



SPN 300

Spanish Research Option

S1 Day 2015

Dept of International Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Unit Convenor Estela Valverde estela.valverde@mq.edu.au Contact via estela.valverde@mq.edu.au
Credit points 3
Prerequisites Permission of Executive Dean of Faculty
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description In this unit students are required to individually research a particular subject under the guidance of a staff member of Spanish and Latin American Studies.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate research initiative and conduct research in an efficient and timely manner
- Undertake an in-depth study, using appropriate research techniques, of an approved aspect of Spanish language, culture or civilisation
- Identify and retrieve relevant scholarly resources for the chosen topic and utilise them to support personal analysis and/or argument
- Generate well-informed, well-structured and well-articulated analytical research with correct and relevant references
- Write up, in the form of a scholarly paper conforming to appropriate academic conventions, the results of the in-depth study referred to in the previous learning outcome

General Assessment Information

Late assignment policy:

As a general rule, extensions will not be granted without a valid and documented reason (e.g. medical certificate). Late submissions will be penalised by 5% for each day (including weekends) the assignment task is late.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Preliminary work</u>	20%	End of week 5
<u>Research presentation</u>	10%	Beginning week 9
<u>Draft research paper</u>	30%	End of week 10
<u>Final research paper</u>	40%	End of week 13

Preliminary work

Due: **End of week 5**

Weighting: **20%**

Preliminary work towards the final research paper includes a brief research proposal and a bibliographical literature review. The preliminary work will be marked by the supervisor alone.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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Research presentation

Due: **Beginning week 9**

Weighting: **10%**

Students enrolled in SPN300 will be expected to present their research projects to each other at the end of week 9. Final arrangements to facilitate this process will be made no later than week 8, and should facilitate the preparation of the first draft.

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- Identify and retrieve relevant scholarly resources for the chosen topic and utilise them to support personal analysis and/or argument

Draft research paper

Due: **End of week 10**

Weighting: **30%**

Students enrolled in this unit will have to produce a carefully articulated research paper of 5000 to 6000 words, written either in English or Spanish. The bibliography is not included in the word count. To gain an idea of what is expected, students may want to identify a published scholarly paper of the appropriate length that they find approachable, interesting and thought-provoking. The aim is to produce something similar. An advanced draft is to be submitted in week 10, taking into account feedback received in weeks 5 to 9. The draft will be marked by the supervisor.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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Final research paper

Due: **End of week 13**

Weighting: **40%**

The final submission (line spacing 1.5) will be marked by the supervisor and one other staff member in the Spanish and Latin American Studies programme. The following marking rubric will be used:

Fail

Pass

Credit

Distinction

High Distinction

Research question articulated

/10

Inadequately defined and unjustified

Adequately defined, not well justified

Reasonably well defined and reasonably well justified

Clearly defined and justified

Original, clearly defined and well justified

Argument/development of ideas

/20

The argument is unclear and the development of ideas is not logical. The lack of structure hinders comprehension of the main arguments of the essay.

Some flaws in development and flow of argument and ideas. Some structural flaws but the writing is generally structured in paragraphs and there is general coherence.

Reasonably clear and logical argument. Ideas reasonably well developed. Good structure.

Very clear and logical argument. Consistent flow and development of ideas. Very good structure.

Exceptionally clear, logical and original argument. Ideas clearly developed throughout the essay. Outstanding structure.

Evidence/Research

/20

Inadequate use of evidence, examples to support main argument.

Adequate used of evidence, examples to support the argument. Sometimes not successfully integrated into body of essay.

Reasonable use of evidence, examples to support argument, generally well integrated into body of essay.

Evidence and examples used very well to support argument and very well integrated into body of essay.

Original use of evidence and examples to support argument, expertly woven into essay.

Analysis/Conclusion

/20

Poor analysis of topic, research question not adequately answered, conclusion does not draw the strands of the essay together.

Adequate analysis, a conclusion that draws most strands of the essay together but lacks

consistency.

Reasonably good analysis, some inconsistencies, a conclusion that generally draws the essay together linking the research question, argument and evidence.

Excellent analysis which demonstrates some critical thinking, a conclusion that draws the essay together linking the research question, argument and evidence.

Outstanding analysis which demonstrates independent critical thinking, a conclusion that expertly draws the essay together linking the research question, argument and evidence.

Writing style

/20

Incomprehensible.

Language impedes comprehension of argument.

Adequate use of language to discuss the argument. Grammatical and stylistic errors present but not to the degree to impede comprehension.

Reasonably good use of language to discuss the argument. Some grammatical and stylistic errors present but not to the degree to impede comprehension.

Very good use of language to discuss the argument. Generally correct but with some errors present.

Exceptional use of language to discuss the argument.

Referencing

/10

Little or no clear referencing used. Conventions of referencing not respected or very inconsistent. Insufficient bibliography for topic.

Limited range of bibliographical sources. Conventions of referencing generally respected with some errors or inconsistencies noted.

Variety of sources used. Conventions of referencing generally respected.

Relevant, very good quality bibliography with sufficiently wide range of sources listed, consistent referencing system used.

Excellent referencing, extensive, high quality bibliography demonstrating wide reading on topic, consistent referencing system used throughout the essay.

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Delivery and Resources

Classes

There are no scheduled classes in this unit. Meetings will be held weekly on a half hour basis.

Learning and Teaching Strategy

1. This unit is aimed specifically at students whose results in other units indicate a clear potential for advanced study at MRes (Master of Research) level and beyond.
2. The **research topic must be approved** by the unit convenor, on the basis of specific proposals put forward by students seeking enrolment in the unit. In defining a proposal, students will be guided by their own interests and casual reading. Early consultation with the convenor (before the start of the relevant semester, if at all possible) is essential. The convenor's decision will be based on available staff expertise and will involve the appointment of an appropriate supervisor for the project.
3. Students will be in charge of their own research and must pay particular attention to the style and size of their paper. As a general rule, the supervisor will assist with methodology and structure rather than with content.
4. Students must be aware that a fair level of sophistication will be expected in the presentation of arguments, and therefore Spanish should only be chosen by those who are confident of possessing the required stylistic skills. If in doubt, students should consult their supervisor.
5. Students must consult academic papers for their research and particularly, refrain from reproducing widely available, encyclopaedic or popular material. They are expected to present an interesting and well-argued study of the subject. Original arguments will be rewarded as long as they are well substantiated.

Resources

1. There are no required and/or recommended texts or materials for this unit. Relevant resources should be located at the Macquarie University Library and on internet. The

Library provides access to an extensive list of databases, and holds a collection of monographs and journals, usually available on-line. In exceptional circumstances, items can be obtained through interlibrary loan. For more information on the library and its print and on-line resources, see <http://www.mq.edu.au/library>.

2. Google Scholar (<http://scholar.google.com>) may be an appropriate starting point for the search of relevant literature, as other search engines are likely to return too many hits. An excessive number of hits on Google Scholar is generally indicative of a research topic which is too broad and must be narrowed down.
1. ALL resources referred to in the research paper must be acknowledged in the bibliography. See Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html Appropriate and consistent referencing is of utmost importance. The supervisor will provide indications as to the most appropriate referencing style for the chosen topic.

Technology used and required

Standard requirements apply. You are deemed to have regular computer and internet access to carry out the tasks associated with the research project. Computing skills required for this unit are limited to word processing skills and familiarity with the use of internet resources.

Unit Schedule

There are no scheduled classes in this unit. **Regular contact** with their supervisor (on average weekly for half an hour) will ensure that students remain focused on their chosen topic so their research activities (based on extensive reading) are concentrated on a deeper rather than wider level of knowledge. It is expected that students keep in regular contact via email with their supervisors for feedback and guidance.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be

imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate research initiative and conduct research in an efficient and timely manner
- Undertake an in-depth study, using appropriate research techniques, of an approved aspect of Spanish language, culture or civilisation
- Identify and retrieve relevant scholarly resources for the chosen topic and utilise them to support personal analysis and/or argument
- Generate well-informed, well-structured and well-articulated analytical research with correct and relevant references
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Assessment tasks

- Preliminary work
- Research presentation
- Draft research paper
- Final research paper

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate research initiative and conduct research in an efficient and timely manner
- Undertake an in-depth study, using appropriate research techniques, of an approved aspect of Spanish language, culture or civilisation
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Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate research initiative and conduct research in an efficient and timely manner
- Undertake an in-depth study, using appropriate research techniques, of an approved aspect of Spanish language, culture or civilisation
- Identify and retrieve relevant scholarly resources for the chosen topic and utilise them to support personal analysis and/or argument

Assessment tasks

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Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

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- Undertake an in-depth study, using appropriate research techniques, of an approved aspect of Spanish language, culture or civilisation
- Identify and retrieve relevant scholarly resources for the chosen topic and utilise them to support personal analysis and/or argument
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- Research presentation
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- Final research paper

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate research initiative and conduct research in an efficient and timely manner
- Undertake an in-depth study, using appropriate research techniques, of an approved aspect of Spanish language, culture or civilisation
- Identify and retrieve relevant scholarly resources for the chosen topic and utilise them to support personal analysis and/or argument
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Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate research initiative and conduct research in an efficient and timely manner
- Undertake an in-depth study, using appropriate research techniques, of an approved aspect of Spanish language, culture or civilisation
- Identify and retrieve relevant scholarly resources for the chosen topic and utilise them to support personal analysis and/or argument
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- Final research paper

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Generate well-informed, well-structured and well-articulated analytical research with correct and relevant references
- Write up, in the form of a scholarly paper conforming to appropriate academic conventions, the results of the in-depth study referred to in the previous learning outcome

Assessment tasks

- Preliminary work
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Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

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- Undertake an in-depth study, using appropriate research techniques, of an approved aspect of Spanish language, culture or civilisation
- Identify and retrieve relevant scholarly resources for the chosen topic and utilise them to support personal analysis and/or argument
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- Research presentation
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- Final research paper

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate research initiative and conduct research in an efficient and timely manner
- Undertake an in-depth study, using appropriate research techniques, of an approved aspect of Spanish language, culture or civilisation
- Identify and retrieve relevant scholarly resources for the chosen topic and utilise them to support personal analysis and/or argument
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Assessment tasks

- Research presentation
- Draft research paper
- Final research paper