In the Hispanic and Latin American Studies Department, the union of language, culture, and civic engagement echoes Macalester’s commitment to being “a preeminent liberal arts college with an educational program known for its high standards for scholarship and its special emphasis on internationalism, multiculturalism, and service to society.” Macalester recruits and integrates faculty and students from all over the world, reflecting the institutional value we place on diversity.

The study of Spanish-speaking and Luso-Brazilian cultures is a natural corollary to this emphasis on the union of the global and the local. As local cultures continue to include an increasing number of non-native English speakers, our understanding of the global context must also expand. Language courses in Spanish and Portuguese are taught in this department.

Both the major and the minor in Hispanic studies offer a dynamic array of courses in literary studies, cultural studies, linguistics, civic engagement, film, and society. Study away courses may be counted toward the major or minor with prior approval from the chair. Students may also major or minor in Latin American studies, which is a separate program.

**Faculty**

**Antonio Dorca,** professor and chair, is from Barcelona, Spain. His interests include peninsular prose fiction, modern Catalan literature, Spanish intellectual history, and critical theory and narrative techniques.

**Susana Blanco-Iglesias** is a senior lecturer from Bilbao, Spain. Her research focuses on Spanish language acquisition, with an interest in sociolinguistics, dialectology, and language contact issues (Spanish/English in the U.S. and Basque/Spanish).

**Blanca Gimeno Escudero,** visiting assistant professor from Palencia, Spain, teaches all levels of Spanish language and peninsular literature and culture. Her research focuses on exile and the construction of identity through literature.

**Galo González,** professor, is from Quito, Ecuador. He teaches and researches primarily 20th-century Latin American literatures and cultures, especially social protest movements, race relations in Latin American narrative fiction, and Hispanic/Latino literature and culture in the U.S.

**Cynthia Kauffeld,** associate professor, teaches Hispanic linguistics. Her interests include dialectology, Spanish in the U.S., historical linguistics, and paleography. Her current research focuses on documents relating to colonial settlement of New Mexico.

**Teresa Mesa Adamuz,** senior lecturer from Granada, Spain, specializes in contemporary Latin American literature, especially women writers, subaltern studies of U.S. Latino and Latin American testimonial and cultural production, feminist theory, and research ethics.

**Alicia Muñoz,** associate professor, teaches 20th-century Latin American literature and U.S. Latino studies. She researches representations of women who kill in Latin American literature and popular culture, and articulations of urban space in Latino literature.

**Margaret (Molly) Olsen,** professor, specializes in Trans-Atlantic literatures of the 16th and 17th centuries, as well as Afro-Caribbean texts of the colonial and contemporary periods.

**J. Ernesto Ortiz-Díaz,** assistant professor from Monclova, Mexico, studies representations of nature in modern Latin American literature, and contemporary historical events that affect the region.

**Rosa Rull Montoya,** senior lecturer from Barcelona, Spain, teaches language and peninsular literature and culture. She focuses on women writers in 20th-century Spain, and contemporary Spanish writers and film.

**Courses**

The Department of Hispanic and Latin American Studies welcomes students into dynamic language courses in elementary and intermediate Spanish and Portuguese, as well as advanced courses that focus on the critical study of literature, culture, and linguistics, all taught in Spanish. All of our courses emphasize active language acquisition and application within meaningful, contemporary contexts. We believe that language is the pathway to true understanding of culture.

**Recent Topics Courses**

- Constructions of a Female Killer
- Ethics of Civic Engagement
- Journeys Through Brazil
- Oral History and Literacy Traditions of Amazonia
- Portugal Meets the “Other”: Portuguese Sailors in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia (15th to 17th centuries)
- Spanish in the United States
- Superando Límites/Crossing Boundaries
Resources
Casa Hispana is a residence near campus where students live with two native speakers in an environment of Hispanic culture and the Spanish language. Residents are expected to enroll in one Hispanic studies course during each semester they live in the house, and to communicate in Spanish in the house. Casa Hispana provides a space for convening cultural and academic activities throughout the year.

La Mesa de Conversación is a weekly student-led Spanish conversation get-together where students at any level can enjoy speaking Spanish and hanging out in a casual, relaxed environment.

Bate Papo is a Portuguese conversation group that meets once or twice a week under the guidance of two student leaders. Although the group is mainly intended for students in Portuguese language classes, visitors are welcome.

Study Abroad
Students study abroad with programs in Spanish- or Portuguese-speaking countries including Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Portugal, Cuba and Spain.

They have studied language, literature, and culture, as well as the natural and social sciences. In most of these programs, students have found it possible to enroll in internships or independent studies.

Internships
Caroline Peters ’18 (Weston, Mass.), Language Sprout, teaching assistant intern
Thyra Lindberg-Wysocki ’17 (Madison, Wis.), Merrill Lynch, financial advisor intern
Jacob Phillips ’16 (Kingston, Jamaica), Embassy of Jamaica (Washington, D.C.)
Anna Andersen ’15 (Wausau, Wis.), Indevu Films, video intern
Cameron Kesinger ’15 (Sammamish, Wash.), The Advocates for Human Rights
Emma Wheeler ’15 (Hopkins, Minn.), Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Amalia Centurion ’14 (Portland, Ore.), Casa de Esperanza

Honors Projects
Adan Steve Martinez ’16 (Los Angeles), “Las Jefas de Sudamérica: Coalition Party Discipline in Brazil, Chile, and Argentina”

After Macalester
Aryeh Blumenreich ’16 (Minnetonka, Minn.) is attending medical school at Temple University in Philadelphia.
Rachel Ozer-Bearson ’16 (El Cerrito, Calif.) is teaching at an international school in Antigua, Guatemala, through a Princeton in Latin America fellowship.
Jacob Phillips ’16 (Kingston, Jamaica) is doing a Princeton in Latin America fellowship in the Dominican Republic.
Ellen Brady ’15 (St. Paul) works with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Berkeley, Calif.
Emma Ensign-Church ’15 (Santa Fe, N.M.) works with College Possible in Portland, Ore.
Rachel Swanson ’15 (Lexington, Ky.) is at the East Bay Law Center with the Lutheran Volunteer Corps in Berkeley, Calif.
Amalia Centurion ’14 (Portland, Ore.) is an emerging nonprofit specialist with the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits in St. Paul.
Elizabeth Hamilton ’14 (Upper Saddle River, N.J.) is in graduate school at St. Catherine University’s Montessori Training Center.
Anne Huber ’14 (Bloomington, Minn.) is on a Fulbright in Brazil.
Antonia Storniolo ’14 (Corvallis, Ore.) is serving with the Peace Corps in Guatemala.
Oana Alexan ’13 (Oradea, Romania) is pursuing a master’s in human rights and humanitarian action at the Sciences Po Law School Clinic in Paris.
Iva Djurovic ’13 (Belgrade, Serbia) is a health financing analyst for the Institute for Collaborative Development in Mozambique.
Kathlynn Hinkfuss ’13 (Milwaukee) is director of marketing and an English teacher at the Escuela Falcon in Guanajuato, Mexico.
Matthew Hyde ’13 (Barrington, Ill.) is a Peace Corps volunteer in Mexico.

Ina Rojnic ’13 (Pula, Croatia) is an English teacher at Ozel Merter Fatih Koleji in Croatia.
Ryan Schleeter ’13 (Novato, Calif.) is a freelance writer for such clients as Greenpeace and National Geographic Society.
Patrick Snyder ’13 (Versailles, Ky.), formerly a Critical Language Scholar in Morocco, is pursuing a PhD in political science at the University of Minnesota.
Maggie Hutchison ’12 (Evanston, Ill.) is teaching in the Minneapolis Public Schools with Teach for America.
Ana Svoren ’12 (Harare, Zimbabwe) is an associate in Access Programs at the Clinton Health Access Initiative.

Visitors
Popular Spanish journalist Guillermo Fesser gave a talk about the importance of not simply translating words, but the emotions those words contain.
Witness for Peace activist Alfredo López gave a talk on Afro-Indigenous Hondurans and their struggle against mega-projects, and displacement, as well as how U.S. involvement has fueled Honduran migration.
Andrew Lynch, sociolinguist from the University of Miami, visited classes to talk about Spanish in the U.S. He also gave a campus talk titled “Imagining Spanish in the United States: Cultural Representation and Social Perception.”
Contemporary Brazilian poet Salgado Maranhão and U.S. translator Alexis Levitin discussed Portuguese-language poetry, class and resistance, and the art of translation. They visited classes and gave a joint talk about Maranhão’s poem Blood of the Sun.
Maria Socorro Tabuenca, a professor at University of Texas at El Paso, visited classes to discuss border issues between the U.S. and Mexico. Her talk to the campus was “Reflections of Femicide and Violence in Ciudad Juárez.”

Printed August 2016
macalester.edu/hispanic
macalester.edu/lass