

Spanish



As a Spanish student at Westmont, you'll not only become proficient in the language, you'll also develop intercultural competencies so you can live and work effectively in a Spanish-speaking environment, whether abroad or at home.

Majors spend a semester off campus studying at an approved university and becoming immersed in the culture. At Westmont, you take small classes in language, literature, civilization and culture. You work closely with professors who draw on their own personal knowledge and experiences to make the material come alive. You leave Westmont with a wider perspective, greater appreciation of different cultural heritages, and equipped to engage our increasingly interconnected world.

SELECTED COURSES

- Introduction to Hispanic Literature
- Seminar in Magic Realism
- Cervantes's Don Quijote de la Mancha
- Advanced Fluency and Communication
- Hispanic Cultures: Latin America
- Cross-Cultural Studies
- Spanish Capstone Seminar
- Contemporary Latin American Poetry

CAREER PATHS

- International Business
- Education
- Social Services and NGOs
- Law
- Foreign Missions
- Speech and Language Pathology
- Government Services
- Health and Medicine

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



DINORA CARDOSO, PH.D.

An expert in contemporary Latin American women writers



MARY DOCTER, PH.D.

Teaches students to be more interculturally competent abroad and at home



LEONOR ELIÁS, PH.D.

Speaks four languages and grew up in Mexico with parents from two cultures

OPPORTUNITIES ABROAD AND IN SANTA BARBARA



- Westmont in Mexico
- Semester in Seville
- Semester in Quito, Ecuador
- Internship opportunities in schools, social service agencies, hospitals and more

ALUMNI

Elizabeth Simoneit, MD, '14: “Spanish was my first love and I was thrilled to declare a Spanish major early on. As my passion for health and the underserved grew, I was able to continue my language and culture studies while I completed the pre-med curriculum—man, I love the liberal arts! The best experience I had at Westmont was studying abroad in Mexico. It changed my life for the better: in addition to the amazing friendships I still have today, I developed language and cultural skills that have allowed me to live internationally after graduation and provide culturally-competent medical care to my patients in their native language. I am now beginning my residency training in Family Medicine, where I speak Spanish every day.”

Emily Mata '20: “I didn’t expect to major in Spanish, but after I studied abroad in Mexico, I was hooked. I realized that majoring in Spanish provided me a range of knowledge that other majors didn’t. I wasn’t just memorizing grammar; I learned about the complex histories of colonization and White supremacy that are inseparable from language, I read the work of incredible authors whose movements of rebellion and liberation are embedded in the words we use, and I came to a deeper understanding of my heritage. The department made it easy for me to incorporate coursework from other disciplines like sociology and art history into my major so that I could explore the sociocultural contexts that impact the Spanish language. After completing a Fulbright scholarship in Mexico, I hope to pursue a career focused on providing arts education for students of color.”



WESTMONT

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