This graduate seminar will introduce students to Iberian Studies, an approach to peninsular literatures and cultures that emphasizes comparativism and multilingualism, and that works across the language-based traditions of the Iberian Peninsula (Spanish-Castilian, Portuguese, Catalan, Galician, Basque, etc.) without consigning Iberia’s “peripheries” to second-class status. Further, Iberian Studies engage with the geo-historical categories (Iberia, Spain, Hispania, etc.) and the disciplinary assumptions that have traditionally guided peninsular scholarship and teaching. Over the past two or so decades Iberian Studies have produced a flurry of sometimes controversial scholarly interventions, and have gained institutional traction in the form of research centers, publishing initiatives, and working groups.

This seminar will focus on a series of key terms for Iberian Studies, including Iberian civilization, decline, language, regionalism/centralism, comparison, homeland, canon, and empire. We will read a selection of primary sources in Spanish, Portuguese, Galician, and Catalan, primarily 19th and early 20th century poetry and essay writing. Readings will be selected to accommodate students with varying degrees of familiarity in Iberian languages other than Spanish.

Primary sources include readings by Antonio Cánovas del Castillo, Antero de Quental, Oliveira Martins, Juan Valera, Emilia Pardo Bazán, Joan Maragall, Enric Prat de la Riba, Rosalía de Castro and the poets of the Galician Rexurdimento, and Miguel de Unamuno and the Generación del 98.