

SPAN 780 serves as the Introductory course to the graduate program in the department of Spanish and Portuguese. The course explores a variety of theoretical and methodological approximations to the transdisciplinary field that is Hispanic Studies. The course combines theoretical texts with various forms of cultural expression in order to provide students with a glimpse at the wide range of directions and possibilities in the field. In the tradition of the Humanities, 'Hispanic Studies' often yields the accountability and discomfort necessary for knowledge to remain process and possibility, rather than product and commodity. With specific, albeit not exclusive, attention to students who are new to our graduate programs', this course invites students to reflect on how 'Hispanic Studies' opens venues to 'undo' dynamics of power that work through social hierarchies of class, race, ability, gender, sexuality, and so on.