Teaching and Living during COVID-19
Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese

Principles Document

As the University prepares for the resumption of classes in Fall 2020, the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese reiterates its commitment to the health and wellbeing of all members of our community. As we move forward with our core mission of research and teaching, we consider it our ethical responsibility to prioritize the safety of instructors, students, and staff. To this end, we have established the following principles:

1. All instructors, faculty and GTAs, will be allowed to make their own decisions about whether or not to teach in-person classes during the Fall semester, and for as long as COVID-19 poses health risks to our community.
2. We will adopt flexible attendance policies in order to allow latitude to both students and instructors. No student or instructor will be penalized for illness related to COVID-19, immigration status, or other disruptive life events during the pandemic. Instructors will make every effort to provide students with contingency plans that explain what will happen for students and instructors in the event of prolonged illness.
3. The Department will continue to provide administrative and professional support, but will do so primarily online. In-person support will be provided only when necessary.
4. Departmental events and meetings will be held remotely.
5. All students, including international students, will receive person-to-person instruction should they need it for any reason.