



## Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

**PROPOSAL TITLE:** Revision of the MA in Portuguese and the addition of a Brazilian Studies Concentration to the MA in Portuguese

**SPONSOR:** Professor John Tofik Karam, Department of Spanish and Portuguese and Lemann Institute for Brazilian Studies, (217) 265-7016, [karam@illinois.edu](mailto:karam@illinois.edu).

**COLLEGE CONTACT:** Kelly Allison Ritter, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, (217) 333-1350, <[ritterk@illinois.edu](mailto:ritterk@illinois.edu)>

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** For the MA degree in Portuguese, we propose: 1. to replace the four exam structure with a master's thesis, and; 2. to add a Brazilian Studies Concentration. The master's thesis, instead of the current requirement of four exams in Luso-Brazilian studies, will broaden and serve a pool of MA students interested in career options in and outside of academia. The addition of the Brazilian Studies concentration will reflect the program's already existent focus on Brazil, which will consist of more specific course requirements that are already being taught. The curricular requirements will be Brazil-related courses taken in and outside of our unit as well as the master's thesis.

In the Brazilian Studies concentration, we will provide students with a comparative and transnational focus on Brazil, as stated on the graduate program's webpage <<http://www.spanport.illinois.edu/graduate/programs/portuguese>>. Students will explore "Brazil as a global crossroads of cultures, languages, and powers ... Our approach underscores Brazil as a gateway to study ties with Spanish-speaking countries of the Americas, across the Atlantic and Global South, as well as a conduit for relations among Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa, Asia, and Europe." We focus on the "national formation and transnational interplay among African, Asian, European, Indigenous, and Middle Eastern peoples and histories that shape not only Brazil but also Angola, Mozambique, Portugal, and other parts of what is sometimes called the Lusophone world." This concentration will facilitate multidisciplinary work in the department of Spanish and Portuguese, the School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and other colleges on campus.

**JUSTIFICATION:** The current MA in Portuguese was designed at a time when literature was the mainstay of Portuguese at UIUC, training graduates in knowledge of Lusophone literary studies to continue on an academic track. The stated goal of the MA, in fact, was "to provide breadth in the various areas of Luso-Brazilian Literature as well as develop the student's ability to interpret and analyze literature." The program culminated in exams taken in four areas of Luso-Brazilian literary and cultural studies. With two recent hires

in Portuguese, the growing importance of the Lemann Institute for Brazilian Studies at UIUC, and major Brazilian Studies specialists teaching advanced courses across the university, the faculty of the Portuguese program seeks to formalize the importance of cross-disciplinary coursework to the MA that culminates in a master's thesis, written in consultation with an advisor. The master's thesis will better serve students after they complete their degree. For those students who continue on an academic track, the thesis can be used to enter into a PhD program and serve as a stepping stone to developing a PhD dissertation topic. For those students who choose corporate, governmental, or non-governmental routes, the master's thesis is an important writing sample that can be used to apply for a job or serve as the touchstone for a future work-related project. Unlike the current exam structure that is generally limited to the student and the professoriate, the master's thesis is a tangible and transportable document that academic and non-academic track students can take with them on their respective career paths.

In addition to replacing the exams with a thesis, the current faculty in Portuguese seek to add a new concentration in Brazilian Studies to the Portuguese MA degree program. Respectively trained in anthropology and history, faculty in Portuguese are grounded in the field of Brazilian Studies. Faculty in comparative and world literatures, history, musicology, and other departments outside of LAS also engage with Brazilian Studies. Taking advantage of this significant presence of scholars in Brazilian Studies across campus, with the Lemann Institute for Brazilian Studies as a lightning rod, the Portuguese program seeks to train MA students interested in a broad scope of intellectual concerns and career options related to Brazil, including but not limited to academia. Moreover, most MA theses are currently written not on Portugal or any other part of the Lusophone or Portuguese-speaking world, but rather on Brazil. According to a recent search through MA thesis index terms on ProQuest, there have been 170 theses on "Brazil" and only 17 on "Portugal" since 2000. This new concentration in Brazilian Studies of the MA degree in Portuguese will part of a wider reorientation in light of the marked growth in Brazilian Studies across campus and in academia at large.

**BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:** *(Please respond to each of the following questions.)*

1) Resources

- a. How does the unit intend to financially support this proposal?

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese recently made two new tenure-track hires in Portuguese who are specialists in Brazilian Studies and will support this proposal by leading the concentration and degree program serving as advisors to MA students who will be writing a thesis to complete degree requirements.

- b. How will the unit create capacity or surplus to appropriately resource this program? If applicable, what functions or programs will the unit no longer support to create capacity?

Two tenure-track faculty in Brazilian Studies will provide the labor to appropriately resource this program. The library has one of the strongest collections on Brazil in the country, organized by the Latin American Studies librarian, Dr. Antonio Sotomayor. The departments of history, ethnomusicology,

and social work have also made recent hires of Brazilian specialists, whose courses the program's students will take. The faculty and library will provide the resources for this new concentration in the MA degree program.

- c. Will the unit need to seek campus or other external resources? If so, please provide a summary of the sources and an indication of the approved support.

No further campus or external resources are necessary.

- d. Please provide a letter of acknowledgment from the college that outlines the financial arrangements for the proposed program.

## 2) Resource Implications

- a. Please address the impact on faculty resources including the changes in numbers of faculty, class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratios, etc.

We expect to begin accepting MA students, so our enrollment will increase moderately. The two recent hires are currently capable of handling that anticipated increase. There will be no increase in teaching loads, but a moderate increase in advising responsibilities and student-faculty ratios.

- b. Please address the impact on course enrollment in other units and provide an explanation of discussions with representatives of those units. (*A letter of acknowledgement from units impacted should be included.*)

We primarily expect the new concentration to impact the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, but since students will be able to take courses offered on Brazil in other units, there could be a small impact on their enrollments as well. Given our target number of students that we are able to fund in a given year is 1 or 2, we do not anticipate that this will cause any significant impact on other units, however.

- c. Please address the impact on the University Library

The University Library already has extensive holdings in this disciplinary area and continues to acquire holdings in the field, so the impact will be limited to the increased usage that MA students make of the already existent holding.

- d. Please address the impact on technology and space (e.g. computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.)

There is already a room reserved for Portuguese TAs in the Foreign Language Building, which is large enough to accommodate the moderate increase in Portuguese MA students who will also serve as TAs.

**DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:** AY 2018-9

## STATEMENT FOR ACADEMIC CATALOG:

Proposed Changes to Academic Catalog are in **bold** type

---

### Spanish and Portuguese

<http://www.spanport.illinois.edu>

Head of the Department: Mariselle Meléndez  
Director of Graduate Studies: Javier Irigoyen-García  
4080 Foreign Languages Building  
707 South Mathews Avenue  
Urbana, IL 61801  
(217) 244-3250  
E-mail: [span-port@illinois.edu](mailto:span-port@illinois.edu)

Major: Portuguese

Degrees Offered: M.A., Ph.D. (*Please note: Until further notice, we are accepting applications only to the M.A. in Portuguese, not to the Ph.D.*)

**Graduate Concentration: Brazilian Studies**

---

Major: Spanish

Degrees Offered: M.A., Ph.D.

Graduate Concentrations: Medieval Studies (available to all), Romance Linguistics (Ph.D.), Spanish Linguistics (M.A. only), Spanish Literatures and Cultures (M.A. only), Second Language Acquisition and Teacher Education (Ph.D. only)

Medical Scholars Program: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Spanish and Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) through the [Medical Scholars Program](#)

### Graduate Degree Programs

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese offers work leading to the Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in Spanish and Portuguese, and to a Concentration in Second Language Acquisition and Teacher Education (SLATE). Fields of specialization are:

- Spanish linguistics
- Romance linguistics
- Spanish literature and cultural studies

- Latin American literature and cultural studies
- **Brazilian Studies**
- Luso-Brazilian literature and cultural studies

A graduate course in Catalan literature is available. Also, the department is affiliated with the Latina/Latino Studies Program. Students in the area of Latina/Latino studies may be able to work with experts in the other disciplines in Latina/Latino studies such as anthropology, history, political science, sociology, and so forth in order to design and complete a program of studies in a particular area.

## **Admission**

The normal prerequisite for a graduate major is an undergraduate major in the corresponding Romance language or consent of the department. Students doing graduate work for any advanced degree in Spanish or Portuguese must possess a command of the language. Applicants should apply online ([www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply](http://www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply)) and submit a statement of purpose, three letters of recommendation and a writing sample of approximately 10-20 pages in the form of one or two papers, at least one of which must be written in Spanish or Portuguese (as applicable). Original transcripts (with English translations if applicable) showing all undergraduate and graduate work completed should also be uploaded. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are required of all domestic applicants and should be submitted to institution code 1836. International applicants who have taken the GRE are encouraged to submit their scores as well. Applicants whose native language is not English are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and must score at least 88 on the internet-based test (iBT); they must also pass the speaking sub-section of the iBT with a minimum score of 24 (see [www.grad.illinois.edu/Admissions/instructions/04c](http://www.grad.illinois.edu/Admissions/instructions/04c)). Applications are accepted for fall admission only. Application questions may be directed to SLCL Graduate Student Services at [slclgradservices@illinois.edu](mailto:slclgradservices@illinois.edu).

## **Centers, Programs, and Institutes**

The option to pursue a concentration in SLATE (Second Language Acquisition and Teacher Education) is available to doctoral students in the department's programs in linguistics. Candidates selecting this option are required to complete courses in linguistics, psycholinguistics/sociolinguistics, second language studies, and research methodology in addition to advanced study in linguistics of the particular language. For information about SLATE go to [www.slate.illinois.edu](http://www.slate.illinois.edu).

## **Graduate Teaching Experience**

Although teaching is not a general Graduate College requirement, this department requires degree candidates to teach as part of their academic work. Such experience is considered a vital part of the graduate program. Non-native English speakers must first

pass a test of their oral English ability (see [www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/taengprof.htm](http://www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/taengprof.htm)).

## Financial Aid

The department offers financial aid (in the form of fellowships, teaching assistantships, and research assistantships) to all of the students it admits. Other kinds of fellowships and research support are also available on a competitive basis to qualified candidates; they include dissertation research and travel grants, conference travel grants, and summer fellowships.

MASTERS TAB (new info in **bold** type)

---

## Master of Arts

All students enrolled in the Spanish M.A. program must choose one of two concentrations: Spanish with concentration in Spanish Linguistics; or Spanish with concentration in Spanish Literatures and Cultures.

In addition to fulfilling the general requirements of the Graduate College, candidates for the M.A. in Spanish with concentration in Spanish Literatures and Cultures must pass a comprehensive examination based on coursework and a general reading list. Candidates for the M.A. in Spanish with concentration in Spanish Linguistics must complete a research paper in lieu of a formal comprehensive examination.

- [Master of Arts in Spanish, Spanish Literatures and Cultures Concentration](#)
- [Master of Arts in Spanish, Spanish Linguistics Concentration](#)

An area of specialization offered in Portuguese is Brazilian Studies. Detailed statements of the requirements for each specialization may be obtained from the department.

- [Master of Arts in Portuguese](#)
- **Master of Arts in Portuguese, Brazilian Studies Concentration**

Master of Arts in Portuguese page (new info in **bold** type)

## Master of Arts in Portuguese

- The M.A. in Portuguese is administered through the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Its goal is to provide to provide breadth in the various areas of Luso-Brazilian Literature as well as develop the student's ability to interpret and analyze literature. It requires a minimum of 32 graduate hours. **Students must also successfully complete a master's thesis**, developed in consultation with their advisor.

Requirement	Hours
Course work in Luso-Brazilian literature/cultural studies selected in consultation with advisor.	24
<b>PORT 595 Independent Study toward the completion of MA thesis</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>PORT 599 Thesis Research toward the completion of MA thesis</b>	<b>4</b>
Total Hours	32

- **Other Requirements<sup>1</sup>**

Grad Other Degree Requirements	
Requirement	Description
Other requirements may overlap	
PORT 571 is required of all teaching assistants	4
Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall:	12
Minimum GPA:	3.0

<sup>1</sup> For additional details and requirements refer to the department's [guidelines for graduate students](#) and the [Graduate College Handbook](#).

**MASTER of Arts in Portuguese, Brazilian Studies Concentration- new page**

## Master of Arts in Portuguese, Concentration in Brazilian Studies

In the MA program in Portuguese with a concentration in Brazilian Studies, students broaden and deepen their knowledge of Brazil-related topics and themes, working closely with core and affiliated faculty members in Portuguese. Students draw on the many upper-level course offering across departments and disciplines to create an individualized plan of study. All students must take SPAN 572 on theory and criticism or an equivalent course. Students with TAships are also required to complete PORT 571, the pro-seminar for language teaching required of all TAs in the dept. Beginning in their second

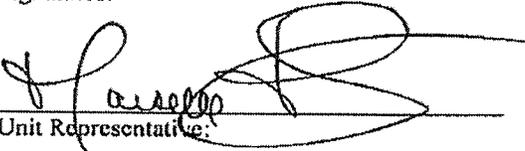
semester, students will enroll in PORT 595 with one of the Portuguese faculty members or affiliate faculty to develop a master's thesis. In their third or fourth semester(s), students can then sign up for PORT 599 (repeatable for up to 16 hours), to produce the thesis, which will be of publishable quality, working with Portuguese core and affiliated faculty. Four independent study hours in PORT 595 and four thesis research hours in PORT 599 count toward the 20 required hours in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Course work within the Department of Spanish and Portuguese in Brazilian Studies selected in consultation with advisor.	12
PORT 595 Independent Study toward the completion of MA thesis	4
PORT 599 Thesis Research toward the completion of MA thesis	4
Coursework in disciplines related to the students' focus with themes relevant to Brazil	12
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>32</b>

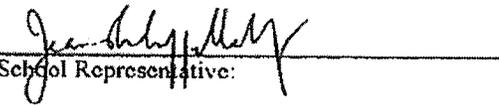
<b>Other Requirements</b>	
Other requirements may overlap:	
SPAN 572 or equivalent methods course must be taken by students	4 hours
Min 500-level hours	12 hours
PORT 571 is required of all TAs	4 hours
Min GPA	3.0

**CLEARANCES:**

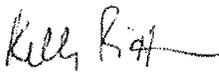
Signatures:

  
Unit Representative:

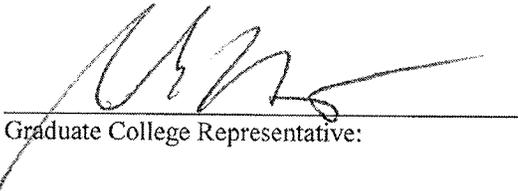
10/2/17  
Date:

  
School Representative:

10/3/17  
Date:

  
College Representative:

10-23-17  
Date:

  
Graduate College Representative:

2/7/18  
Date:

## Appendix A:

Lists of possible courses that can be taken for Brazilian Studies Concentration

---

Course list for 20 hours in department:

PORT 403 Readings in Portuguese  
PORT 404 Studies in Luso-Brazilian Culture (4h)  
PORT 406 Brazilian Film (4h)  
PORT 410 Studies in Brazilian Literature (4h)  
PORT 510 Seminar in Brazilian Literature (4h)  
PORT 595 Special Topics (1-4h)  
PORT 599 Thesis Research (0-16h)

Course list for disciplines related to the students' focus with themes relevant to Brazil:

ACE 436/BADM 436 - International Business Immersion, taught by Peter Goldsmith in Brazil  
CWL 471 International Literary Relations (Migration and Literary Transnationalism, taught by Wail Hassan) (3 or 4 h)  
ECON 452 The Economies of Latin America, formerly taught by the late Werner Baer and will be taught in future (2 or 4 h)  
HIST 405 History of Brazil from 1808, taught by Jerry Dávila or Marc Hertzman (2 or 4 h)  
HIST 498 Slavery and Freedom in Latin America, taught by Jerry Dávila (4h)  
HIST 507 Race and Ethnicity in Latin America, taught by Jerry Dávila or Marc Hertzman (2 or 4 h)  
MUS 418 Regional Studies in Musicology (Music of Brazil, taught by Mike Silvers) (4 h)  
PS 549 Brazil in a Comparative Perspective, formerly taught by José Cheibub  
SPAN and PORT and other courses within Department of Spanish- Portuguese not already counted toward the 20 hour requirement

Posed questions from the Graduate College Executive Committee in bold, responses in italics.

**1. Will the non-thesis option continue to exist for students in the MA in Portuguese?**

*The non-thesis option (examinations) will cease to exist for students in the MA in Portuguese.*

**2. Recommend revising the academic catalog course requirements. PORT 595 and PORT 599 are listed under “other requirements” and we were wondering about moving those under the regular requirements section.**

*I agree with the recommendation to revise the way that academic catalog course requirements are listed. PORT 595 and PORT 599 are currently listed under “other requirements” and they can be moved under the regular requirements section if you think it reads more clearly.*

**3. It is not clear if SPAN 572 is required or optional, please clarify.**

*SPAN 572 is a seminar in theory and literary criticism. We wanted to keep it as a requirement but offer the student the option of taking an equivalent course. Wording can be changed to “SPAN 572 or equivalent.”*

**4. Are there any courses that are taken outside of Spanish & Portuguese and if so, what areas are they in and is there support from those departments to allow students in these courses – or is there any concern about students have access to these courses?**

*Appendix B lists the courses that are taken outside of Spanish and Portuguese. I have cut and pasted them below. Because the MA in Portuguese plans to accept no more than two or three students yearly, we do not have concerns about students having access to these courses.*

**5. Is there support from the Lemann’s Institute for Brazilian Studies and the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies for this proposal – does this create an overlap in any other offerings between units?**

*As Associate Director of the Lemann Institute for Brazilian Studies, I can say that the Institute supports this proposal. The director of the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies is a faculty member in Spanish and Portuguese and voted in support of this proposal within the department. The proposed change to the MA in Portuguese does not add or detract from the already existing overlap between units.*

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

EP.18.42

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic  
Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building  
601 East John Street  
Champaign, IL 61820



February 8, 2018

Gay Miller, Chair  
Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
Office of the Senate  
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Miller:

Enclosed is a copy of a request from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to:

- 1) Revise the Master of Arts in Portuguese;
- 2) Establish the concentration in Brazilian Studies within the Master of Arts in Portuguese.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kathryn A. Martensen'.

Kathryn A. Martensen  
Assistant Provost

Enclosures

c: K. Ritter  
J. Hart  
A. McKinney  
A Edwards  
E. Stuby  
A. Elli

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

**Graduate College**

110 Coble Hall  
801 South Wright Street  
Champaign, IL 61820-6210



**Executive Committee**

**2017-2018 Members**

Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko  
Dean & Chair  
Graduate College

*Members*

Conrad Bakker  
Art & Design

Zachary Berent  
Graduate Student, Mechanical  
Science & Engineering

Xialoing Chen  
Accountancy

Kent Choquette  
Electrical and Computer  
Engineering

Eleanor Courtemanche  
English

Luisa-Elena Delgado  
Spanish & Portuguese

George Gasyna  
Slavic Languages & Literature

Julie Hengst  
Speech & Hearing Science

Tania Ionin  
Linguistics

Karla Moller  
Curriculum & Instruction

Lori Raetzman  
Molecular & Integrative  
Physiology

Katie Ranard  
Graduate Student, Nutritional  
Sciences

Sandra Rodriguez-Zas  
Animal Sciences

Sela Sar  
Advertising

Mark Steinberg  
History

Terri Weissman  
Art & Design

February 7, 2018

Kathy Martensen  
Office of the Provost

Dear Kathy,

Included is a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences for a **“Revision of the MA in Portuguese and the addition of a Brazilian Studies concentration to the MA in Portuguese”**.

The proposal was received on October 23, 2017 and reviewed at the Graduate College Executive Committee meeting on December 15, 2017. The committee approved the proposal pending the receipt of the attached items for clarification.

Responses to our questions are provided in the attached document provided by Professor John Tofik Karam, Associate Director of the Lemann Institute for Brazilian Studies and Associate Dean Kelly Ritter. The revised document was received on February 7, 2018.

We have found that this proposal meets the standards of Graduate Education at Illinois and we now forward for your review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John C. Hart', written over a horizontal line.

John C. Hart  
Executive Associate Dean  
Graduate College

c: Kelly Ritter