The major program in Romance languages and cultures is designed to assure fluency in at least two Romance languages, as well as knowledge of the literatures and cultures they represent. The student is encouraged to view language/literature/culture in its interrelatedness and combine linguistic proficiency with cultural and literary expertise. Students majoring in Romance Languages and Cultures will develop skills of communication and the critical tools to explore matters of aesthetics, cultural studies, history of ideas, and gender studies. A major in Romance languages and cultures can lead to a variety of national and international careers from government to fashion, from the culinary arts to banking, and from film to teaching.

**See Also**
- French ([http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/french/](http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/french/))
- Italian ([http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/italian/](http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/italian/))
- Spanish ([http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/spanish-hispanophone-studies/](http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/spanish-hispanophone-studies/))

**Contact Information**
Ombretta Frau, Chair
Cara Lapenas, Academic Department Coordinator

105 Ciruti Center
413-538-2347
[https://www.mtholyoke.edu/academics/find-your-program/romance-languages-and-cultures](https://www.mtholyoke.edu/academics/find-your-program/romance-languages-and-cultures)

**Learning Goals**
The main learning goals of the Romance Languages and Cultures program are to:

- Assure (oral and written) fluency in at least two Romance languages, as well as knowledge of the literatures and cultures they represent.
- View language/literature/culture in its interrelatedness.
- Develop skills of communication and the critical tools to explore matters of aesthetics, cultural studies, history of ideas, and gender studies, among other areas of study.

**Faculty**
This area of study is administered by the Romance Languages and Cultures Committee:
Ombretta Frau, Dorothy Rooke McCulloch Professor of Italian
Nieves Romero-Díaz, Professor of Spanish on the Alumnae Foundation
Esther Castro, Senior Lecturer in Spanish; Spanish Language Program Director
Carolyn Shread, Senior Lecturer in French

**Requirements for the Major**
The Romance languages and cultures major includes work in two of the following Romance languages: Catalan, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish. The student will select two languages, one for primary and one for secondary emphasis. The student is also encouraged to attain intermediate-level competence in a third Romance language or Latin. Students interested in Catalan or Portuguese should consult the chair of the committee for appropriate Five College courses.

A minimum of 40 credits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 credits in Romance languages and cultures at the 200 or 300 level</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>but always above FREN-203, SPAN-201, and ITAL-201</td>
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<td><strong>Additional 300-level Courses, divided as follows:</strong></td>
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<td>16 credits at the 300 level dedicated to the language and literature of</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>primary emphasis</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 credits at the 300 level dedicated to the language and literature of</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>secondary emphasis</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>40</strong></td>
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**Additional Specifications**
- FREN-203 and below and SPAN-201/ITAL-201 and below do not count toward the 40-credit minimum.
- Advanced courses in the major should be chosen to provide both a varied background and a means of focusing and unifying the major.
- Qualified students are required to elect the Seminar in the Romance Languages (ROMLG-375).
- Normally the student is well advised first to broaden her acquaintance with the two principal cultures in which she is working, then to select a more specific aspect—a topic, theme, period, literary form, or genre, for example—around which to organize her choice of courses. Students desiring to develop an advanced knowledge of languages as their specific focus can consider advanced language courses in French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish that are available through the Five College Consortium.
- No more than 4 credits of independent study (not including thesis credits) may be counted toward the 28 required credits at the 300 level. Independent study credits taken as part of an honors thesis do not count toward the requirements for the major.
- Students should enhance their major by spending an academic year in a country where one of the languages of their major is spoken. Students who plan to take part in a study abroad program must consult both the chair of the Romance languages and culture committee and the chair of the target language. Normally, credits earned while studying abroad satisfy some of the requirements of the major.
- Students are advised to complement their study of Romance languages and cultures with related courses in the fields of humanities and social sciences. These courses should broaden the cultural and linguistic expertise of the student.
- Students who declare a Romance languages and cultures major automatically fulfill the College’s “outside the major” requirement.

**Requirements for the Minor**
Students are expected to select a Romance language for primary emphasis and another one for secondary emphasis.

A minimum of 16 credits:
This course addresses cultural relations between Latin America and Romance languages and cultures through the concept of vanguard: the Latin American poetic vanguardias of the early twentieth century and controversies with the Italian and Spanish vanguardias; the influence of the Négritude anti-colonial movement in Latin American decolonial thinking and the political avant-garde movements and guerrillas of the '60s and '70s; the intersections between French surrealism and Latin American magic realism; and the emergence of the Cinema Novo and New/Third Cinema (the vanguard of political cinema in Latin America) in the context of Italian neo-realism and the French nouvelle vague.

Crosslisted as: SPAN-360AV, ITAL-361AV, FREN-321AV
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

A. Pitetta
Prereq: 8 credits at the 200 level in language or literature.
Notes: Taught in English. Students wishing to obtain 300-level credit in French, Italian, or Spanish must read texts and write papers in the Romance language for which they wish to receive credit.

ROMLG-395 Independent Study
Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 8
The department
Instructor permission required.
Notes: Independent Study credits taken as part of an honors thesis do not count toward the requirements for the major.

This seminar explores Romance languages, literatures and cultures through the prism of translation. By comparing translations from Spanish, Catalan, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Romanian between each other and into English, we will map out the boundaries, intersections and middle grounds of this language family. Students will engage with the different traditions of translation studies in these languages and critically analyze translators’ paratexts. Selecting an individual translation project in a Romance language of their choice, through a process of revision and collaboration, each student will produce both a polished translation and a commentary explaining challenges and choices.

Crosslisted as: SPAN-360LT, ITAL-361LT, FREN-321LT
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
C. Shread
Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors
Advisory: Two courses in culture and literature at the 200 level.
Notes: Students wishing to obtain 300-level credit in French, Italian, or Spanish must read texts and write papers in the Romance language for which they wish to receive credit.

This seminar explores Romance languages, literatures and cultures through the concept of vanguard: the Latin American poetic vanguardias of the early twentieth century and controversies with the Italian and Spanish vanguardias; the influence of the Négritude anti-colonial movement in Latin American decolonial thinking and the political avant-garde movements and guerrillas of the '60s and '70s; the intersections between French surrealism and Latin American magic realism; and the emergence of the Cinema Novo and New/Third Cinema (the vanguard of political cinema in Latin America) in the context of Italian neo-realism and the French nouvelle vague.

Crosslisted as: SPAN-360AV, ITAL-361AV, FREN-321AV
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

A. Pitetta
Prereq: 8 credits at the 200 level in language or literature.
Notes: Taught in English. Students wishing to obtain 300-level credit in French, Italian, or Spanish must read texts and write papers in the Romance language for which they wish to receive credit.