



Department of World Languages and Cultures

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Certificate in Spanish for Law and Justice Practitioners

Although the U.S. Latino/ Latin American population is one of the population sectors most in need of legal services, they are among the least likely to seek legal assistance. Many Latin Americans arrive in the U.S. from countries that lack a solid civil court structure. Their experiences in home countries have fostered a mistrust the police and criminal justice systems, making them unlikely to report crimes. Additionally, access to even the most basic legal services can be terrifying for undocumented Latin American residents. Simply driving to work or going to the doctor can seem dangerous, eliciting fear that one misstep could quickly uproot their lives. Furthermore, few lawyers or justice practitioners have the language skills or intercultural awareness to aptly serve this growing population.

Our three-course Certificate in Spanish for Law and Justice Practitioners will help students address major cultural misunderstandings about the reality of life in the U.S. for Latin American and Latino residents and build their awareness of the reasons for the legal vulnerabilities of this population. The classes will also provide students with the fundamental background knowledge and Spanish language and intercultural skills to appropriately speak to, engage with, and advocate for the Latino community.

Required Courses:

The first required course in the certificate is **SPA 203 (Intermediate Oral Proficiency) or SPA 210 (Spanish for Heritage Speakers)**.

SPA 203 boosts non-native students' language proficiency to at least the intermediate-mid level, so that they are prepared for more specialized professionally oriented courses.

SPA 210 helps to fill gaps and improve heritage speakers' written Spanish ability so they can more easily become bilingual professionals.

The following two courses — which can be taken in any order — are SPA 228 (Spanish for Law, Justice, and Human Services) taught in Spanish and **WLC (Latin American Cultural Perspectives)**, which will be taught in English. The HSS Curriculum Committee has approved both of these courses. They are scheduled to be taught in 2022-2023.

Both SPA 228 and WLC 238 examine the shared experiences and unique circumstances of Latin American peoples in both Latin America and the U.S. Students will examine the reasons for this populations' mistrust of the police and criminal justice system in both the

U.S and Latin America. Both SPA 228 and WLC 238 emphasize respect for different points of view and awareness of hardships that others face. Class readings, films, and group discussions will allow students to formulate their own opinions about current-day issues as well as provide them with a basis from which to develop more advanced oral skills in Spanish including. SPA 228 students will develop narration in all major time frames, circumlocution, expressing opinions, handling a situation with a complication, asking and answering questions, and improving listening comprehension, all skills that will help students to interact with Latin American/ Latino clients with greater language ability and intercultural awareness.

Students who prefer to take a course in Spanish instead of WLC 238 may count either SPA 216 (Current Events in the Spanish Speaking World) or SPA 217 (Introduction to Hispanic Cultures) toward the third required class in the certificate.

Spanish for the Professions Certificates Pathways

The Spanish for the Professions certificates equip students with language and intercultural competence in preparation for careers in business, counseling, education, interpreting, law and justice, medical professions, and others. Each certificate consists of three core courses beyond the elementary Spanish sequence, with at least one core Spanish for the Professions course.

Spanish for Law & Justice Practitioners	Spanish for Healthcare Professionals	Business Spanish	Spanish for Counseling & Human Services
Required Core Classes: SPA 203 Intermediate Oral Proficiency (Fall & Spring), SPA 210 Spanish for Heritage Speakers (Fall), or credit by examination by WLC department			
<i>SPA 228 Spanish for Law, Justice, and Human Services (Fall)</i>	<i>SPA 219 Spanish for Medical Purposes (Spring)</i>	<i>SPA 211 Intermediate Writing Prof (Fall & Spring)</i>	<i>SPA 219 Spanish for Medical Purposes (Spring)</i>
<i>WLC 238 (in English) Latin American Cultural Perspectives (Spring)</i> Or <i>SPA 216 Current Events in the Spanish-Speaking World</i> or <i>SPA 217 Introduction to Hispanic Cultures</i>	<i>SPA 319 English/Spanish Medical Interpreting (Fall)</i>	<i>SPA 218 Business Spanish (Spring)</i>	<i>SPA 228 Spanish for Law, Justice, and Human Services (Fall)</i>
Second two classes for the certificate can be taken in any order	SPA 219 needs to be taken prior to 319	Second two classes for the certificate can be taken in any order	Second two classes for the certificate can be taken in any order