

Spanish

Department of Romance Languages and Literatures

Spanish
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Overview

Spanish, with approximately 320 million speakers, is the fourth most spoken language on the planet. It is the official language, not only of Spain, but also of Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean islands of Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic, most of the countries of South America, and Equatorial Guinea. In the United States, Spanish is spoken by approximately 10 percent of the total population of the United States (nearly 25,000,000 people), making the U.S. the fifth largest Spanish-speaking country in the world. Spanish is a major international language of banking, commerce, cultural production, diplomacy, and science.

The undergraduate program in Spanish is intended to introduce students to a wide range of disciplines within the area of Hispanic language and civilization. The implicit goal of the program is to build students' proficiency in the Spanish language. Students may focus on literature, linguistics, language teaching, or other related areas. To this end, the program offers a broad selection of courses, as well as opportunity for independent study, directed work in allied fields, and a summer program in Salamanca, Spain.

About our Degrees

The undergraduate program in Spanish is intended to introduce the student to the widest range of disciplines within the area of Hispanic language and civilization leading to a possible subsequent specialization in literature, linguistics, language teaching, or other related areas. Spanish students have access to online audio and visual materials and an excellent library.

Applications to the major and minor are accepted on a rolling basis. Applications are available at the department office or on the RLL website.

Accepted majors/minors (2009-2010): 167
Total number of majors currently enrolled: 98
Total number of minors currently enrolled: 69

Acceptance Criteria

Minimum GPA of 2.0 overall.
Minimum GPA of 2.5 in Spanish courses completed prior to applying for acceptance.

Degree Requirements

Please see [Degrees and Policies](#).

About our Courses

The typical class size for:

Freshman/introductory courses is: 24
Sophomore/intermediate courses is: 24
Upper level/advanced courses is: 20

In the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, what do teaching assistants (TAs) do?

TAs generally teach introductory-level courses.

For course descriptions, please see [Courses](#).

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About our Faculty

Classes in the Spanish program are small in size, and are taught by faculty with recognized commitment to teaching.

One faculty member has received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and one has received the Milton Plesur Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Acceptance Information

In order to be accepted into the Spanish major, a minimum GPA of 2.0 overall and a minimum GPA of 2.5 in Spanish courses completed prior to applying for acceptance, is required.

In order to be accepted into the Spanish minor, a minimum GPA of 2.0 overall and a minimum GPA of 2.5 in prerequisite courses or their equivalents ([SPA 101-SPA 102](#) sequence or [SPA 104](#), and [SPA 151-SPA 152](#)), is required.

Academic Requirements

Graduation requirements for the Spanish major include completion of three 200-level courses (9 credit hours) with a minimum GPA of 2.5, and ten 300/400 level courses (30 credit hours) with a minimum GPA of 2.0.

Requirements to graduate with the Spanish minor include completion of two 200-level courses (6 credit hours) with a minimum GPA of 2.5, and four 300/400-level courses with a minimum GPA of 2.0.

Extracurricular Activities

There are many opportunities to participate in out-of-class enrichment activities through the RLL department, including conversation groups, lectures, and films. Depending on students' initiative, the Spanish club can be highly beneficial; call 716-645-2191 for more information.

See the [UB Student Association](#).

Practical Experience and Special Academic Opportunities

Undergraduate Research and Practical Experience

Study Abroad

The Spanish Program at UB sponsors a summer study program in Salamanca, Spain. Many students also have access to other SUNY Programs in Argentina; Madrid and Sevilla, Spain; Chile; and Mexico; among others. See the [Study Abroad Programs](#) web site.

Honors, Awards, and Scholarships

[Sigma Delta Pi](#), the national Spanish honor society, has a chapter at UB. Students are initiated once a year.

An honors program in Spanish is open to students who achieve a minimum GPA of 3.25 overall and a minimum GPA of 3.75 in at least five upper-division Spanish courses. Students in the honors program in Spanish must complete two honors projects in two upper-division Spanish courses.

Career Information and Further Study

Students who choose Spanish as their academic home at UB find a number of career opportunities open to them. Among graduates in the past decade, many have gone on to do graduate work in Spanish, some have gone on to law school or business school, and others have found positions with the U.S. State Department, and in secondary education. Whatever career appeals to graduating students, fluency in Spanish will assuredly be an advantage.

Some careers our graduates have pursued include:

- Announcer (TV/radio)

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- Diplomat
- Federal agencies
- Foreign service officer
- Foreign student advisor
- International relations specialist
- Journalist
- Lawyer
- Public relations specialist
- Social worker
- Spanish language teacher
- Translator

Degree Options

The major program leads to a BA in Spanish. There is also a Spanish minor program.

Students wishing to satisfy the requirements for teacher certification should plan their programs with particular care in order to accommodate the required semester of the professional sequence during their senior year. For certification requirements, students should contact the Teacher Education Institute in the Graduate School of Education.

Joint Major. For students who have another major field, a joint major with Spanish (also leading to a BA) is possible. Graduation requirements for the joint major are three Spanish courses at the 200-level with a minimum GPA of 2.5 and seven courses at the 300/400 level with a minimum GPA of 2.0.

Degrees Offered

Undergraduate: BA, Minor

Graduate: MA, PhD

Links to Further Information About this Program

- [Undergraduate Catalog](#)
- [Undergraduate Admissions](#)
- [Graduate Admissions](#)
- [Department of Romance Languages](#)
- [College of Arts and Sciences](#)

Spanish - B.A.

Acceptance Criteria

Minimum GPA of 2.0 overall.

Minimum GPA of 2.5 in Spanish courses completed prior to applying for acceptance.

Advising Notes

Minimum GPAs of 2.5 in the 200-level courses, and 2.0 in the 300/400-level courses, are necessary for degree conferral.

Prerequisite Courses

[SPA 101-SPA 102](#) Elementary Spanish 1st-2nd Semester* or [SPA 104](#) Transitional Elementary Spanish* or the equivalent
[SPA 151-SPA 152](#) Intermediate Spanish 1st-2nd Semester* or the equivalent

Required Courses

Three 200-level courses

Ten 300/400-level courses

Summary

Total required credit hours for the major: 39

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See [Baccalaureate Degree Requirements](#) for general education and remaining university requirements.

Recommended Sequence of Program Requirements

FIRST YEAR

Fall Elementary or intermediate Spanish or a 200-level course*
Spring Elementary or intermediate Spanish or a 200-level course*

SECOND YEAR

Fall Elementary or intermediate Spanish or two 200-level courses*
Spring Elementary or intermediate Spanish*; for those having completed two 200-level SPA courses: one 200-level SPA course and two 300-level SPA courses; for those having completed one 200-level SPA course: two 200-level SPA courses and two 300-level SPA courses

THIRD YEAR

Fall Two 300/400-level SPA courses
Spring Two 300/400-level SPA courses

FOURTH YEAR

Fall Two 300/400-level SPA courses
Spring Two 300/400-level SPA courses

*Appropriate level is based on placement and/or previous experience, unless exempted. For clarification, contact Dr. Barbara Avila-Shah at (716) 645-2191, or bia@buffalo.edu.

Spanish - Minor

Acceptance Criteria

Minimum GPA of 2.0 overall.
Minimum GPA of 2.5 in prerequisite courses or their equivalents: [SPA 101-SPA 102](#) sequence or [SPA 104](#), and [SPA 151-SPA 152](#).

Advising Notes

Minimum GPA of 2.5 in the 200-level courses, and 2.0 in the 300/400-level courses, are necessary for degree conferral.

Prerequisite Courses

[SPA 101-SPA 102](#) Elementary Spanish 1st-2nd Semester* or [SPA 104](#) Transitional Elementary Spanish*
[SPA 151-SPA 152](#) Intermediate Spanish 1st-2nd Semester*

Required Courses

Two 200-level courses
Four 300/400-level courses

Appropriate level is based on placement and/or previous experience, unless exempted. For clarification, contact Dr. Barbara Avila-Shah at (716) 645-2191, or bia@buffalo.edu.

Summary

Total required credit hours for the minor: 18

SPA 101: Elementary Spanish 1st Semester

Credits: 5
Semester(s): Fall, Summer
Type: LEC

For students who have never had Spanish or had one year or less in high school. Reviews fundamentals of Spanish pronunciation,

vocabulary, and grammar; emphasizes oral proficiency.

SPA 102: Elementary Spanish 2nd Semester

Credits: 5
Semester(s): Spring, Summer
Pre-requisites: [SPA 101](#)

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Type: LEC

For students who have never had Spanish or had one year or less in high school. Reviews fundamentals of Spanish pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar; emphasizes oral proficiency.

SPA 104: Transitional Elementary Spanish

Credits: 5

Semester(s): Fall, Spring, Summer

Type: LEC

Students who have completed [SPA 101](#) and/or [SPA 102](#) should not register for [SPA 104](#) as no credit will be given for duplicate courses.

A one-semester review course for students who have taken the Regents' exams or have had previous experience with Spanish, but who are not yet able to go into the second year of language study. Involves all four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and, to some extent, writing), emphasizing grammatical structures and vocabulary fundamentals of simple, everyday conversation.

SPA 151: Intermediate Spanish 1st Semester

Credits: 3

Semester(s): Fall, Summer

Type: LEC

Reviews grammar and pronunciation, structured around extensive conversation practice. Also involves vocabulary expansion through literary and nonliterary readings.

SPA 152: Intermediate Spanish 2nd Semester

Credits: 3

Semester(s): Spring, Summer

Pre-requisites: [SPA 151](#)

Type: LEC

Reviews grammar and pronunciation, structured around extensive conversation practice. Also involves vocabulary expansion through literary and nonliterary readings.

SPA 154: Intensive Intermediate Spanish

Credits: 5

Semester(s): Fall, Spring

Type: LEC

Students who have completed [SPA 151](#) and/or [SPA 152](#) should not register for [SPA 154](#) as no credit will be given for duplicate courses.

A one-semester accelerated review of grammar and pronunciation structured around extensive conversation and writing practice. Covers, in one semester, the material offered in [SPA 151-SPA 152](#).

SPA 171: Elementary Spanish for Heritage Speakers I

Credits: 3

Type: LEC

Students who have completed [SPA 104](#) should not register for [SPA 171](#) as no credit will be given for duplicate courses.

Provides intensive practice in basic grammatical patterns, and encourages vocabulary expansion through reading and writing in the target language. Teaches standard Spanish to students who learned Spanish at home but have little or no formal instruction in the language. [SPA 171](#) satisfies the proficiency requirement for general education. Students who need a fourth semester of a foreign language must continue with [SPA 241](#).

SPA 172: Elementary Spanish for Heritage Speakers II

Credits: 3

Type: LEC

Provides intensive practice in basic grammatical patterns, and encourages vocabulary expansion through reading and writing in the target language. Teaches standard Spanish to students who learned Spanish at home but have little or no formal instruction in the language. [SPA 171](#) satisfies the proficiency requirement for general education. Students who need a fourth semester of a foreign language must continue with [SPA 241](#).

SPA 207: Spanish Conversation and Composition

Credits: 3

Semester(s): Fall

Type: LEC

Involves oral communication and development of writing skills in Spanish, intensive conversation, and writing of themes on contemporary topics. Requires oral participation.

SPA 208: Spanish Conversation and Composition

Credits: 3

Semester(s): Spring

Type: LEC

Involves oral communication and development of writing skills in Spanish, intensive conversation, and writing of themes on contemporary topics. Requires oral participation.

SPA 210: How to Read a Spanish Text

Credits: 3

Type: LEC

Develops students' ability to analyze a piece of Spanish literature; considers prose and poetry from Peninsular Spanish and/or Spanish American literature.

SPA 215: Intermediate Review of Spanish Grammar

Credits: 3

Type: LEC

Reviews troublesome grammatical points through oral and written exercises; requires oral participation.

SPA 216: Hispanic Civilization

Credits: 3

Type: LEC

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Strengthens the student's knowledge of twentieth-century Hispanic cultures and civilizations and improves the student's command of spoken and written Spanish. Examines some of the major events and trends of the twentieth century that are helpful in understanding the contemporary scene, including the Mexican Revolution, the rise and fall of the Soviet Union, World Wars I and II, the Spanish Civil War, the ascent of the United States as a global power, and the phenomena of neocolonialism and dependency in developing countries. Emphasizes contemporary issues and movements (from 1972 to the present) relevant to Hispanics in the United States, the Caribbean, Mexico, Central America, Spain, and South America. Gives students the opportunity to learn how to access cultural information on the Internet. Taught in Spanish.

SPA 221: Spanish Conversation Through Film

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

SPA 225: Spanish Language Through Theatre

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Involves reading and discussion of Spanish and Spanish American plays; emphasizes improvement of oral and written expression in Spanish.

SPA 301: Survey of Spanish Literature: Middle Ages to Seventeenth Century

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Studies the early history of Spanish literature, from its roots in Mozarabe and the oral tradition to the Golden Age of Spanish baroque drama, verse, and prose. Emphasizes the development of literature in its socio-historical context, as well as its relation to the history of the language.

SPA 302: Survey of Spanish Literature: Eighteenth Century to Present

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Introduces the student to the major cultural trends and some important literary works of modern Spanish literature. Class lectures present general background information on the artistic movements, philosophical vogues, and historical events that have directly contributed to the course of Spanish literature of the past three centuries. We read and discuss works by such authors as Bécquer, Galdós, Pardo Bazán, Unamuno, Lorca, Cela, and Martín Gaité.

SPA 303: Romanticism and Realism in Spain

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Examines historic and aesthetic backgrounds of, and conducts literary analysis of, some representative works of the romantic and antiromantic (realist) movements in nineteenth-century Spain.

SPA 304: Early Spanish American Literature

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Covers works from the time of the encounter between Spain and the Americas, as well as from the colonial period. Study of texts emphasizes cultural and historical issues.

SPA 305: Spanish Literature of the Middle Ages

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Examines the literature and culture of the Spanish Middle Ages, from the origins of the language to the unification of the peninsula under the Catholic kings.

SPA 310: Introduction to Literary Criticism

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Introduces salient features of various critical methods, including their application to novels, plays, and poetry from Peninsular Spanish and/or Spanish American literature.

SPA 311: Survey of Spanish American Literature

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Reviews Spanish American literature from the earliest times to the present.

SPA 313: Advanced Grammar

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Examines grammatical categories of Spanish; provides extensive oral and written practice.

SPA 314: Advanced Composition and Conversation

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Develops advanced grammatical and writing skills through literary and nonliterary translations from English to Spanish and vice versa. LEC

SPA 317: Spanish Literature of the Golden Age

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Golden Age of Spanish culture refers to the period stretching roughly from the end of the sixteenth to the beginning of the seventeenth centuries, a time identified by many historians and scholars today as the dawn of the modern age. Examines this "early modernity" through careful attention to the works of such authors as Miguel de Cervantes, Francisco de Quevedo, Lope de Vega, and Calderón de la Barca.

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SPA 320: Contemporary Spanish American Literature

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Studies the principal characteristics of contemporary Spanish American literature, centered in the analysis of poems and short stories.

SPA 323: Business Spanish

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Addresses Spanish for the business world. Topics include correspondence, commercial terminology, readings, occasional translation of articles on financial subjects, discussions of documents, business customs, and practice in practical application. Requires oral participation.

SPA 325: Phonetics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Covers theory and practice of Spanish pronunciation; helps students develop near-native pronunciation.

SPA 327: Spanish Culture and Civilization

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Examines the history, geography, art, architecture, music, cuisine, and customs of Spain.

SPA 328: Spanish American Culture and Civilization

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Examines the history, geography, art, architecture, music, and cuisine of Spanish America.

SPA 330: Spanish American Themes

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Examines some of the most important themes in Spanish American life through selected readings (The Indian, Emancipation and Revolution, Country and City, Education: The University Reform of 1918), music, song, and dance. Most readings that illustrate the themes are literary works but their content deals with historical, political, sociological, anthropological, educational, and artistic matters.

SPA 333: Intensive Communicative Spanish Abroad

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Provides intensive oral and written practice in Spanish for

participants in the department's summer program at the University of Salamanca in Spain.

SPA 350: Topics in Spanish American Short Story

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Involves studying theories on the short story and their application to selected works of Isabel Allende, Juan José Arreola, María Luisa Bombal, Jorge Luis Borges, Julio Cortázar, Gabriel García Márquez, Horacio Quiroga, Juan Rulfo, Arturo Uslar Pietri, and others. Conducted in Spanish.

SPA 360: Spanish American Literature in Translation

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Studies English versions of major works by Spanish American authors.

SPA 361: Spanish Literature in Translation

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Studies English versions of major works by Spanish authors.

SPA 382: Introduction to Second Language Acquisition Theory

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Examines second language acquisition (SLA) from a variety of vantage points. Explores the factors that affect learning a second language (e.g. age, native language, environment, goals, and learner strategies), and outlines the succession of theories about how people acquire a second language. Students survey and share some of the relevant research literature on an SLA issue that interests them. Further, students engage in and reflect upon a practical observation or tutoring session.

SPA 405: The Quijote

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Introduces students to questions of life, literature, and art in the time of Cervantes and to the meaning these problems can have for us today. Stresses the importance of genre as a means of interpretation. Gives attention to how modern feminist studies impact the experience of reading and understanding a literary text.

SPA 406: Early Twentieth-Century Spanish Literature

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Examines historic and aesthetic backgrounds and selected readings of the works of Unamuno, Valle-Inclán, Azorín, Baroja, A. Machado, and others. Treats all literary genres (poetry, drama, novel). Gives special emphasis to the theme of Spain, its history,

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and its myths as they were recreated by these writers.

SPA 407: Contemporary Literature of Spain

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Studies main trends and analyzes some of the most significant works written in Spain after 1936. Includes all genres (poetry, novel, and drama).

SPA 408: History of Spanish Cinema

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Introduces Spanish film history, including renowned directors, the current scene, and the principles of film theory. Accompanying readings deal with cinema as an integral part of Spanish cultural heritage. Class discussions are conducted in Spanish.

SPA 409: Age of Lorca

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Centered on García Lorca's poetry and theatre, the course deals with one of the most important poetic groups in Hispanic letters and in twentieth-century European literature: the so-called Generation of 1927 (Lorca, Salinas, Guillén, Diego, Alexandre, Alberti, and Cernuda). Studies several important avant-garde movements, such as surrealism, as well as currents in the contemporary period.

SPA 410: Spanish Women Writers

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

An examination of women writers in Spain from Early Modernity to the present, including poetry, fiction, plays, and essays, as well as cultural texts illustrating the effect of gender roles.

SPA 411: Spanish American Novel

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Even though many critics agree that the Spanish American novel dates back to 1816, this course focuses on novels published between 1955 and 1990. Examines representative texts of what has been termed the New Novel. Explores some of the main themes in the works (dictatorship, revolution, love, death, and writing) and looks closely at narrative technique. Writers include Allende, Cortázar, Ferré, Fuentes, García Márquez, Puig, and Rulfo.

SPA 413: Grammar: Writing and Translation

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Develops advanced grammatical and writing skills through literary and nonliterary translations from English to Spanish and vice versa.

SPA 415: Spanish American Poetry

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Reviews the poetic production of Spanish America. Emphasis on period varies. Readings may be selected from baroque and romantic poetry, modernism, the avant-garde, and contemporary poetry.

SPA 416: Spanish American Theatre

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Students read and analyze ten plays while examining the following literary movements: realism, vanguardism, the Theatre of the Absurd, metatheatre, and postmodernism. Students use their Spanish speaking skills, as class participation is strongly encouraged.

SPA 421: Introduction to Spanish Linguistics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Introduces the fundamentals of Spanish phonology, morphology, syntax, and historical and dialectal variation.

SPA 422: History of the Spanish Language

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Studies the evolution of Spanish from its origin as a local variety of the Latin spoken in the Iberian Peninsula to its contemporary manifestation as a web of dialects spoken in Spain and the Americas.

SPA 423: Cervantes: Novel and Drama

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Focuses on Cervantes' dramatic and shorter prose works, including the *Novelas Ejemplares*, the *Comedias*, and the *Entremeses*.

SPA 444: Special Topics Abroad

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Examines Spanish civilization, including history, geography, literature, art, and culture. For participants in the department's summer program at the University of Salamanca.

SPA 449: Special Topics I

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

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An independent study course with variable content. Open only to students who have taken at least two courses at the 300/400 level.

SPA 450: Special Topics II

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

An independent study course with variable content. Open only to students who have taken at least two courses at the 300/400 level.

SPA 451: CatalÁN

Credits: 3
Type: LEC/SEM

Examines modern Catalán syntax; utilizes readings in contemporary fiction and poetry. For those familiar with the grammar of another Romance language. Requires oral participation.

SPA 452: Special Topics III

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

An independent study course with variable content. Open only to students who have taken at least two courses at the 300/400 level.

SPA 455: Spanish Phonology

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Explores the sound system of contemporary Spanish; provides theoretical and descriptive treatments.

SPA 456: Spanish Syntax

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Examines Spanish sentence structure in its relation to semantic structure.

SPA 488: Undergraduate Literature Seminar Abroad

Credits: 3
Type: SEM

Examines major figures, works, and/or movements in Spanish literature; for participants in the department's summer program at the University of Salamanca.

SPA 496: Internship/Practicum

Credits: 1-6
Type: TUT

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Hands-on experience in language and cultural studies at institutions and community organizations in the Western New York area.

SPA 498: Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity

Credits: 1-6
Type: TUT

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Students collaborate with faculty research mentors on an ongoing faculty research project or conduct independent research under the guidance of a faculty member.

SPA 499: Independent Study

Credits: 1-12
Type: TUT

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Open only to students who have taken at least two courses at the 300/400 level and have a minimum GPA of 3.0 in their Spanish major or minor. Students must design a course of study they want to undertake in one semester. They choose a professor whose area of expertise most closely approximates their topic and must consult with the professor prior to registering for the course. The topic must not duplicate the content of a regular course.