



Office of the Dean

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December 15, 2007

W. Randy Smith
Vice Provost for Academic Programs
Office of Academic Affairs
203 Bricker Hall
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Dear Vice Provost Smith:

I write to submit a preliminary prospectus for reorganization into tracks to the undergraduate Spanish major, as well as a preliminary prospectus for revisions to the undergraduate Portuguese major. For the purpose of comparison I have enclosed current program descriptions. Systematic review of both programs has been in progress for many months and the Department of Spanish & Portuguese plans to submit proposals to revise these majors in upcoming weeks. The College fully supports the anticipated revisions to both programs.

In the case of the Spanish major, the proposed revisions parallel advising practices which identify student interests and academic and professional goals, ensure appropriate breadth, and gauge depth in a particular area of study in all individual student programs. The proposed revisions do not represent a substantial revision to the content of the major. Rather, they constitute organizational changes which correspond to results common in practice. The reorganization provides, however, for enhanced rigor, creates clarity as students consider course selection, adds flexibility, and assures a greater degree of academic depth.

Intersections with other programs in the Humanities (e.g. World Literatures, Linguistics, History, Comparative Studies), the social sciences (e.g. Anthropology, Political Science, Economics) and interdisciplinary programs (e.g. International Studies, Latino Studies) will be more evident and perceived more effectively under the new organization. The proposed Hispanic Studies track can be aligned with requirements for eligibility for the M.Ed. program, providing strength in content to ensure our students are good candidates for teacher training programs in foreign language education at the graduate level. It also provides for selections in support of unconventional professional applications not limited to graduate school in traditional disciplines.

New courses which provided additional dimension to the major have been developed relatively recently, including embedded honors versions of Spanish 551, 555, and 604, as well as H590 (cross-listed with History H598.02), and 640 (cross-listed with International Studies). The quality of offerings has been steadily enhanced in recent years. Proposed revisions reflect the careful structure of the honors program in Spanish, which we believe is an appropriate response to the influx of increasingly better prepared students with diversified interests and applications in mind.

The proposed revisions will result in an increase in the number of required credits from 50 to 55. This is a consistent number of credits with other programs in the Humanities and elsewhere (60 in English, 55 in Film Studies, 55 History of Art). Students who wish to pursue the Spanish major are increasingly better prepared to begin language study at the university at the entry level of the major. A significant number of Spanish majors enter the university with a very limited need for beginning or intermediate language study before launching into the program. The need for fewer credits at the level of language acquisition balances and highlights the need to provide additional, challenging academic experiences at the level of the major itself. The added 5 credits create additional depth, the opportunity for cross-over study into related disciplines, or incorporation of multiple, variable-topics senior seminars at the level of the major capstone, resulting in more rigorous intellectual exercises for highly engaged students.

Regarding the proposal to revise the Portuguese major, revisions are relatively minor, but they strengthen the program in response to increased student interest and capacity in terms of faculty available to teach. There is no increase in the numbers of required credits but provision is made for stronger foundational language skills development at the advanced level and preparation in terms of content by requiring additional courses toward that end. The presentation of courses is simplified to streamline student selection under the counsel of a faculty advisor.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions. I anticipate timely submission of the full proposals for revision to the ASC Curriculum Office.

Sincerely,



Debra Lowry
Assistant Dean for Curriculum

cc: Steve Summerhill, Director, Undergraduate Studies, Department of Spanish & Portuguese
Fernando Unzueta, Chair, Department of Spanish & Portuguese
Kate Hallihan, Director, ASC Office of Curriculum and Assessment

Preliminary Prospectus for
a Revised Major in Portuguese

December, 2007

Department of Spanish & Portuguese

A. Major Program: Portuguese

B. Rationale for the Proposal:

Over the last several years, the Department has sought to strengthen its offerings in Portuguese by developing several new courses (402, 403, and 450, see below in F.) and changing others (401, 551, 552, 560, 650). It has also hired one new faculty member in Portuguese and is presently searching for another who will join the faculty in Autumn, 2008. That will give us four FTE in Portuguese. The coming new faculty member will be a specialist on Portugal and Luso-African studies. This will give us strength in every major area of the field: Linguistics, Brazil, Portugal and Luso-Africa.

A logical next step in these developments is to adjust the undergraduate major program by integrating the new and changed courses more fully. A following phase will likely be a graduate program in Portuguese.

The actual revision of the Portuguese major is relatively minor: three core courses are required rather than one, as in the old major, in order to strengthen the foundation of students in the program. Also, the distinction between literature and culture courses is eliminated because the field itself has blurred this difference. In today's world, literature is culture and culture includes literature among other cultural phenomena. The rest of the program remains the same.

C. Relationship of Proposed Major to Departmental Mission:

The mission of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese is to teach and conduct research on all facets of the Spanish and Portuguese languages and the literatures and cultures of the many peoples who speak these languages. The purpose of the revised Portuguese major is to carry out this mission more effectively by upgrading and streamlining the program. Students who complete the major will receive stronger training in the Portuguese language and will acquire a more current understanding of the Luso-Brazilian worlds. The revised Portuguese major will not change its traditional relationship with other majors in the College of Humanities, which means to say that it is a small but important foreign language program with a strong humanistic focus.

D. Proposed Implementation Date: Autumn, 2008

E. No other departments are responsible for the Portuguese major.

F. Catalog Style Description

A major in Portuguese consists of a minimum 50 credit hours chosen from the table below with the help of a major program advisor. Portuguese 401, 450 and 611 are required. Up to 5 credits of courses offered in English may count toward the major. The following distribution requirements must be met:

Advanced Language/Linguistics (15 credits)

401 Advanced Portuguese Grammar	5 credits
402 Portuguese Reading and Listening	5 credits
403 Portuguese Conversation and Composition	5 credits
510 Portuguese in Translation	5 credits
611 The Portuguese Language	5 credits
730 Studies in Portuguese Linguistics	5 credits

Literatures and Cultures (25 credits)

450 Introduction to the Study of Literatures and Cultures	5 credits
551 Literature from the Middle Ages to Neoclassicism	5 credits
552 Literature from Romanticism to the Present	5 credits
560 Cultural Expressions of Portugal and Lusophone Africa	5 credits
561 Cultural Expressions of Brazil	5 credits
650 Studies in Literatures and Cultures of the Portuguese Speaking World (Repeatable)	5-15 credits
750 Studies in Literatures and Cultures of the Portuguese-Speaking World	5 credits

Electives (10 hours)

Students may choose any course from the "advanced language/linguistics" or "literature and culture" lists, in addition to the following courses:

595 Special Topics in Foreign Study	1-15 credits
693 Individual Studies	1-10 credits*
694 Group Studies	1-15 credits
697 Study at a Foreign Institution	1-10 credits
H783 Honors Research	3-5 credits

*Only five credits of 693 (Individual Studies) may count toward the major in Portuguese.

Note: Exceptions to the above requirements and distributions will be considered when they do not diminish the quality of the individual major program.

G. Source of Students:

Students for the revised Portuguese major will come from the same source as for the existing major: the portion of the general student body that is interested in studying the Luso-Brazilian world. The number of these students is not large, but it is enthusiastic, self-directed and highly motivated. Moreover, it has been increasing in recent years thanks to the Department's efforts to provide more opportunities for the study of beginning Portuguese. For example, the elementary language program in Portuguese was given a major boost in 2005 by the creation of an Individualized Instruction program at the 101-104 level. This program has proven to be quite

successful:

Au 2005	16 I.I. students with 17 additional students enrolled in regular Port. 101
Au 2006	28 I.I. students with 21 additional students enrolled in regular Port. 101
Au 2007	28 I.I. students with 32 additional students enrolled in regular Port. 101

For Wi 2008, 43 students are enrolled in I.I. Moreover, a number of these students shift out of the I.I. program after 102 and move to the special sequence, Portuguese for Spanish Speakers, 501-502, after which they are eligible to enter the major:

2006	501 had 42 students in two sections 502 had 36 students in two sections
2007	501 had 38 students in two sections 502 had 34 students in two sections

The absence of Individualized Instruction in the past always made it difficult to establish strong elementary level enrollments in Portuguese. Now, we have a vehicle that feeds the major and provides much stability for the program. In general, some thirty to forty students per year now complete elementary Portuguese instruction and are eligible to enter the major or minor programs. Fifteenth day enrollments from Datawarehouse show the following numbers of these students over the last three years:

	Majors	Minors
Au 05	8	7
Au 06	15	12
Au 07	19	24

These numbers show a trend of solid growth which we believe will continue into the future. It is impossible to say how many majors we may have in four to five years, but we are confident that there will be from thirty to forty along with similar numbers of minors.

H. Other Universities:

Portuguese is estimated to be the seventh or eighth most spoken language in the world, and it is the thirteenth most commonly taught language in the United States. According to the *Modern Language Association*, Portuguese enrollments increased nationally by over 22% between 2002 and 2006. Portuguese is also a language of great importance in the world because of the size and stature of Brazil (190 million people), not to mention Portugal and Luso-African nations such as Angola and Mozambique, among others.

In the Big Ten, six universities offer majors in Portuguese: Ohio State, Wisconsin, Iowa, Indiana, Illinois and Minnesota. Many other universities do so also, including the University of Massachusetts Amherst, The University of California at Los Angeles, The University of California Berkeley, Tulane University, the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, the University of

California of Santa Barbara, and literally dozens of others.

I. Impact on Facilities, Faculty and Support Services:

The revised major offers new and changed courses in an updated and streamlined distribution. Any increased use of facilities, faculty and support services is very small. Moreover, all details have been worked out in consultation with the College of Humanities.

J. Cost Increases over Current Levels:

The faculty search that is presently under way was approved by the College of Humanities as part of a long-range plan to strengthen and enhance the study of Portuguese at Ohio State. Though no additional hires in Portuguese are planned at the moment, any future ones would take place only after thorough discussion about enrollments and program needs.

K. Faculty:

Three faculty teach Portuguese in the Department, and a fourth is being hired. With their areas of specialization, the three colleagues are:

Lúcia Helena Costigan	Luso-Brazilian Language, Literatures and Cultures, Colonial Literature.
Richard Gordon	Brazilian and Spanish American Historical Cinema and Colonial Historiography, Comparative Studies of Latin American Literatures and Cultures.
Wayne Redenbarger	Morphology and Phonology of Portuguese, Latin and Romance.

Major Information

A major in Portuguese consists of a minimum 50 credit hours chosen from the table below with the help of a major program advisor. Portuguese 401 is required. The following distribution requirements must be met:

Advanced Language/Linguistics (15 hours)

401 Grammar Review	5 hours
402 Portuguese Reading and Listening	5 hours
403 Portuguese Conversation and Composition	5 hours
510 Portuguese Translation	5 hours
611 The Portuguese Language	5 hours
730 Topics Portuguese Linguistics	5 hours

Literature (15 hours)

450 Introduction to the Study of Literatures and Cultures	5 hours
551 Survey of Portuguese and Brazilian Literature I	5 hours
552 Survey of Portuguese and Brazilian Literature II	5 hours
595 Special Topics - Foreign Study	1-15
650 Topics in Lit. of the Portuguese Speaking World (Repeatable)	5-15

Culture (10 hours)

560 Cultural and Civilization of Portugal	5 hours
561 Culture and Civilization of Brazil	5 hours
595 Special Topics - Foreign Study	1-15

Electives (10 hours) *Students may choose any course from the major program courses listed above or:*

693 Individual Studies	1-10
694 Group Studies	1-15
697 Study at a Foreign Institution	1-10
H783 Honors Research	3-5

Note: Exceptions to the above requirements and distributions will be considered when they do not diminish the quality of the individual major program.

(Current)