Sub-Faculty of Spanish – EDI Overview TT24

The 2023–24 academic year saw the introduction of new FPE Papers III and IV in Spanish, an important milestone in the Sub-Faculty's efforts to diversify the curriculum and to ensure that it remains as attractive and stimulating to undergraduates as possible.

The new first-year literature papers include: (i) a wider selection of authors with a greater geographical remit across historical periods (including works and authors from Spain, New Spain, Mexico, Peru, and Cuba); (ii) seven women writers (Sor Juana, Leonor de la Cueva, Sor Violante del Cielo, Luisa de Carvajal, Madre Cecilia del Nacimiento, Nellie Campobello, Ana María Matute); (iii) a mixed-race Peruvian author (César Vallejo); (iv) two writers (Lorca and Sor Juana) who are either recognised as LGBTQ+ or whose works have been frequently studied through the lens of queer theory. The syllabus allows students to consider a wide range of subjects, including but not limited to questions of war, conquest, and religious conflict; colonialism and post-coloniality; connections between literature and empire; political violence and resistance; and gender-based violence.

Revising Papers III and IV has taken sustained collective effort in recent years and the Sub-Faculty looks forward to seeing how the new papers bed in over the next few years—and how they shape student interests and choices at FHS and beyond.

At FHS, several changes have been made to papers in recent years following: (i) extensive work undertaken around the first EDI audit in 2020-21; and (ii) further revision associated with the updated and expanded audit coordinated by Alice Brooke and Alejandra Crosta in HT23 (NB: this iteration sets out in detail the flexibility of existing papers, suggestions for review in each sub-area, and further points for consideration). The Sub-Faculty continues to ensure that, in both central classes and language work in colleges, students encounter a range of voices and perspectives in preparation for Papers I-III. Paper V has been revised to enable students to explore the diversity of language variations across the Spanish-speaking world. Several changes have been made to period and authors papers, with the opening out of existing options and the introduction of new ones in the interests of increased diversity (e.g. the incorporation of further colonial authors and texts on Paper VII, enhanced provision of women authors on both sides of Paper VIII, and the successful addition of Sor Juana to Paper X). Most recently, the Peninsular half of the modern period paper has been reformed; the newly configured Section A, which also now includes film, will be available to students for the first time from MT24. Papers XII and XIV continue to offer students the opportunity to branch out beyond the already wide-ranging period and texts/authors papers. More generally, bibliographies and reading lists remain under rolling review to ensure that they are current, inclusive, and appropriately representative; entries in handbooks have also been updated to reflect the full range of opportunities available to students across (and within) Papers I-XIV.

Priorities for 2024–25 and beyond include further rolling review and revision of our offering and practices in relation to both teaching and assessment at both FPE and FHS.

ONW/AC, TT24