The Department of Romance Languages offers major and minor programs in both French and Spanish language and literature and a minor in Italian, as well as a major in Romance languages that combines study of French, Spanish, and Italian languages and literatures. Reflecting the college’s belief that a liberal arts education should include study of at least one foreign language and culture, the department presents courses at a wide variety of skill levels. The active use of language is strongly emphasized. Native speakers are involved in most language courses, and all courses—unless specifically designated otherwise—are conducted in the language being studied. Students who plan to take French, Spanish, or Italian should take the appropriate placement test during the summer before their first year.

The curriculum provides a thorough understanding of the literatures and cultures in regions where Romance languages are spoken. Students participate in clubs and weekly dinner events, where they practice conversational skills and build the foundations of cultural awareness. To enrich the Bowdoin experience, students are strongly encouraged to participate in one of many study abroad programs.

Upper-level courses in French, Spanish, and Italian may focus on literary genres or periods, or on other cultural topics. Recent courses have dealt with French theater production, Hispanic short story in the nineteenth century, Dante's *Divine Comedy*, Renaissance Italian theater, Italian cinema, Italian detective and noir fiction, the representation of black and Jewish people by French writers, and coming of age in contemporary Latin American literature.

The Major

Students may declare a major in French, in Spanish, or in Romance languages (with courses in French, Spanish, and/or Italian). All majors are expected to achieve breadth in their knowledge of French, Spanish, and Italian-speaking worlds by taking courses on the literatures and cultures of these areas, from their origins to the present. Prospective majors should complete an advanced language course and introductory literature course by the end of their sophomore year. Students are also expected to take complementary courses in study away programs or in other departments and programs, such as art history, Latin American studies, history, English, and Africana studies.

The majors consist of nine courses beyond the intermediate French or Spanish language level, at least three of which must be at the 3000 level (two of which must be taken at Bowdoin).

For Spanish, these nine courses include Advanced Spanish and both Introductions to Hispanic Studies, which survey cultural history from the Middle Ages to the present while exploring four literary genres (poetry, theater, narrative, and essay).

French majors are required to select, among their nine courses, either Francophone Cultures or Contemporary France through the Media; and either Introduction to the Study and Criticism of Francophone Literature, Introduction to the Study and Criticism of Medieval and Early Modern French Literature, or Introduction to the Study and Criticism of Modern French Literature.

Romance language majors complete a set of nine courses from a combination of two of the three languages offered in the department. In most cases, the equivalent in study abroad may be used as a substitute for a specific course.

Facilities and Resources

Students make frequent use of the Language Media Center, which provides CDs, video cassettes, and DVDs of foreign language films as well as live and recorded programs from European and Latin American television.

The department counts the presence of native speakers of French and Spanish among its major assets. Students at all levels of proficiency work with these native speakers, who serve as teaching fellows. Each year there are two French teaching fellows, one from Brest and one from Clermont-Ferrand. The Spanish teaching fellow comes from Spain or a Spanish-speaking Latin American country, most recently from Colombia.

The collection of Romance literatures is one of the strongest in the Bowdoin College library. One of the highlights of the library's holdings is an extensive collection of Marguerite Yourcenar’s books, manuscripts, translations, and other papers.

There are numerous opportunities for Bowdoin students to speak and hear a foreign language outside the classroom. Students sponsor evenings of discussion and entertainment related to foreign cultures. There are weekly showings of foreign films, and students occasionally present a play in a foreign language. A separate language table for each language gives students a chance to practice conversational skills at dinner weekly.

The Minor

The minor in French and Spanish consists of at least four courses in one language above the intermediate level, including one 3000-level course. The minor in Italian consists of at least three courses above the intermediate level, including one 3000-level course.

Independent Study and Honors

Independent study is primarily an option for students who are working on honors projects,
or for those who have taken advantage of the regular course offerings and wish to work more closely on a particular topic.

Advanced students may arrange an independent study project under the direction of a faculty member. Such projects typically involve a program of readings on a topic of mutual interest to the student and the advisor. Application for independent study should be made to a member of the department prior to the semester in which the project is to be undertaken and must involve a specific proposal in an area in which the student can already demonstrate knowledge.

Seniors who elect to write an honors paper are normally required to take two semesters of independent study, the first devoted to reading and writing short papers, and the second to writing a fifty-page thesis in French, Spanish, or Italian under the close supervision of the advisor.

Study Abroad
Each year, students of French travel to Québec to visit the city and meet French-speaking people. The department also sponsors a two-week spring vacation study program in Bordeaux and Paris featuring home stays with French families and internships in schools, businesses, and other locations. This additional exposure to the language complements students’ classroom work and enriches their language-learning experience.

The Romance languages faculty encourages all its language majors to include a period of study abroad, usually during the junior year, in their academic plan. Bowdoin is affiliated with a wide range of excellent programs abroad. Interested students should seek the advice of a member of the department early in their sophomore year to select a study away program and choose courses that complement the offerings at the College.

Faculty
Elena Cueto Asin, associate professor of Romance languages, B.A. (Universidad Complutense, Madrid), M.A., Ph.D. (Purdue), specializes in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Spanish literature and culture, with particular emphasis on theater and film.

Margaret E. Boyle, assistant professor of Romance languages B.A. (Reed), M.A., Graduate Certificate, Ph.D. (Emory), specializes in early modern Spanish literature, with a particular focus on the cultural history of women.

Nadia V. Celis, associate professor of Romance languages, B.A. (Universidad de Cartagena), M.A., Ph.D. (Rutgers), specializes in Hispanic Caribbean, Latin American, and Latina contemporary literature and culture.

Allison A. Cooper, assistant professor of Romance languages, B.A. (Knox), M.A., Ph.D. (University of California–Los Angeles), specializes in Italian modernism and the avant-garde, modern and contemporary Rome, and Italian cinema.


Davida Gavioli, senior lecturer, Italian Laurea in Foreign Languages and Literatures (University of Bergamo, Italy), Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State), specializes in contemporary Italian literature and film, gender theory, and feminist literary criticism.

Anna Rein, senior lecturer, Italian Laurea in Languages and Literatures (University of Pisa, Italy), M.A., ITALS (University Cà Foscari, University of Venice, Italy), specializes in creative methodology (drama, movement, songs, visual, storytelling) and language teaching methodology, and pedagogy.

Arielle Salber, associate professor of Romance languages, B.A. (Hampshire), M.A., Ph.D. (Yale), specializes in Medieval and Renaissance Italian literature and culture and the intersections between literature and mathematics.


Carolyn Wolfenonz Niego, assistant professor of Romance languages, A.B (Universidad de Lima, Peru), M.A. (Colorado–Boulder), Ph.D. (Cornell), specializes in contemporary Latin American literature and culture.

Enrique Yepes, Peter M. Small Associate Professor of Romance Languages, B.A. (Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana), Ph.D. (Rutgers), specializes in contemporary poetry, short story, and cultural studies in Latin America.

For more information about Bowdoin, please write or call: Dean of Admissions Bowdoin College, 5000 College Station Brunswick, ME 04011-6641 207-725-3100 bowdoin.edu admissions@bowdoin.edu

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Romance Languages
Honors Projects
Recent honors projects completed by majors in the department have included:

- Les Petits Poucets: Dualités de l’écrit et l’oral
- La influencia de cine en la época franquista en las películas de Pedro Almodóvar
- “La vie fini par prendre le dessus”: Trois représentations romanesques du génocide rwandais
- La peste en France aux XVI et XVII siècles: maladie ou métaphore?
- Le romantisme à travers George Sand
- Imaginan el campo: Visiones sobre el paisaje latinoamericano en Samiento y Carpintero
- Harm: A Translation of Andrea Maturana’s El Daño, with an Introduction to the Novel and the Problems Involved in Its Translation
- II Purgatorio dantesco come viaggio verso la redenzione attraverso l’amore
- L’Écriture de la diaspora franco-chinoise: l’identité et la capacité transformative de la langue
- L’Écriture active: la représentation de la révolte dans la littérature d’Annie Ernaux, d’Hervé Guilbert et de Christiane Rochefort
- Les femmes qui peuvent être savantes: les complexités de la femme éduquée dans le théâtre de Molière
- Le métissage dans la littérature francophone: l’Afrique et la Caraïbe
- L’indigénisme haitien en littérature: les exemples de Jacques Roumain et de René Depestre

For more information, go to: bowdoin.edu/romance-languages/ Revised December 2014