

To: Spanish Majors
From: Spanish Faculty

Subject: Senior Projects and Guidelines

We are happy that you have decided to major in Spanish at Xavier University. In order to successfully complete the project, seniors should register for a one-credit tutorial for the project (giving you one extra credit towards graduation). This should be done during the semester in which you intend to graduate. Your next-to-last semester, you should: 1) Begin thinking about the topic of your Senior Project; 2) Discuss an area of study with your Senior Project Advisor; and 3) Give your research project a provisional title. Typically, you choose a Senior Project Advisor according to your area of interest and/or your relationship with that faculty member, meeting weekly with your Advisor throughout your graduation semester (your Advisor need not be your Academic Advisor). **Missing a deadline cancels the project for the rest of the semester.**

In order to graduate, you **must** submit the following in the order given:

- 1) By the end of the **second week** of the graduation semester: A detailed outline of the project, including pertinent bibliography;
- 2) By the end of the **sixth week** of the graduation semester: A completed first draft;
- 3) By the end of the **tenth week** of the graduation semester: A completed second draft;
- 4) By the end of the **thirteenth week** of the graduation semester: A final copy of the senior project.

Please keep in mind that, notwithstanding unusual or unforeseen circumstances, **these deadlines are absolutes**. Failure to adhere to any of them will result in your withdrawal from the tutorial, thus nullifying your chances of completing your graduation requirements. The schedule/contract that you sign regarding the completion of your Senior Project holds you responsible for the completion of the project in a timely and qualitative manner.

The details of the oral presentation will be discussed with your Project Advisor as the presentation date approaches. You will be notified of the date of your presentation two to three weeks in advance.

Attached you will find a copy of the Senior Project guidelines and contract. Buena suerte, and we look forward to working with you as you undertake your last year of undergraduate studies.

SPANISH MAJOR
SENIOR PROJECT

PRINCIPLES:

1) From “General Education at Xavier University:” “Liberal arts education frees not only by providing the content of the humanities and the sciences but also by emphasizing abilities necessary to analyze meaningfully the material one learns, to organize and integrate knowledge, to break out into new areas and acquire new knowledge. These are abilities necessary to free oneself from the tutelage of one’s teachers, and thus to become independent [. . .]. Thus, a liberal education is one that encourages the study of the many complex issues that cross the disciplines
[. . .]. Liberal education is the beginning of a life-long personal integration which leads to practical, wise, and sensitive action in the world.”

2) From “A Proposal for the Future:” “Xavier remains committed to offering the students an education experience that makes connections between acquisition of knowledge, development of values and a personal awareness of social responsibility. This requires an academic program that promotes a serious analysis of the contemporary scene and offers opportunities for students to clarify, challenge and apply their values.”

SENIOR PROJECT FOR SPANISH MAJORS:

In light of the above educational principles, the Department of Modern Languages encourages, through the Senior Project, an individualized research project composed of written and oral requirements for Spanish students. Under the primary supervision of a faculty member from the Spanish section and with the assistance of the Spanish faculty, you will:

1. Explore a particular area of personal interest from the Spanish curriculum. This may be, for example, a socially significant event, a historic period or individual, current cultural trends, or anything dealing with the written/spoken word and its numerous individual, national, and transnational manifestations as expressed in a work of literature: a literary period, a genre, a work, an author, etc. It is understood that the project and its principal thesis is to be supported by a bibliography which includes primary and secondary sources;
2. You are encouraged to choose an area in which you have a personal interest and, ideally, a topic which you may not have had the opportunity to study in depth. You will choose your Advisor by consulting with members of the Spanish section.

Some past research topics have included the presence of Christian myth in Latin American literature (“El uso del mito cristiano en *Hijo de hombre*”), Liberation Theology in the contemporary Salvadorean novel (“La teología de la liberación y *Un día en la vida* de Manlio Argueta”), the power and importance of personal testimonies (“Rigoberta Menchú: El testimonio como símbolo”), and an analysis of social criticism as it appears in a particular author’s work (“La crítica de la sociedad moderna en dos novelas de Miguel Ángel Asturias”). As mentioned

above, other possibilities are: expressions of particular social/demographic/thematic groups in regional or national artistic contexts (“El gaucho en la música argentina,” “La representación del matrimonio típico en la obra de Lope de Vega,” “La dictadura en la literatura chilena,” “El exilio en la poesía española de la pos-guerra,” “La identidad en la literatura puertorriqueña,” “México en la obra de Elena Poniatowska”); gender/minority/diversity issues (“La mujer en la literatura española del Siglo XIX,” “Ceuta y Melilla: La dinámica de la marginación,” “La poesía miskita de la Costa Atlántica nicaragüense”); and popular culture (“Las viñetas editoriales en las páginas de *El País*,” “La representación de la homosexualidad en el cine argentino actual,” “El advenimiento de la ciberpoesía”).

GUIDELINES:

- 1) Students will normally begin to discuss with a faculty member the area of study to be pursued during their junior year. If not decided before, the study must be determined by the midway point of the semester that precedes the graduation semester. At the time a decision is made, a schedule will be discussed between the student and the Project Advisor.
- 2) The paper must be written in Spanish, and at least one-half of the bibliography must also be from Spanish-language sources. The length of the paper will be determined by the nature of the study, but it must be a **minimum of 15 typed and double-spaced pages in length** (including the bibliography).
- 3) The oral component of the research project will be presented during the final weeks of the graduation semester. All Spanish seniors and faculty will be invited to this meeting. It will be a presentation of the findings as they were written in the research paper.
- 4) Drafts of the project will be submitted at regular intervals to the Project Advisor. As stated previously, **missing a deadline cancels the project for the rest of the semester.**

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
SPANISH MAJOR
SENIOR PROJECT
CONTRACT/SCHEDULE

NAME

DATE

TITLE OF RESEARCH PROJECT

PROJECT ADVISOR

Reader #1

Reader #2 (if necessary)

Draft #1 _____ Submitted on

Draft #2 _____ Submitted on

If necessary:

Draft #3 _____ Submitted on

Final Version _____ Submitted on

(Spanish Major Student)

(Project Advisor)

(A copy of this form is to be retained by the student and by each of the advisors listed above)