

**University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
Department of Portuguese
MA in Portuguese Studies**

Learning Outcomes

- Students will develop an in-depth understanding of literary and cultural history of the Portuguese-speaking world within a broad, interdisciplinary context of humanities and social sciences.
- Students will acquire a solid foundation in literary and cultural theory and in research methods in the humanities.
- Through regular seminar presentations and substantive research papers in the target language, students will develop sophisticated oral and writing skills in Portuguese.
- Through taking advantage of elective course offerings in the departments of Art History, History, Political Science, and Sociology/Anthropology, students will gain competence in interdisciplinary and intercultural acquisition and interpretation of knowledge.

Outcome Assessment Plan

I. Alignment of the MA in Portuguese Studies Curriculum with Learning Outcomes

The MA program offers an in-depth understanding of literary and cultural history of Portugal and the Portuguese-speaking world within a broad, interdisciplinary context of humanities and social sciences. Regular rotation of four of the five core courses (POR 620, 630, 640 and 650) dedicated, respectively, to the literatures and cultures of Portugal, Brazil and Lusophone Africa, as well as to comparative studies encompassing two or more of these areas, assures comprehensive and articulated coverage. The required seminar, POR 610: Topics in Literary and Cultural Analysis, offers a necessary foundation in literary and cultural theory and in research methods in the humanities. All core courses require students to make regular oral seminar presentations and to produce substantive research papers in the target language, thus contributing to the development of advanced oral proficiency and superior writing skills in Portuguese. The approved list of additional graduate-level courses related to the Portuguese-speaking world, taught (in English) in the departments of Art History, History, Political Science, and Sociology/Anthropology, endows the curriculum with an interdisciplinary dimension, promoting innovative research, widening the scope of learning engaged in by the program graduates and increasing their competence in intercultural, as well as interdisciplinary, acquisition and interpretation of knowledge.

II. Outcome Assessment Procedures

Students working toward the MA in Portuguese Studies have the choice of two end assessment options, a Master Research Project and a Master Exam. Successful completion of either option requires degree candidates to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of literary and cultural history of the Portuguese-speaking world and a mastery of the fundamentals of contemporary literary and cultural theory. Students pursuing the Research Project option will further demonstrate an instrumental mastery of literary and cultural theory and an ability to deploy research methods in the humanities in producing a scholarly manuscript suitable for submission to a peer-reviewed journal. Students pursuing the Exam option will further demonstrate knowledge and ability to undertake critical analysis of a comprehensive selection of representative works of Portuguese, Brazilian and Lusophone African Literatures included on the departmental MA Reading List. Each MA candidate's faculty committee will assess his or her

compliance with the academic success criteria established for each of the two options. Since the MA in Portuguese Studies is now in its first year of operation, and the first degree candidates will complete their end assessment process in Spring 2006, detailed evaluation criteria and procedures are still in development, but will be fully formulated no later than December 2005.