

**Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Graduate Bulletin
Fall 2025**

**Course offerings in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Haitian Kreyòl,
Hebrew, Italian, Modern Languages and Literatures, Portuguese, and
Spanish**

For more information, please contact course instructors or Dr. Allison Schifani, Director of Graduate Studies (ams611@miami.edu).

ARABIC

Language/culture courses (zero credits; consult Canelink for schedules)

ARB 641	Elementary Arabic I for Graduate Students
ARB 642	Elementary Arabic II for Graduate Students
ARB 651	Intermediate Arabic I for Graduate Research
ARB 652	Intermediate Arabic II for Graduate Research
ARB 654	Advanced Arabic I for Graduate Research
ARB 658	Advanced Arabic II for Graduate Research

CHINESE

Language/culture courses (zero credits; consult Canelink for schedules)

CHI 641	Elementary Chinese I for Graduate Students
CHI 642	Elementary Chinese II for Graduate Students
CHI 651	Intermediate Chinese I for Graduate Research
CHI 652	Intermediate Chinese II for Graduate Research
CHI 654	Advanced Chinese for Graduate Research

FRENCH

Language/culture courses (zero credits; consult Canelink for schedules)

FRE 641	Elementary French I for Graduate Students
FRE 642	Elementary French II for Graduate Students
FRE 645	Accelerated Elementary French for Graduate Students
FRE 651	Intermediate French I for Graduate Research
FRE 652	Intermediate French II for Graduate Research
FRE 653	Advanced French I for Graduate Research

GERMAN

Language/culture courses (zero credits; consult Canelink for schedules)

GER 641 Elementary German I for Graduate Students
GER 642 Elementary German II for Graduate Students
GER 651 Intermediate German I for Graduate Research
GER 652 Intermediate German II for Graduate Research

HAITIAN KREYÒL

Language/culture courses (zero credits; consult Canelink for schedules)

HAI 642 Elementary Haitian Kreyòl II for Graduate Students
HAI 652 Intermediate Haitian Kreyòl for Graduate Research

HEBREW

Language/culture courses (zero credits; consult Canelink for schedules)

HEB 642 Elementary Hebrew II for Graduate Students
HEB 652 Intermediate Hebrew for Graduate Research

ITALIAN

Language/culture courses (zero credits; consult Canelink for schedules)

ITA 641 Elementary Italian I for Graduate Students
ITA 642 Elementary Italian II for Graduate Students
ITA 651 Intermediate Italian I for Graduate Research
ITA 652 Intermediate Italian II for Graduate Research

MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Graduate seminars (Three credits)

MLL 703/SPA 721/FRE721: Topics in Critical Studies of Language

Language Variation

Dr. Andrew Lynch

Tuesdays 5:05-7:50pm

Merrick Building 210-01

Language is in a constant state of flux. Using a multidisciplinary approach, this course explores the features of both written and spoken language/texts that reveal patterns and processes of language variation and change, examining how surrounding discourses influence people's beliefs, attitudes, assumptions, ideas, actions, and social behaviors. We will study socially situated language use and variability across groups, focusing on the cultural and ideological factors that shape language practices. Topics will include the linguistic expression and negotiation of social boundaries, societal and political configurations of mono- and multilingualism in the 20th and 21st centuries, the construction of contemporary national and transnational identities, and the institutional and mediatic dimensions of language. While the primary focus will be on Spanish-speaking and Francophone societies, we will also consider

Anglophone, Arab, Lusophone, and Caribbean Creole contexts.

The main objectives are to expand students' general knowledge of theory and research relevant to social constructs of 'language' and to provide an understanding of language variability, language and power, and methodological proposals regarding language variation and discourse analysis. The methodological principles of interview and survey techniques will also be discussed. .

MLL 711: Introduction to Critical Theory

Dr. Suja Sawafta

Mondays, 5:05-7:50pm

Merrick Building 210-01

This graduate seminar will survey critical theory across global traditions of Literary and Cultural Studies. It proposes an engagement with literature and cultural objects across a number of frameworks and methodologies including world literature, debates on literary canonization and minor literatures, close-reading, exegesis and ekphrasis, translation, and comparativism. We will engage in debates and analyses on and with literature and culture that contends with various dynamics and concepts including postcolonialism and decoloniality, race and ethnic studies, gender and sexuality, exile and migration, ecocriticism, capitalism, the literary prize economy, questions of audience, visual culture, spatial and sonic studies, as well as media studies.

Throughout the course, each student will use their areas of research interest or their actual dissertation topics to lead their colleagues in class discussion. Students will develop a formal conference paper from abstract to presentation. They will write a 15 to 20-page final paper in which they critically contend with course material to propose and defend an original argument. Course open to graduate students from all departments, and at all levels of training.

MLL 799: Dissertation and Professional Writing Seminar

Dr. Yolanda Martinez-San Miguel

Wednesdays, 2:30-5:15pm

Merrick 210-02

This seventh-semester graduate seminar is designed to provide structure and support during the critical transition to full dissertation writing. Taken in conjunction with the final preparation and defense of the dissertation prospectus, the course focuses on solidifying the methodological and critical theoretical frameworks of each student's research. Through structured workshops and peer feedback, students will develop and present their thesis work-in-progress, culminating in the completion of the first dissertation chapter. This process ensures that students enter their eighth semester with significant momentum and a well-defined project.

Beyond dissertation development, this course prioritizes professionalization. Students will

receive comprehensive guidance on effective dissertation completion strategies, explore diverse avenues for scholarly publication, and develop skills for tailoring arguments to various audiences. The curriculum also includes training in grant proposal writing and the initial preparation of materials for the academic job market. Active participation in weekly discussions, constructive engagement with peer work, and the demonstration of significant progress in dissertation writing will form the basis of the course grade. This course is required for fourth-year graduate students and may be repeated by advanced students seeking further support in dissertation writing.

PORTUGUESE

POR 642 Elementary Portuguese II for Graduate Students

POR 645 Accelerated Elementary Portuguese for Graduate Students

POR 651 Intermediate Portuguese I for Graduate Research

POR 652 Intermediate Portuguese II for Graduate Research

Graduate seminar (Three credits)

POR 691: Topics in Lugo-Brazilian Studies

The Modern Brazilian Novel

Dr. Steven Butterman

Mondays and Wednesdays 5:05-6:20pm

Merrick Building 312

Pre-requisites: POR 202, heritage speaker of Portuguese, native Portuguese speaker or by permission of instructor. Class is open to undergraduate students and will be conducted entirely in Portuguese

Português 354 (Prosa Ficcional Brasileira: O moderno romance brasileiro) abrange o desenvolvimento de 160 anos do romance brasileiro de 1865 até os dias de hoje (2025). Aprofunda às correntes sociais, políticas e literárias presentes na narrativa brasileira do Romantismo ao Realismo Psicológico, do Naturalismo ao Pré-modernismo e Modernismo até o Regionalismo e o Pós-Modernismo. Uma das principais metas desse curso é desenvolver a escrita crítica e as habilidades de leitura cuidadosa e analítica de não-nativos e falantes de português de herança. POR 354 pode ser usado para preencher os requisitos de literaturas e humanidades e também abrange os créditos de escrita de Arts and Sciences.

SPANISH

Language/culture courses (zero credits; consult Canelink for schedules)

SPA 641 Elementary Spanish I for Graduate Students

SPA 642 Elementary Spanish II for Graduate Students

SPA 645 Accelerated Elementary Spanish for Graduate Students

SPA 647	Basic Spanish for Graduate Heritage Learners
SPA 651	Intermediate Spanish I for Graduate Research
SPA 652	Intermediate Spanish II for Graduate Research
SPA 653	Advanced Spanish I for Graduate Research
SPA 657	Intermediate Spanish for Graduate Heritage Learners
SPA 658	Advanced Spanish for Graduate Heritage Learners

Graduate seminars (Three credits)

SPA 736: Topics in 20th Century Latin American Literature

One Hundred and Twenty Years of Solitude: Latin American Literature in the 20th and 21st Centuries

Dr. Ómar Vargas

Tuesdays, 11:00am-1:45pm

Merrick Building 210-01

This seminar will deal with 20th-21st century Latin American Literature by taking into account different political, social, cultural, theoretical and editorial events that have taken place in the region during this period of time. What to most Europeans and North American critics and readers were skillful and aesthetically pleasant distortions of reality by Latin American writers, actually were —according to Gabriel García Márquez— limited and not always successful attempts to capture an exuberant reality that obeys logical and poetic rules not compatible with Western yardsticks. Since Latin American writers have to ask but little of imagination, their main problem is a lack of conventional means to render their lives believable. The interpretation of Latin American reality as well as of the social, political and economic solutions to their problems usually go through external and foreign patterns that serves only to make their people ever more unknown, ever less free and ever more solitary. And this is, according to García Márquez, the crux of the solitude of Latin America.

The seminar will be divided into four modules and will deal with selected works by the indicated authors:

- Poetry (Mistral, Vallejo, Huidobro, Guillén, Neruda, Paz, Morejón)
- Theater (Usigli, Triana, Gambaro, Castellanos)
- Prose (Azuela, Borges, Asturias, Carpentier, Rulfo, Cortázar, Fuentes, García Márquez, Bolaño, Sarduy, Vargas Llosa, Garro)
- Essay (Vasconcelos, Paz, Fernández Retamar, Rama, Cornejo Polar, Mariátegui)

Each module will be critically supported by specific theoretical material (Sommer, González Echeverría, Oviedo, Rama, García Canclini).

This course will be taught in Spanish. Students (from MLL or other departments) having a good understanding and reading knowledge of Spanish are welcomed to register. They will be able to do their presentations and to write their final paper in English, and to use English translations of the texts to be studied when available.

