and Cultural Identity (10 Credits)

The capital of Catalonia, Barcelona is both one of the key symbols of Catalan cultural identity and a multicultural urban space in which identity is negotiated on a daily basis. Focusing on a number of key cultural representations (literary texts, films, and television series) of Barcelona in the twentieth century, this module explores the changing shape of the city in relation to changing conceptions of cultural identity in Catalonia. The module aims to enable students to trace the cultural history of Barcelona in the Twentieth Century in a series of contexts (Catalan, Spanish, European, global); to apply aspects of urban theory to the study of a particular urban text; and to analyse the relationship between urban space, culture and identity in Barcelona.

Contact: One 2-hour seminar per week in Semester 1.
Assessment: One essay (100%)
Spanish Linguistics (10 Credits)

The module provides an introduction to articulatory phonetics by examining the range of sounds employed in Standard Castilian. The module provides training in the identification of articulatory difference and in the use of the International Phonetic Alphabet. The module aims to enable students to distinguish between the sounds of Castilian; to describe in scientific terms the differences between them; and to employ the IPA to transcribe sustained passages of Castilian.

Contact: One 2-hour seminar per week in Semester 1.
Assessment: weekly practical exercises (not assessed). One 2-hour class test of assessed phonetic transcription (100%)

Medieval Galician Portuguese Lyric (10 Credits)

This module offers students an introduction to the literature and culture of the Portuguese Middle Ages, supported by the acquisition of critical tools and theoretical concepts. The main texts examined are a selection of Galician Portuguese cantigas. Particular emphasis is placed on courtly love, parody and the carnivalesque. The role of women in these works, both as subject and as addressee, is also considered. Students are expected to read widely in order to acquire the necessary background and context and to prepare seminar papers. The module aims to enable students to recognize the main themes, motifs and symbols found in medieval Galician Portuguese poetry; understand the personal, social, political and religious preoccupations expressed in these works; and to comment on these in the appropriate terminology.

Contact: One 2-hour seminar per week in Semester 1.
Assessment: One essay (100%)

Portuguese Literature (10 Credits)

In this module, students study representative works of Portuguese, including plays and prose fiction, exploring such issues as national identity and gender. At the same time, attention is paid to the literary and historical context, and relevant critical theories. The module aims to enable students to appreciate and put in to context several key works of Portuguese literature; to gain an understanding of Portuguese history and society; and to discuss these issues arising out of their readings in depth, using appropriate terminology and applying the most relevant theoretical concepts.

Contact: One 2-hour seminar per week in Semester 1.
Assessment: One essay (100%)

SEMESTER TWO

Origins of the Spanish Theatre (10 Credits)

The module deals with the drama in Spain from its origins in early 15th C. religious ceremonial and court entertainment, through the development of the commercial theatre, to its highest expression in the masterpieces of the baroque period, setting it in the context of the principal cultural, literary and intellectual concerns which it reflects. The module aims to enable students to appreciate the subtleties of early-modern Spanish theatre; to assign the plays studied to their historical and literary contexts; to demonstrate knowledge of the phases of development of the early Spanish theatre: in terms of genre, structure, theme, characterisation, imagery, language and versification, contexts of performance; and to acquire an understanding of the potential of these dramatic works to make effective and meaningful use of the dramatic spaces in which they were (and are) performed.

Contact: One 2-hour seminar per week in Semester 2.
Assessment: One essay (100%)

Spanish Narratives of Violence (10 Credits)

This module will study a range of films and novels about violence in Spain. The key aim of the module is to assess how ‘personal’ violence (e.g. domestic aggression against women, fraud, workplace
harassment, murder, involvement in terrorist acts) can be read as symptomatic of a wider, structural – political and economic – violence that underpins many societies. Other aims include enabling students to assess the significance and nature of cultural responses to many forms of violence in contemporary Spain; to analyse the relevance of different genres to the expression of different sorts of violence; to develop the critical and theoretical tools necessary for understanding and responding to the portrayal of violence in a range of cultural products; and to analyse the selected films and novels within the socio-political context in which they were created.

Contact: One 2-hour seminar per week in Semester 2.
Assessment: One essay (100%)

**Introduction to the Spanish Caribbean: History, Literature & Popular Culture (10 Credits)**

This module introduces students to some of the main themes in the history of the Spanish-Speaking Caribbean and explores the engagement of literature and popular culture with these themes. Focussing mainly on the 19th and 20th centuries, the course examines the following issues: European colonization and Independence; slavery and abolition; migration and return; cultural imperialism; US Caribbean relations and the rise of Caribbean nationalisms. Simultaneously the course outlines the strategies used in Spanish Caribbean literature, film and music to respond to these historical phenomena. The module aims to enable students to analyse and explain key themes in Spanish Caribbean History; to identify the main scholarly debates concerning 19th and 20th Century Spanish Caribbean History; to explain and analyse the major issues in US Caribbean and Caribbean European historical relations; to map the connections between history, literature and popular culture in the Spanish Caribbean.; and to demonstrate an understanding of the creative strategies used in Caribbean literature, film and music to respond to major issues in the region's history.

Contact: One 1-hour lecture and one 1-hour seminar per week in Semester 2.
Assessment: One essay (100%)

**Basque Society & Culture (10 Credits)**

The term Basque usually brings to mind adjectives such as primeval, ancient, mysterious, isolated, and unknown. Nevertheless, although the Basque Country has maintained its cultural and historical legacy it is nowadays an open, modern and dynamic society. This module addresses Basque society from historical, anthropological, sociolinguistic, political and cultural perspectives, through the analysis of different forms of artistic and cultural expressions (literature, music, painting, films, TV programs, architecture, folklore, etc). The module aims to enable students to understand the historical legacy of contemporary Basque politics and society; to identify the main symbols and motifs in Basque mythology and be familiar with some representation of folklore, traditions and beliefs; to demonstrate knowledge of the most relevant figures of Basque culture and their works; to establish the connection between the socio-political situation and the cultural products of a given period; and to understand the singularities and specific framework of small nations such as the Basque country.

Contact: One 2-hour seminar per week in Semester 2.
Assessment: One essay (100%)

**Constructing Community in the Catalan-Speaking Territories (10 Credits)**

This module provides an introduction to the political, cultural and social make-up of the Catalan-speaking regions in Spain and Southern France from a range of different perspectives, drawing on historical, anthropological, sociolinguistic and cultural studies. It explores the different models and types of community that have developed there and their relationship to wider regional, national and transnational formations, such as the Paisos Catalans, Spain, Iberia and Europe. Through the analysis of a range of cultural texts from the area, it will address the relationship between individual and community identity as formulated through a range of different overlapping discourses: history/memory, global/local, gender/sexuality, centre/periphery etc. By the end of the module the student should be able to understand the cultural and sociopolitical history of the Catalan-speaking territories; to place this understanding in wider historical and geopolitical context (Spain/France, Europe, globalisation); to understand key concepts in describing community identity; to apply these
concepts to the different cultural formations present in the Catalan-speaking territories; and to interpret and comment critically on cultural texts relating to the topics covered.

Contact: One 2-hour seminar per week in Semester 2.
Assessment: One essay (100%)

**Love, Sin and Death in Medieval Spain (10 Credits)**

This module addresses cultural manifestations of a series of phenomena in the Iberian middles ages (convivencia, attitudes to sex and sin, death and dying), employing a variety of visual and textual sources. Students read selections from the *Libro de Buen Amor*, the *Rimado de Palacio* the *Cantigas de Santa María*, the *Dança general de la muerte* and the *Siete Partidas*. By the end of the module, students should be able to: assess the importance of love, sin and death in the cultural manifestations of late medieval Iberia; critically analyse passages of medieval writing; critically analyse the notion of convivencia; assign the set texts to their historical and cultural contexts.

Contact: One 2-hour seminar per week in Semester 2.
Assessment: One essay (100%)

**Brazilian Literature (10 Credits)**

In this module students study representative works of Brazilian literature and their film adaptations, with particular emphasis on the North East. They consider the ways that authors treat key issues such as poverty and social injustice. At the same time, attention is paid to the literary and historical context, and relevant critical theories. By the end of the module students should be able to: appreciate and put in to context several key works of Brazilian literature; demonstrate an understanding of Brazilian history and society; and discuss the issues arising out their readings in depth, using appropriate terminology and applying the most relevant theoretical concepts.

Contact: One 2-hour seminar per week in Semester 2.
Assessment: One essay (100%)