

LA SALLE UNIVERSITY
Master of Arts in Bilingual/Bicultural Studies
(Caribbean Spanish)

Director: Luis A. Gómez, Ph.D.

Faculty

Associate Professors: Allen, Angerosa, Fair

Assistant Professors: Ossa, Gómez, Toro

Adjuncts: Navarro, Enriquez-Beitler, Hargrow, Kopec, Schreiber, Swartz

Description of Program

The Master of Arts degree in Bilingual/Bicultural Studies is a part-time degree program (evenings, Saturdays, and late spring) for educators and other professionals who work with the ever-growing Latino population of the Philadelphia area and the nation. The program is designed to provide extensive bilingual and bicultural instruction for police officers, nurses, hospital employees, social workers, court employees, human resources professionals, etc.

The program is flexible and may be tailored to fit the needs and interests of individual students. The language component is individualized, and students are encouraged to apply regardless of their current proficiency level in the Spanish language.

Admission Requirements

To be accepted for admission into the program, a student must present:

1. Evidence of successful academic achievement in completion of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher education.
2. Acceptable scores in the Miller Analogies Test (MAT). Arrangements to take this examination may be made with the Counseling Center at La Salle University.
3. Two letters of recommendation from professors or supervisors who can address the candidate's ability and motivation for enrolling in this program.
4. The Application for Admission.

The Application for Admission may be obtained by contacting:

Director

Bilingual/Bicultural Studies

La Salle University

Philadelphia, PA 19141

Tel.: 215-951-1209

Fax: 215/951-1855

E-mail: gomez@lasalle.edu

Tuition and Fees Summer 2003- Spring 2004

Tuition (per credit): \$495

General University

Fee per semester: \$85

Reinstatement Fee: \$50

Tuition Assistance

A modest amount of need-based, tuition-reduction funding is available. Consult the Director of Bilingual/Bicultural Studies for more details.

Information about financial aid and application forms may be obtained from the Director of Financial Aid, La Salle University, Philadelphia, PA 19141, 215/951-1070

Core Course Requirements

A minimum of 30 credits is required for the degree.

Degree candidates may begin the program with BLS 501 Urban Spanish I or BLS 502 Urban Spanish II.

All degree candidates are required to complete certain courses in Spanish language.

Advanced language students are required to complete:

BLS 511 Language and Culture of Puerto Rico I

BLS 512 Language and Culture of Puerto Rico II

One other course in Caribbean Literature

Students who are not advanced in the Spanish language must complete the series of five Urban Spanish Courses:

BLS 501, 502, 503, 504, and 505

All students must matriculate in BLS 600 Dynamics of Cross-Cultural Communication.

All degree candidates must complete BLS 651 Master's Project.

All degree candidates must complete the Spring Immersion Session. This 9-credit, 5-week program in May and June (which may be divided over several years if necessary) includes intensive language training, symposia/workshops, and field experience in the Latino communities of the region.

In order to complete the degree, all candidates must complete a capstone Master's Project (BLS 651), which may take the form of a thesis.

Course Descriptions

BLS 501 Urban Spanish 1

BLS 502 Urban Spanish 2

BLS 503 Urban Spanish 3 (Spring Immersion Program)

BLS 504 Urban Spanish 4

BLS 505 Urban Spanish 5

These courses are intensive language courses taught by instructors familiar with the pronunciation, intonation, and idiomatic characteristics of Caribbean Spanish, especially that of Puerto Rico. The courses use current language methodologies and are extensively individualized. Teachers, police officers, social workers, and nurses, for example, develop special vocabularies that increase their effectiveness in communicating with Spanish-speakers. Instructors and others from the Latino community will develop new materials for the teaching of these courses. Tests evaluate oral and written competency of the candidate at each level.

BLS 511**Language and Culture of Puerto Rico I**

This course is for advanced students of Spanish who need development in understanding the spoken and written language of Puerto Rico. Special attention is given to colloquial expressions of the Caribbean. Reading materials in this course not only represent special linguistic characteristics of Puerto Rico, but also reflect the cultural roots and values of the Puerto Rican community in urban mainland settings. (In Spanish)

BLS 512**Language and Culture of Puerto Rico II**

This is an intensive language course for advanced Spanish students. Emphasis is placed upon group work in which students gain practice in listening and speaking in Caribbean Spanish. Students discuss contemporary themes and cultural characteristics of Puerto Rican society. Readings are from Puerto Rican short stories, essays, poems, and periodicals. This course forms part of the Immersion Program and meets four times a week for five weeks in May-June period. (In Spanish)

BLS 508**Workshops and Symposia**

(Spring Immersion Program)

Offered during the five-week Immersion Program (May-June), this course of study consists of a series of symposia and practical workshops presented by specialists chosen from bilingual schools, the fine arts, medical agencies, law enforcement facilities, and social agencies as well as local universities including La Salle.

BLS 520**Field Experience in the Latino Community**

During the academic year, each student will find placements in a field experience directly related to his or her profession in the Greater Philadelphia/ New Jersey Latino Community. Teachers will assist in bilingual schools, police in districts in bilingual neighborhoods, and social workers in social agencies dealing with Latinos, etc.

BLS 600**Dynamics of Cross-Cultural Communication**

The major objectives of this course are to develop an appreciation of diverse cultural backgrounds, especially among Latinos and Anglos, and to develop awareness of the complexity of cross-cultural communication. The following areas are considered as they relate to the dynamics of cross-cultural communication: the communication process; group properties and communication; linguistic approaches; the nonverbal element of communication systems, especially related to Anglos and Latinos; language and culture; language as social behavior; and channels of communication. Required for the MA.

BLS 601**Techniques of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages**

Analysis of various methodologies used in teaching English as a second language. Emphasis upon methods in teaching, listening, and speaking. Microteaching of difficult

points of pronunciation and grammar. Attention given to affective techniques in second language learning.

BLS 602

History of the Americas

This course treats the history and culture of the major Latino groups in the United States, especially those from the Caribbean. Emphasis on such topics as Puerto Rico's special relationship with the United States, Latino immigrants in the United States and their special problems, Cuban exiles, and the historical relationship between Latino and Anglo communities.

BLS 603

Literature of the Spanish Caribbean

This course is designed to familiarize the student with the problems of the Caribbean individual as seen through major literary works. Students read novels, short stories, essays, and poetry of such writers as Julia de Burgos, González, Soto, Figueroa, Díaz Valcarcel, Marqués, and Luis Rafael Sánchez. Emphasis is given to a cultural, sociological approach as well as a literary one in order to understand better the problems of the Caribbean individual and his or her perception of society. (In Spanish)

BLS 604

Cultural Pluralism and Problems of Minority Groups in the U.S.A.

Emphasizing Latinos but also focusing in general on race, ethnicity, language, cultural and social stratification, this course analyzes contemporary American opportunity, family and class structures, social mobility, migration, the so-called "culture of poverty," urbanism, and related concepts and issues. Certain psychological dimensions, such as self-concept and the self-fulfilling prophecy, are also examined.

BLS 605

Curriculum and Development of Bilingual Programs

This course discusses the historical background of the bilingual movement, especially pertinent legislation, as well as the organization of a bilingual program. Topics of lecture and discussion include needs assessment of pupils, staff and community; various types of curriculum models of bilingual and school organizations; selection of instructional materials for training bilingual students; and proper evaluative procedures.

BLS 606

Making Language Connections through Content in ESOL and Bilingual Classrooms

The major objectives of the course are to provide mechanisms for second language content delivery utilizing the sheltered class model, SIOP, "learning to learn" methods. The curriculum analyzes academic language in content and texts, and discusses metacognitive processes and strategies that may be used in the classroom. Further, the role of learning styles and multiple intelligences are also examined and discussed; together with the rationale and structure of thematic units for lesson planning purposes. The integration of language objectives and "what's difficult" for language learners is directed toward an authentic assessment of content and language.

BLS 607**Art and Culture of the Spanish Caribbean**

This course traces the history of art in the Spanish Caribbean, emphasizing the major influences on its evolution and contemporary manifestations. Taino, Spanish, and African contributions to art in Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Dominican Republic will be explored in detail and in all expressive forms: paintings, broadcasting, cinematography, theater, literature and popular culture. (In Spanish)

BLS 620**Independent Study**

Independent study in Caribbean history, language, or literature must be approved by the Director of the program.

BLS 635**Myths and Legends in Caribbean and Latin American Literature**

This course explores mythic patterns and archetypes in Caribbean and Latin American Literature. Readings include works by such prominent figures as Luis Rafael Sánchez, Alejo Carpentier, Juan Rulfo, Miguel Angel Asturias, Gabriel García Márquez, and others. In addition, there will be supplementary readings from the work of Carl Jung, Joseph Campbell, and other theorists on myth. (In Spanish)

BLS 639**Advanced Spanish Grammar and Syntax**

Designed to provide a review of standard Spanish grammar and syntax for advanced students of the language. Includes intensive oral and written practice with a view toward improving native and non-native students' speaking and writing skills. The course also intends to make all speakers aware of standard Spanish cultivated in schools of the Spanish Speaking world.

BLS 651**Master's Project**

A supervised, individual project that may be related to the student's fieldwork in the Latino community. All project topics must relate to the mission and goals of the Bilingual /Bicultural Program. The project is the required capstone experience of all members of the MA program.

BLS 678**Texto en Contexto: A Panorama of Present-day Puerto Rico through Selected Texts**

A survey of contemporary Puerto Rican thought, this course explores issues critical to the Caribbean Island Nation's social, cultural, historical, and political identity. Texts hail from a multiplicity of academic disciplines literary genres, and popular cultural forms. Among the social sciences covered are Sociology, Anthropology, Economics, and Political Science. Literary genres covered include the essay, poetry, and fiction. Popular cultural forms include folkloric and popular music.

Special Topics

As interest dictates, special courses may be introduced into the curriculum, treating specialized areas of study in bilingual/bicultural issues. In the past, these courses have included such topics as Techniques of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (Reading and Writing Skills), Latinos and Mental Health, Latinos and Urban Economies, Special Programs in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, Special Topics in Caribbean Literature, Language and Prejudice, and Introduction to Graduate Research.