

# Spanish

“Since my first day at Cornell, the Spanish department has helped me prepare for the future. One Course At A Time allowed me to immerse myself in the language, culture, and history of the Spanish speaking world.”

*Emma Kaboli '17*

The Cornell Spanish program offers variety and flexibility and includes courses in Spanish language (grammar, composition, and conversation), as well as Peninsular (Spain) and Latin American literature, culture, and civilization. The department offers literature classes at both the introductory and advanced levels in prose, poetry, and theatre. Courses focusing on Peninsular, Latin American, and Latino cultures, literature, history, arts, and film provide students of every level with a transatlantic perspective.

Spanish faculty and lecturers at Cornell College have diverse interests and areas of expertise, and students studying in the department benefit from the diversity of the faculty. Most Cornell students also enjoy a close relationship with Spanish faculty through extracurricular activities such as the Spanish Conversation Adjunct Course and the Spanish Theatre Adjunct Course, as well as the Spanish Club and other social groups.

In collaboration with the Study Abroad Office, students are encouraged to pursue internships and study-abroad opportunities to help prepare them for life beyond Cornell. When immersion takes place during an off-campus experience, the benefits are phenomenal: students can interact 24/7 in the target language, can observe the culture all around them, and can actually participate in it. Through Cornell's membership in the Associated Colleges of the Midwest and association with the School for International Training, students can participate in semester-

long programs in Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, Mexico, Spain, and Brazil. Cornell also sponsors its own block-long, off-campus courses, which allow students to study language or culture in Spanish-speaking countries. Next academic year, professor Selmer will take students to Cuenca, Spain. The following year, professor Mosier will take students to Cuba.

#### **BENEFITS OF ONE COURSE AT A TIME**

Studying Spanish at Cornell is a distinctive experience, thanks in part to the One Course At A Time calendar. Extended class time allows faculty to integrate film, technology, student skits, and other educational experiences into daily classroom learning. Students' exposure to the language takes place for four hours a day, making it possible for them to develop language skills quickly. Many students begin to dream in Spanish after a week or two of instruction, which is a good indication that the instruction is effective.

One Course At A Time also affords greater opportunity for study abroad options because students can travel for a block or longer without impacting other coursework. And because professors only teach one class at a time, Cornell professors also have the flexibility to teach abroad for a block, meaning that the Cornell Spanish department is able to offer frequent programs in Spain, South America, and Guatemala. Students can also study independently for credit at language schools in places like Guatemala for a month or more, and may pursue semester-long programs or other options with affiliated colleges.

#### **CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS**

Spanish majors are required to take eight upper-division courses in Spanish; however, two of these may be taken in

## *Faculty Bios & Courses*

### **MARCELA OCHOA-SHIVAPOUR**

*Professor of Spanish*

Teaches a range of language and conversation courses, as well as Latin American Literature, Culture and Civilization, Latinos in the United States, and Hispanic Women. Research interests include immigration issues, ethnic relations, film studies, the Conquest, and women in Hispanic and Latino culture and literature. Ph. D. and M.A., University of Iowa. B.A. Universidad Metropolitana de Ciencias de la Educación, Santiago, Chile.

### **MICHAEL MOSIER**

*Assistant Professor of Spanish*

Teaches courses in Spanish language, literature, and culture, as well as off-campus classes in Argentina and Cuba. Courses include Resistance and Revolution in the Caribbean, The Boom and Post-Boom, Identity and Alterity in Latin American Literature, and Detective Fiction in Latin America. Research interests include connections between detective fiction and the politics of populism, theories of hegemony, Hispanic cinema, 20th and 21st century Latin American narrative, and cultural studies. Ph.D. and M.A., Indiana University; B.A., University of Wisconsin.

### **ALYSSA SELMER**

*Assistant Professor of Spanish*

Teaches language classes and specializes in Golden Age Spain with a focus on subaltern voices. Teaches courses focused on contemporary issues (immigration, race relations, peripheral languages, etc.) related to Spain in its European context. Teaches a variety of classes in Spain on history, culture, literature, and politics. Ph.D., M.A., University of Minnesota; B.A. in English and Spanish, Lawrence University.

a related discipline that has a direct connection with Hispanic culture (Latin American Detective Fiction and the Boom and Post-Boom in Latin America).

Cornell College offers students the opportunity to be a part of the national Spanish honor society for higher education in the United States, Sigma Delta Pi. The Cornell chapter, Tau Omicron, founded in 1994, is by invitation only to students, both majors and nonmajors, who have demonstrated superior ability in advanced-level Spanish courses and who meet the national requirements. A guiding principle for the group is embodied in the society's motto: *"El amor por todo lo noble y bello que haya salido de la venerable España."*

#### INTERNSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS

Some students participate in one- to two-month long internships in Guatemala, Argentina, Cuba, Washington, D.C., Cedar Rapids, and at the University of Iowa. These have been primarily in the service sector: volunteering in an orphanage, tutoring students in after-school programs, or working with health care providers.

#### AFTER CORNELL

Majoring in Spanish opens doors in a diverse set of career opportunities including:

- Teaching
- Translating and interpreting
- Social services
- Tourism
- Department of State
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Immigration and Naturalization Service
- United Nations
- NGOs
- Business and industry
- International law
- Health services
- Peace Corps
- Foreign service
- Anthropology
- Bilingual education

#### ALUMNI CAREERS

Fulbright English teaching assistant, Colombia (Class of 2017)

Americorps vista, People Working Cooperatively, Inc., and deposit review specialist, Fifth Third Bank, Cincinnati, Ohio (Class of 2015)

Individual investor specialist, Principal Financial Group, Grand Island, Nebraska (Class of 2014)

Manager development program-service, GEICO, Dallas, Texas (Class of 2014)

Residential counselor, Family Resources, Carpinteria, California (Class of 2013)

ESL instructor, Nashville, Tennessee (Class of 2013)

Career outreach coordinator, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Stevens Point, Wisconsin (Class of 2012)

Professional dance instructor, Dance New York, Martelle, Iowa (Class of 2012)

Coordinator of development and marketing, YouthCARE, Minneapolis, Minnesota (Class of 2012)

Leadership development program associate, Principal Financial Group, Des Moines, Iowa (Class of 2012)

Public relations account director, Wisconsin Leadership Seminars, Inc., Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Class of 2012)

Yoga instructor, ESL instructor, and actress, Buena Onda Yoga, Buenos Aires, Argentina (Class of 2011)

Reiki master teacher and practitioner, Intuitive Consciousness Guide, Teas for Healing and Dreams, Denver, Colorado (Class of 2011)

Intern adoption specialist, The Adoption Exchange, Denver, Colorado (Class of 2011)

High school teacher, Lisbon Community School District, Lisbon, Iowa (Class of 2011)

English tutor, Rome, Italy (Class of 2010)

Professional hosting consultant, Go Daddy, LLC, Hiawatha, Iowa (Class of 2009)

Fourth-grade teacher, Cheyenne Mountain Charter Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado (Class of 2009)

Police officer, Village of River Forest, River Forest, Illinois (Class of 2008)

Adjunct math faculty, Chemeketa Community College, Salem, Oregon (Class of 2007)

Assistant director of higher education, Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois (Class of 2006)

High school Spanish teacher, Colorado Springs School District, Colorado Springs, Colorado (Class of 2006)

Program associate for Latin America, West Sacramento, California (Class of 2006)

Vicar, St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Class of 2005)

#### GRADUATE SCHOOLS ATTENDED

J.D., Drake University Law School, Des Moines, Iowa (Class of 2016)

M.A., international relations and national security studies, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel (Class of 2014)

O.D., University of Houston College of Optometry, Houston, Texas (Class of 2013)

Podiatry student, Des Moines University-Osteopathic Medical Center, Des Moines, Iowa (Class of 2013)

Doctor of Pharmacy, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota (Class of 2013)

M.A., sports administration and business administration, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio (Class of 2012)

M.D., University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, Iowa City, Iowa (Class of 2012)

M.S., education, higher education, and student affairs, Indiana University-Bloomington, Bloomington, Indiana (Class of 2012)

Ph.D., counseling psychology, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri (Class of 2010)

Ph.D., molecular and cellular biology, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa (Class of 2009)

M.D., Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri (Class of 2009)

M.D., University of Kansas, Kansas City, Kansas (Class of 2007)