



University at Albany

Summer, Winter, and Semester Courses at ECELA



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Explanation of Programs (by term)

Summer Program

On the ECELA summer program, students will take two courses. The first will be a Spanish language course, and for the second, students will have the option of taking another Spanish language class, a Chilean Culture & History elective class, or a Latin American Literature course. Both of these elective courses are taught in Spanish. Students will earn 3 credits for each course they successfully complete (students may earn up to 6 credits total for the summer program).**

Semester Program

On the ECELA semester-length program, students will take up to five Spanish language classes. The first three classes will be Spanish language classes. For the final two courses of the semester, students will have the option another to take two more Spanish language classes, a Chilean Culture & History class and/or a Latin American Literature class in place of the language classes. To take an elective class, students will need at least an intermediate Spanish level. These two elective courses are included in the cost of the program.**

Winter Program

On the ECELA winter program, students will take one course. Students choose to take either a Spanish language class or a Chilean Culture and History class (offered in Spanish) during the 3-week winter session for a total of 3 credits.**

**Other elective courses (i.e.- Medical Spanish, Business Spanish, Legal Spanish, and Spanish Composition) may also be available for an extra fee-please contact studyabroad@albany.edu for more information.

Summary of Course Offerings

Language Courses: Levels A1 – C2

These courses are designed with the primary focus of giving students a thorough understanding of reading, writing and speaking Spanish. All key grammatical components are covered in a sequence, from beginner through advanced. Applied conversation is a key focus, and cultural discussion topics will be used to expand upon students' vocabulary and conversational skills.

Included Upper-Level Elective Courses:

Chilean Culture & History class and Foundations of Spanish and Latin American Literature

Additional Fee Upper-Level Elective Courses:

Magical Realism in Latin American Literature, Spanish Writing and Composition I, Spanish Writing and Composition II, Latin American Cultures I, Latin American Cultures II, Business Spanish, Medical Spanish, Legal Spanish.

Each of these courses has a prerequisite of Spanish language skills; see individual descriptions for details. Grammar is not a primary focus, but the professor will correct any obvious errors where appropriate. Achievement of advanced writing and conversational abilities is the goal of these courses. Coursework will be more intensive, including, but not limited to, writing assignments, oral presentations and long-term projects.

Note: four week courses may be compressed to three weeks in length for winter or summer session group programs.

Placement Exam:

The ECELA placement exam was designed by our team of professors to accurately evaluate students' current level of Spanish language ability. All students take the placement exam on or before their first day of classes and are then placed in the course that corresponds to their placement exam results. If a student feels they were inaccurately assigned, they may petition the on-site academic director for a change of course level.

A shorter, online placement exam is given to all students prior to their arrival. This can be used to help determine which course a student will be enrolled in with ECELA and thus can receive credit for at their home university.

Quick Course Conversion Chart (Included Courses)

Standard College Course	ECELA Equivalent	Duration	Hours
Spanish 101 (Semester I)	SPAN 101 (A1)	4 weeks	80 hours
Spanish 102 (Semester II)	SPAN 102 (A2)	4 weeks	80 hours
Spanish 201 (Semester III)	SPAN 201 (B1)	4 weeks	80 hours
Spanish 202 (Semester IV)	SPAN 202 (B2)	4 weeks	80 hours
Advanced Spanish Conversation 301 (Semester V)	SPAN 301 (C1)	4 weeks	80 hours
Advanced Spanish Conversation 302 (Semester VI)	SPAN 302 (C2)	4 weeks	80 hours
Spanish Literature 300+	SPAN 303 - Foundations of Spanish and Latin American Literature	4 weeks	80 hours
Chilean Culture and History		4 weeks	80 hours

Quick Course Conversion Chart (Extra Fee Courses)

Extra Fee Courses:

Spanish Literature 300+	SPAN 304 - Magical Realism in Latin American Literature	4 weeks	80 hours
Spanish Composition 300+	SPAN 305 - Spanish Writing and Composition I	4 weeks	80 hours
Spanish Composition 300+	SPAN 306 - Spanish Writing and Composition II	4 weeks	80 hours
Latin American Cultures 300+	SPAN 307 - Latin American Cultures I	4 weeks	80 hours
Latin American Cultures 300+	SPAN 308 - Latin American Cultures II	4 weeks	80 hours
Business Spanish 300+	SPAN 309 - Business Spanish	4 weeks	80 hours
Medical Spanish 300+	SPAN 311 - Medical Spanish	4 weeks	80 hours
Legal Spanish 300+	SPAN 313- Legal Spanish	4 weeks	80 hours

Notes Regarding this Course Catalog

All courses are titled with their English name, their Spanish name in parentheses (as it sometimes appears on transcripts) and US-style course number. It is important to note that these numbers are for ECELA's use and advisers' reference only. The course(s) which the student ultimately earns credit for at their home university is up to their foreign language department, registrar and/or adviser.

Prerequisites vary from course to course. The placement exam must be taken before entering any course. Students do not need to provide transcripts showing that they have completed the required minimum level of Spanish or equivalent; this information is intended for advisers who will be evaluating their students' ECELA courses for credit transfer and also for students' own point of reference.

Course Summary Descriptions

A1: The Present and the Past

(A1: El Presente y El Pasado) ⇔ SPAN 101

Prerequisite(s): Placement exam.

Description: This course is intended for those students with very little or no previous Spanish instruction. The most basic grammar and vocabulary are covered intensively through lecture and in-class exercises, while some conversation is included to expand upon students' budding language skills.

A2: The Future, the Conditional, Continuous Time and Reflexive Verbs

(A2: El futuro, el condicional, los tiempos continuos, los verbos reflexivos) ⇔ SPAN 102

Prerequisite(s): Placement exam.

Description: Those students who have completed one semester of college Spanish should be comfortable here. Present, past and future tenses will be used in discussion topics and more complex grammar, such as usage of reflexive verbs and the passive voice, will also be learned and practiced through in-class exercises and short homework assignments.

B1: The preterite perfect and the present subjunctive

(B1: El pretérito perfecto y el presente del subjuntivo) ⇔ SPAN 201

Prerequisite(s): Placement Exam.

Description: Here students with at least two semesters of college Spanish or the equivalent will be able to expand upon their basic knowledge of Spanish and continue on to more complex grammatical instruction and usage. Review of

indicative verb forms is key here, as the present subjunctive is introduced during this course. Understanding of how to properly use commands and pronouns are important here, along with practice of the present subjunctive in oral exercises and short writing assignments.

B2: The Past Subjunctive, the Present Hypothetical, the Past Hypothetical that Requires the Subjunctive, Reported Speech.

(B2: El imperativo, las hipótesis del presente y del pasado que requieren subjuntivo, discurso indirecto) ⇔ SPAN 202

Prerequisite(s): Placement exam.

Description: For students who already feel comfortable using the subjunctive in the present tense, they may continue expanding their knowledge here by learning its imperfect form. Once students are comfortable with all subjunctive forms and using the subjunctive and conditional for hypothetical phrases, the course moves on to the present perfect and its usages. Conversation will now come relatively easily to the student, with these last grammar lessons serving to supplement their already diverse grammar and vocabulary. Comparisons between different verb tenses and forms are important here to polish speaking, reading and writing abilities.

C1: Traditions, relationships, politics and problems in Latin America

(C1: Las tradiciones, las relaciones, la política, problemas en América Latin) ⇔ Spanish 301

Prerequisite(s): Placement exam.

Description: This course is intended for the student who can comfortably converse in Spanish using all of the grammatical knowledge outlined in the previous courses. Certain portions of beginner and intermediate grammar will be reviewed during each lesson to clarify any doubts that students might have. Oral practice and advanced reading comprehension are the focus, expanding upon the student's vocabulary and overall knowledge of the language. All coursework will

be that much more intensive and challenging, allowing students to truly explore their linguistic abilities and also fully correct any errors with the guidance of the instructor.

C2: Daily life, media, culture and literature in Latin America

(C2: La vida, los medios, la cultura y la literatura en América Latina) ⇔ Spanish 302

Prerequisite(s): Placement exam.

Description: This is the last course in the Spanish immersion sequence. Only advanced grammatical components will be reviewed here, as a much larger emphasis will be placed upon intensive discussion topics and a variety of short writing assignments. Students who feel very comfortable with their Spanish abilities with few remaining questions concerning grammar and general vocabulary should find themselves well here, with new challenges being more intellectual and theoretical.

Foundations of Spanish and Latin American Literature

(Programa de Literatura en Lengua Española) ⇔ Spanish 303

Prerequisite(s): Four semesters of college Spanish or equivalent; performance on placement exam to demonstrate linguistic competency.

Description: This course was designed with the goal of giving students a general knowledge of Spanish-language literature, especially 20th century Latin American literature. Some course content will vary depending on the student's location of study; for example, students taking the course in Santiago will focus especially on Chilean authors. The different possibilities are detailed in the course contents with the corresponding study location.

Magical Realism in Latin American Literature

(El Realismo Mágico en la Narrativa Hispanoamericana) ⇔ Spanish 304

Prerequisite(s): Four semesters of college Spanish or equivalent; performance on placement exam to demonstrate linguistic competency.

Description: This course is designed for the student who would like to expand their knowledge of contemporary Latin American literature by studying the representative authors of the magical realism genre.

Spanish Writing and Composition I

(Programa de Composición y Redacción en Español 1) ⇔ SPAN 305

Prerequisite(s): Four semesters of college Spanish or equivalent; performance on placement exam to demonstrate linguistic competency.

Description: This course was designed with the goal of giving students the necessary tools for the correct composition of written texts in Spanish.

Spanish Writing and Composition II

(Programa de Composición y Redacción en Español II) ⇔ SPAN 306

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Spanish Writing and Composition I or placement; performance on placement exam to demonstrate linguistic competency.

Description: This course intends to expand upon the concepts covered in Spanish Writing and Composition I. Additionally, it will provide new knowledge to further the acquisition of Spanish as a second language.

Latin American Cultures I

(Programa de Cultura Latinoamericana I) ⇔ SPAN 307

Prerequisite(s): Four semesters of college Spanish or equivalent; performance on placement exam to demonstrate linguistic competency.

Description: This course attempts to give a general picture of Latin American cultures in the spheres of literature, politics and folklore. Some course content will vary depending on the student's location of study; for example, students taking the course in Santiago will focus especially on Chilean culture. The different possibilities are detailed in the course contents with the corresponding study location.

Latin American Cultures II

(Programa de Cultura Latinoamericana II) ⇔ SPAN 308

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Latin American Cultures I or placement; performance on placement exam to demonstrate linguistic competency.

Description: This course aims to expand upon the knowledge gained in Latin American Cultures I by exploring the more complex issues of Latin American cultures and history. The most defining components of Latin American culture will be introduced and analyzed, such as the family unit, ethnoracial history and religion.

Business Spanish

(Programa Español de Negocios) ⇔ SPAN 309

Prerequisite(s): Four semesters of college Spanish or equivalent; performance on placement exam to demonstrate linguistic competency.

Description: This course aims to explore the political economy of Latin America as well as give students the necessary communication skills to succeed in a Spanish-speaking professional environment.

Medical Spanish

(Programa de Español de Medicina) ⇔ SPAN 311

Prerequisite(s): Two semesters of college Spanish or equivalent; performance on placement exam to demonstrate linguistic competency.

Description: This course aims to give students the basic linguistic tools to implement when providing medical attention to Spanish speakers. Therefore, this course is essentially practical in nature.

Chilean History and Culture

(Curso de Cultura Chilena) ⇔ SPAN 312

Requirements: Three semesters of college Spanish or equivalent; performance on placement exam to demonstrate linguistic competency.

Description: This course aims to give an overview of Chilean culture in the fields of literature, politics and folklore, as well as give a brief overview of some important historical periods in the history of Chile.

Legal Spanish

(Programa Español de Leyes) ⇔ SPAN 313

Prerequisite(s): Four semesters of college Spanish or equivalent; performance on placement exam to demonstrate linguistic competency.

Description: This course is intended for those interested in the legal system of the Spanish-speaking world and its role in society and domestic development. The course content, as well as the activities therein, will be slightly adjusted

depending upon the location of study in order to provide students with the correct information for that particular region.

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