



---

# The University of Georgia

---

University Council  
Athens, Georgia 30602

March 11, 2008

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2007-2008

Mr. David E. Shipley, Chair

Agricultural and Environmental Sciences - Dr. Timothy L. Foutz

Arts and Sciences - Dr. Charles L. Platter (Arts)

Dr. Rodney Mauricio (Sciences)

Business - Dr. Stephen P. Baginski

Ecology - Dr. James Porter

Education - Dr. Todd D. Dinkelman

Environment and Design - Mr. Scott S. Weinberg

Family and Consumer Sciences - Dr. Jan M. Hathcote

Forestry and Natural Resources - Dr. Ron H. Hendrick

Journalism and Mass Communication - Dr. Wendy A. Macias

Law –

Pharmacy - Dr. Keith N. Herist

Public and International Affairs - Dr. Jeffrey D. Berejikian

Public Health – Dr. Phaedra S. Corso

Social Work - Dr. Patricia M. Reeves

Veterinary Medicine - Dr. Paige Carmichael

Graduate School - Dr. Malcolm R. Adams

Undergraduate Student Representative – Ms. Amrita Veliyath

Graduate Student Representative – Mr. Chris Johnson

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal to offer a non-thesis M.A. degree option under the Romance Languages, French and Spanish majors will be on the agenda for the March 21, 2008, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Mr. David E. Shipley, Chair  
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Dr. Arnett C. Mace, Jr.  
Professor Jere W. Morehead



The University of Georgia

Department of Romance Languages

Hugh Ruppensburg, Senior Associate Dean  
Franklin College of Arts and Sciences  
Old College  
The University of Georgia  
Athens, GA 30602

August 3, 2007

Dear Professor Ruppensburg,

I am writing to request approval of our proposal to add a non-thesis option to the MA degrees in Romance Languages, French and Spanish.

This request is supported by the Head of Romance Languages, Dr. Noel Fallows. The Graduate Faculty of Romance Languages voted in favor of the proposal on April 18, 2007: 20 in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.

Sincerely,

Dana Bultman  
Graduate Coordinator  
Assistant Professor of Spanish  
University of Georgia  
Gilbert Hall room 211  
706-542-3177 office  
706-542-3287 fax  
email: [dbultman@uga.edu](mailto:dbultman@uga.edu)

Signature Head of Romance Languages, Dr. Noel Fallows

Enc. Proposal

Approved,  
Hugh Ruppensburg  
9-18-07

## **Proposal to Add a Non-thesis Option to the Three MA Degrees Offered in the Department of Romance Languages: MA in Romance Languages, MA in French, and MA in Spanish**

Franklin College

Submitted to: Dr. Hugh Ruppensburg, Senior Associate Dean  
Franklin College of Arts and Sciences  
Old College  
The University of Georgia

Prepared by: Dr. Dana Bultman, Graduate Coordinator  
Department of Romance Languages  
Gilbert Hall  
The University of Georgia

### I. Basic Information

1. Submitted August, 2007
2. Request to add a non-thesis option to the three MA degrees offered in the Department of Romance Languages: MA in Romance Languages, MA in French, and MA in Spanish
4. Effective August, 2008
5. Background information for non-thesis request

### Program description

The Department of Romance Languages offers masters and doctoral programs in the fields of Literature and Linguistics. All courses are taught in French, Italian, Portuguese, or Spanish, with the exception of an occasional cross-listed course or interdisciplinary doctoral seminar given in English under the ROML prefix. Our faculty's research is in literature (from the medieval to contemporary periods, film, literary criticism and cultural theory) and linguistics (in the subfields of applied linguistics, discourse analysis, historical linguistics, second language acquisition, pragmatics, semantics, and sociolinguistics).

To be fully competitive in the current job market, our MA students are expected to graduate with near-native proficiency in the major language of study and at least an intermediate level of proficiency in a second Romance Language. In addition, they must master the content and methods of the discipline of literature or linguistics, as in any graduate program in these fields taught in English.

Most students enter our programs with an intermediate to advanced level of proficiency in their languages of study, although some enter with an advanced level in one Romance language and a desire to achieve the same level of proficiency in a second Romance language. While some among our small numbers of international students are already native speakers of one of the languages offered in the department, they still require the second language and also training in the methods, technical content, and main texts specific to the disciplines under study. Currently, some of our students are able to complement the levels of language proficiency they

achieve through coursework by going abroad with one of the programs directed by faculty in our department, or with support from small internal research grants such as those from LACSI, or external funds and programs, but not all students have this opportunity.

Upon applying to our department through the Graduate School, our students choose between three MAs: the MA in Romance Languages, the MA in French, or the MA in Spanish, each with distinct options and requirements which are described below. Students seeking the MA in Romance Languages do so in order to study specifically Italian Literature, Brazilian and Portuguese Literature, or French Linguistics. In this degree the study of any two Romance languages must be combined. Students seeking the MA in French do so in order to gain a broad knowledge of the culture, literature, and language of France as well as Francophone Africa and the Caribbean. Students seeking the MA in Spanish choose between either the Hispanic linguistics or the literature option, and do so in order to gain either a broad knowledge of the subfields of Hispanic linguistics or to gain a broad knowledge of the literatures of Spain, the Caribbean, Latin America, and the Latino U.S. For both the French and Spanish MA degrees, students are required to demonstrate a minimum of an intermediate proficiency in another Romance Language.

Once in the programs, students are advised by the Graduate Coordinator and assigned a faculty mentor who guides them according to their academic and professional goals and helps them plan how to address any gaps in undergraduate training or deficiencies in language proficiency. No later than the second semester in the program, the advising of an individual student is taken over by his or her major professor and advisory committee. The advisory committee administers the MA exams and oversees the production of the MA thesis. These are typically 10,000-15,000 words in length and, like exams and orals, done in the major language of study.

Our Romance Languages, French, and Spanish MA degree programs have been strongly enrolled and have consistently channeled highly qualified students into our Ph.D. program and into those of other prestigious institutions. Currently, Romance Languages has a total of 60 enrolled graduate students. We seek to train our students as scholars and teachers, and our students who do not continue for the PhD in Literature or Linguistics often take teaching positions at secondary and post-secondary levels. But in increasing numbers others seek “global” jobs that require language competency and cultural knowledge, for example in governmental or educational institutions or at presses that publish in the Romance languages. Students are also increasingly combining their language MA with advanced studies in Law, Education, and other fields.

## II. Justification for the Non-thesis MA option

### Description of Students

Our entering MA students possess a variety of academic backgrounds and professional goals. Most of our students are U.S. citizens whose native language is English and have undergraduate degrees in their chosen fields of graduate study and hope to advance to doctoral level studies. We also have international students who already have native language ability in one Romance language. Some of these students have gaps in their undergraduate backgrounds in literature and linguistics, and would receive more complete preparation by taking additional graduate courses in these specific content areas. Also, some excellent students with near-native or native knowledge of their major language do not plan to continue studying beyond the MA, but wish to

develop their skills in a second Romance language or achieve broad, interdisciplinary knowledge of the areas of the world in which these languages are spoken.

**1. To address expected achievement in language proficiency**

The addition of a non-thesis MA option will allow a student, with the approval of his or her major professor and advisory committee, to gain a high level of language ability, that of near-native proficiency, in two languages of study by taking additional courses in those languages.

**2. To address expected achievement in broad knowledge of discipline**

The addition of a non-thesis option will allow a student, with the approval of his or her major professor and advisory committee, to gain the expected broad knowledge of his or her field of study, and the expertise necessary to effectively accomplish academic and professional goals if there are gaps in the student's undergraduate training.

**3. To allow MA students to take additional courses outside the department that complement their programs of study in order to facilitate interdisciplinary training without compromising the acquisition of language proficiency**

The addition of a non-thesis option will allow a student, with the approval of his or her major professor and advisory committee, to take a set of two related courses offered in the College of Education and other departments in Franklin College, such as History, Religion, Comparative Literature, English, African American Studies, The Institute for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and Women's Studies without cutting back on the coursework done in the language of study. Some of the positions and programs our MA students currently apply for upon completion of their degrees look favorably upon interdisciplinary backgrounds combined with near-native language competency.

III. Masters of Arts in Romance Languages, French, and Spanish

1. Current MA Curriculum and Degree Requirements: Total credits 30

Requirements for the MA degree in Romance Languages are: 27 credit hours, 3 credit hours for the writing of the thesis, three-hour MA written exams taken on a reading list of 30-50 items, and an oral thesis defense. Of the 9 courses included in this degree, 5 must be in the major language of study and 4 in the minor language of study. The methods course, ROML(LING) 7700 or SPAN(LING) 7750, is required. Courses for the literature option are chosen according to a sequence of literary periods and focus on the culture of a chosen group of nations (such as Italy and Spain, or the countries of the Lusophone world: Brazil, Portugal, Mozambique and Spanish-speaking Latin America). In the linguistics option students take at least 4 courses from different subfields of linguistics and the remaining 5 courses are selected within the major and minor languages of study. Students typically complete their MA exams in November and spend the fourth and final semester in the program writing the thesis.

Requirements for the MA degree in French and the MA degree in Spanish are: 27 credit hours in the language of study, 3 credit hours for the writing of the thesis, three-hour MA written exams taken on a reading list of 30-50 items, and an oral thesis defense. The methods course, ROML(LING) 7700 or SPAN(LING) 7750, is required. The 9 courses for the literature option are chosen according to a sequence of literary periods that require students to become familiar

with two major cultural regions (for example, France and Francophone Africa, or Spain and Latin America). In the linguistics option students take at least 5 courses from different subfields of linguistics, 1 8000-level seminar in linguistics, and the remaining courses are electives chosen among any course with the LING prefix. Students completing these degrees must demonstrate an intermediate level of competency in a second Romance language. Students typically complete their MA exams in November and spend the fourth and final semester in the program writing the thesis.

## 2. Proposed MA Non-thesis Option Curriculum and Degree Requirements: Total Credits 33

All students seeking MA degrees in Romance Languages, French, or Spanish will enter these programs under the assumption that they will be writing a thesis, following the same sequence of courses for the first and second semesters of coursework recommended in each area of study. Upon choosing a major professor and an advisory committee during the second semester of their program, each student will be advised regarding the remainder of his or her program of study. The thesis option will be recommended for students planning to advance to doctoral studies in the fields of literature or linguistics. The MA degrees in Romance Languages, French, and Spanish, with the thesis or with the non-thesis option are meant to be completed in 4 semesters. If the MA non-thesis option is chosen, a change of degree objective form will be filed and the student will fulfill the following requirements:

**Proposed MA degree in Romance Languages non-thesis option:** 33 credit hours, three-hour MA written exams taken on a reading list of 30-50 items, and an oral exam defense. Of the 11 courses included in this degree, 5 must be in the major language of study and 4 in the minor language of study, and 2 are electives taken with the advisement of the major professor. The methods course, ROML(LING) 7700 or SPAN(LING) 7750, is required. For the literature option, at least 9 courses are chosen according to a sequence of literary periods and focus on the culture of a chosen group of nations (such as Italy and Spain or the countries of the Lusophone world: Brazil, Portugal, Mozambique and Spanish-speaking Latin America). In the linguistics option students take at least 4 courses from different subfields of linguistics, 5 additional courses within the major and minor languages of study, and 2 electives taken with the advisement of the major professor. Students will complete their MA exams in February and present an oral defense of their exams during their fourth and final semester in the program.

**Proposed MA degree in French non-thesis option and MA degree in Spanish non-thesis option:** 33 credit hours, 27 of which must be in the language of study, three-hour MA written exams taken on a reading list of 30-50 items, and an oral exam defense. The methods course, ROML(LING) 7700 or SPAN(LING) 7750, is required. For the literature option, at least 9 courses are chosen according to a sequence of literary periods that require students to become familiar with two major cultural regions (for example, France and Francophone Africa, or Spain and Latin America), and 2 electives are taken with the advisement of the major professor. In the linguistics option students take at least 5 courses from different subfields of linguistics, 1 8000-level seminar in linguistics, 2 courses chosen among any course with the LING prefix, and the remaining 3 courses are electives taken with the advisement of the major professor. Students completing these degrees must demonstrate an intermediate level of competency in a second Romance language. Students will complete their MA exams in February and present an oral defense of their exams during the fourth and final semester in the program.

#### IV. Departmental Approval and Statement on Impact

1. Faculty vote: The Romance Languages Graduate Faculty voted on this proposal on 4/18/2007: 20 in favor, 0 no, 0 abstentions after studying programs at aspirational institutions, such as UW-Madison and the University of Texas at Austin with similar non-thesis options.

2. Impact on Current Students: There would be no adverse impact on current MA students in the department. Students enrolled in the MA programs when the change becomes effective would have the option of continuing in the thesis option or choosing the non-thesis option.

3. Financial Impact: No new courses, faculty, facilities, or services will be required to implement a non-thesis option for the MA degrees in Romance Languages, French, and Spanish. Thus, no new funds are required.