

## Advising Heritage Learner Students

### **1. Who is a Heritage Learner of Spanish?**

A heritage learner of Spanish is someone that was exposed to Spanish while growing up. Typically, a heritage learner has been exposed to Spanish in the home environment among family or in their communities.

### **2. But, I don't speak Spanish...**

Not all heritage learners of Spanish speak Spanish. Many can understand some Spanish when it's spoken to them but respond in English.

### **3. How are Spanish as a Heritage Language (SHL) classes different from Spanish as a Second/Foreign Language (L2/FL) classes?**

SHL classes are specifically designed for heritage learners while L2/FL classes are designed for students who have had no previous experiences with the Spanish language. Our first class is designed for heritage learners that understand Spanish but may not speak Spanish or may not be confident in their speaking abilities in Spanish.

Additionally, all classes in the SHL Program are designed to build off the abilities that students already have in Spanish while also building their confidence and agency in using their languages. Lastly, we use Open Educational Resources (OER) for these courses, so there is ZERO textbook cost to students!

### **4. Do SPN 1014 sections for heritage learners count toward the 040 Core?"**

Yes, all SPN 1014 sections, whether for heritage learners or second language learners (L2), count as Core classes. Students should choose the section that best fits their abilities and educational needs. They will count equally toward fulfilling all departmental, college, and university requirements on their transcript.

### **5. What topics are covered in SHL classes?**

We use Spanglish in the classroom to talk about many topics like the histories, cultures and language practices of Spanish-speaking communities in the US, identity, music, pop culture trends, borderlands literatures and more!

### **6. Are SHL classes harder than L2/FL classes?**

No! This is a common misconception. SHL classes are made for heritage learner students, so they provide a learning experience that is tailored to the educational and identity needs of heritage learners. L2/FL classes are oftentimes boring for heritage learners because they cover material that heritage learners already know or won't typically use in their daily lives.

### **7. Who should students contact for more information or to be placed in a SHL class?**

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