

HISPANIC STUDIES POLICIES ON AND RESOURCES FOR HERITAGE SPEAKERS OF SPANISH

Heritage speakers are those who speak and understand a language but have NEVER FORMALLY STUDIED THE LANGUAGE. This is very different from native speakers, who typically have had a portion of their education in their first language and thus have studied the language formally (grammar, spelling, accents, style, etc.).

Many UMB students fit the description of heritage speakers. Often they learned to speak and comprehend Spanish at home, but have never studied it in school.

The Hispanic Studies Department has special policies and courses for those students.

Heritage speakers of Spanish should come to the Hispanic Studies Department and take a short written test to determine their correct placement.

Most heritage speakers will benefit from two courses designed especially for them:

Span 280 Spanish for Heritage Speakers

This course addresses the Spanish language needs of bicultural students who have never studied Spanish. The course focuses on Spanish grammar. Special attention is given to morphology and comparative syntax. (Offered once a year.)

Span 289 Writing for Heritage Speakers of Spanish

This course is conducted as a workshop on expository writing for native speakers of Spanish and Spanish-heritage students. The course addresses the particular linguistic difficulties that native speakers encounter. Writing and intermediate research techniques, problems of style and correctness are the main issues. (Offered once a year.)

Please note that heritage speakers of Spanish should NOT:

- Take the Spanish placement test offered in the Testing Center, as it does not accurately assess this type of Spanish speaker
- Enroll in 101, 102, 201 and 202 courses. Those courses are designed for students who are learning Spanish as a second language.

When advising heritage speakers, please be sure to advise them NOT to take the placement test offered at the Testing Center and to go to the Hispanic Studies department for proper placement.

Hispanic Studies Department
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**HISPANIC STUDIES POLICIES ON
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HERITAGE SPEAKERS OF PORTUGUESE**

Heritage speakers are those who speak and understand a language but have NEVER FORMALLY STUDIED THE LANGUAGE. This is very different from native speakers, who typically have had a portion of their education in their first language and thus have studied the language formally (grammar, spelling, accents, style, etc.).

Many UMB students fit the description of heritage speakers. Often they learned to speak and comprehend Portuguese at home, but have never studied it in school.

Heritage speakers of Portuguese should come to the Hispanic Studies Department and take a short written test to determine their correct placement.

At present, we do not have special courses for Portuguese heritage speakers, but it is very important that students take the placement test so that we can determine the best level for them in our language sequence.

Please advise students who are heritage speakers of Portuguese to take the department's written placement test BEFORE enrolling in a Portuguese language course.

Once classes have begun, if the instructor finds that a student is not appropriately placed, the department will request that the student transfer to another level.

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