

Statement from The Department of Spanish and Portuguese:

We, the faculty, graduate students, and staff members of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese oppose the presence of concealed firearms in our classrooms, offices and social spaces. We strongly believe that concealed guns should not be allowed in any building, or on the perimeters of the campus of the University of Texas, Austin. We further believe that our main goal as a public Research One institution is the fostering of education, critical thinking, and professionalization of students. As an intellectual community, we simply reject the premise that guns will make our classrooms, offices, and social spaces safer.

In the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, our main goal is to educate and train our students to develop new knowledge about the languages, literatures and cultures of the Iberian and Latin American regions, their related diasporas, and their Indigenous, African, and Asian cultures. We would like to continue doing so in an atmosphere of mutual respect and without the threat posed by guns in our classrooms. As a racially, culturally, ethnically, and sexually diverse department, we are aware of the social-power dynamics behind gun culture and the potentially disruptive and dangerous state of affairs the law allowing concealed weapons in campus buildings will bring to our courses, pedagogies, freedom of speech and finally, our security and lives.

Jossianna Arroyo-Martínez, Interim Chair

71 signatures:

Jeff Becker	Elizabeth Hastings	Patrick Lawrence
Raelene Wyse	Yu Rim Kim	Dale Koike
James Staig	Mary Kleba	César Salgado
Stephanie Malak	Aurora Salvador Sanchis	Shelly Smartt
Laura Rodriguez	Michael Harney	Mariana Sabino-Salazar
Jossianna Arroyo	Valeria Rey de Castro	Daniel Zarazua
Vivian Flanzer	Samuel Ginsburg	Esther Díaz Martín
Carolyn Dunlap	Sam Cannon	Jane Johnson
Maria Luisa Echavarria	Daisy Guzman	Rebecca L. Thompson
Sandra Bernal	Diana Norton	Jessica Carey-Webb
Erika Burt	Naomi Lindstrom	Tia Butler
Robyn Wright	Mina Ogando	Ruth Rubio Rodriguez
Lucia Aramayo	Sarah Jey Whitehead	Ana Cecilia Calle Poveda
Almeida J. Toribio	Joshua Frank	Cristina Cabello de Mtz.
Pablo Postigo	Jason Borge	Judith Velazquez Santopietro
Pablo Duran	Sandra Sotelo-Miller	Dinorah Cossio
Lisa Mailloux	Alida Perrine	Whitman Suarez
Olivia Thayer	Kelly McDonough	Adrian Rodriguez Riccelli
Arturo Arias	Sergio Romero	Lorraine Leu
Celia Cordeiro	Madeline Sutherland-Meier	Brendan Regan
Catalina Iannone	Gabriela Polit	Nika Setek
Daniela Meireles	Cory Reed	Melissa Murphy
Chiyo Nishida	Jocelly Meiners	Nicolas Emilfork
Niyi Afolabi	Orlando Kelm	