

SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES: SPANISH DEPARTMENT SPRING 2011 (Revised)

1. General Statement

Faculty members in the Spanish Department participate in a variety of fields within the Americas and/or the Iberian Peninsula that include (but are not limited to): literary studies, film studies, translation theory and practice, and interdisciplinary studies such as Women's and Gender Studies, Race and Ethnic Studies, Performance Studies, and Cultural Studies. This list is neither exhaustive nor does the order in which the fields are listed bear any significance.

Generally speaking, the highest professional achievement in the above areas is peer-reviewed publication in both English and in Spanish. Within the discipline there are many different ways in which publications are "peer-reviewed" (see below), and many viable forums for scholarly work exist in addition to print publication; for example, electronic and multimedia publication have become valuable and respected means of contributing to the profession.

In part II of these guidelines (following), categories of achievement are listed, and a number of examples provided. The list follows a very rough hierarchy of potential importance to the field, but it is important to realize that exceptions to this order frequently occur. For example, in some cases, especially with research engaging contemporary issues and debates, it is essential to publish promptly and/or frequently; this is more successfully accomplished with article-length publications than book-length publication. It is also important to note that electronic publication has come to carry the same weight as print publication.

The Spanish Department faculty would like to acknowledge that there is a crisis in Humanities publishing in the United States today and that the most notable effect of this crisis is the reduction of monographs published in the Humanities. Given the crisis in humanities publication together with the length of time needed to appear in print, publication of a book is not a viable expectation for tenure or promotion within the liberal arts community. This crisis has been fully documented by our main disciplinary organization, the Modern Language Association (MLA), and been the topic of many articles in higher education journals and newspapers in the past ten years. The most notable effect of this crisis is the reduction of monographs published in the Humanities today. While a book-length publication is a major contribution, it is important to note that it might not be possible or desirable for an author to publish research as a book at this time, even if the work is of top-quality. For more information on the effects of this crisis in our discipline, see the MLA publication on "The Future of Scholarly Publishing," From the Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of Scholarly Publishing, at: http://www.mla.org/resources/documents/issues_scholarly_pub/repview_future_pub

Finally, we maintain that commitment to a coherent research agenda, a sustained and ongoing engagement in publication and intellectual pursuits in one's field and the overall quality of one's work are more important than its specific form. We do not consider a single-author monograph a necessary accomplishment, either at the point of consideration for tenure or at the point of promotion to Full Professor. Given that the breadth and quality of presses, journals and other publication venues vary greatly, especially across the diverse fields represented within the Spanish Department, we are reluctant to offer a ranking or hierarchy. Nor do we wish to quantify a specific number of articles. Rather, we feel that the overall body of work should be considered on an individual basis. For this reason, it is suggested that each candidate should make a case for the relative merits and the quality of the peer-review process of all publications in their application materials.

2. Categories of scholarly and artistic achievement

A. Publication

1. Book-length publications. This can take various forms including but not limited to scholarly monographs, editing a collection of essays or conference proceedings, editing a special issue of a peer-reviewed journal, translations, textbooks, and literary works.
2. Article-length publications. This can take various forms including but not limited to articles in scholarly journals (both print and electronic), book chapters, and articles in critical anthologies—all of which are peer-reviewed. This category also includes conference proceedings, creative writing in anthologies, etc. These publications likewise often undergo a rigorous peer-review process. Conference proceedings are almost always highly selective. Invitations to contribute to edited volumes, literary anthologies, to translate, to write catalog essays, etc. in and of themselves signify recognition and distinction in the field and thus merit a distinct category.
3. Invited contributions. An important category of peer-reviewed publication is an invited contribution to an edited volume or special topics journal. Such invitations serve as recognition that the author is a respected authority on the topic.
4. Translations. Published translations can take various forms including but not limited to translation of literary and scholarly work. These publications often undergo a rigorous peer-review or editing process.
5. Book reviews, film reviews, interviews, dictionary/encyclopedia entries, etc. Although typically shorter in length, such publications have a significant impact and often represent the most current research conducted in a given area. In addition, book and film reviews are often directly solicited by editors/authors based on one's reputation within the field.
6. Multimedia. The production of multimedia CD-ROMs and web-based materials has been a major activity in the field of modern languages. Our primary national organization, the Modern Language Association, has published statements that serve as a useful guideline for evaluating this type of activity. (These can be found on the web at "www.mla.org" under the title "Reports from the MLA Committee on Computers and Emerging Technologies in Teaching and Research.")

In any of the above work, Whitman student/alumni involvement in the writing and publication process is considered to be an additional value to that work.

B. Professional scholarly activity

1. Serving on the editorial/advisory board of peer-reviewed scholarly journals (print or electronic) and/or academic presses. Being invited to serve as a referee, even in an ad-hoc capacity, serves as an indicator of one's reputation and expertise in a particular subject area.
2. Presentations at professional (international/national/regional) conferences. In our field, unlike in other disciplines, conference papers are subjected to a rigorous peer-review process before

being accepted. Top-tier venues, those that are most selective and international in scope, include the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association (MLA), the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Conference which has been organized every 18 months (and will move to be an annual conference in 2013), the annual Asociación Internacional de Literatura y Cultura Femenina Hispánica (AILCFH) conference, the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA), and the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies (NACCS). One-time conferences held on a special topic or author also typically constitute a top-tier venue. Regional divisions of the MLA (M/MLA, RM/MLA, NEMLA, SAMLA) offer important opportunities for engaging directly with scholars in the geographic region.

3. Invited talks, including at conferences, professional workshops, and other campuses. As with invited publications, invited speaking engagements signify recognition and distinction in the field and thus merit a distinct category.
4. Service to professional organizations, serving on a grant review and/or national exam boards. Active participation in the form of leadership roles within professional organizations and national boards, especially when requiring nomination and/or election, signify both dedication to the profession and recognition from one's peers.
5. Organization and/or chairing of sessions at conferences.
6. Presentations for non-academic audiences (libraries, civic organizations, primary and secondary schools, etc.)
7. Attendance at professional meetings and conferences.
8. Membership in professional organizations.

C. Individual and institutional development

1. Successful application for external grants and fellowships. However, it is important to note that grant opportunities are very rare for Hispanists and it is not expected for Spanish faculty to have an active record of external grant applications.
2. Serving on dissertation committees at other institutions.

3. Conclusion

The Spanish Department has prepared this document with the hope that the above statement and lists will clarify the role and importance of research in our field/s, and serve as a useful guide for those inside and, especially, those outside the department who will be evaluating Spanish faculty members undergoing review. Furthermore, we hope it will serve as a guide for junior members of the department as they prepare for the various stages of review, especially the tenure review.

To conclude, we would like to emphasize that the quality of the work is what counts, not the length

or quantity.