

Department of Modern Foreign Languages

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Faculty

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Mission

The Department of Modern Foreign Languages supports the mission of the university by:

1. providing undergraduate instruction in certain important world languages and cultures;
2. improving the literacy and communication skills of the non-major (reading, writing, pronunciation, grammar, listening and vocabulary building);
3. improving cross-cultural understanding and international awareness;
4. preparing advanced-level students for careers or graduate study in which these skills, knowledge and awareness are valuable;
5. sharing its expertise in world languages and cultures with the outside community and professionals in the field;
6. participating in the activities of civic and professional organizations which promote the study of world languages and cultures and public interest in them.

Programs

The Department of Modern Foreign Languages offers majors in French and Spanish (B.A. degree); Certificates of Proficiency and minors in French, Spanish and German; and two years of language study in Japanese and Portuguese.

Facilities

The department maintains a multi-purpose Language Resource Center which is supplied and equipped to provide for the following activities: listening to foreign language CDs, recording one's own pronunciation, drilling with computerized foreign language software, viewing foreign language television programs available via satellite transmission, reading foreign language periodicals, viewing foreign language videotapes and making homestudy copies of certain recorded materials. The department maintains or oversees the distribution of an extensive collection of printed and recorded materials for foreign language study including CDs, videotapes, audiotapes, computer software and other kinds of visual aids. Most of these materials are an integral part of the instructional program.

Departmental Scholarships

The Muriel Tomlinson Scholarship Award is presented annually to an outstanding foreign language student who is finishing his or her junior or senior year. The Stephen and Beatrice Mohler Scholarship Award is given annually to an outstanding Spanish student intending to study abroad. Ferry-Morse Seed Company sponsors an Internship in France.

Departmental Activities

Each semester, the department organizes a Foreign Film Series in order to enhance students' understanding of the foreign languages and cultures they are studying in the classroom. The department also sponsors a Lecture Series which brings representatives of business and government to campus to speak on issues of current interest in international business and politics.

Student Organizations

The department sponsors chapters of the national French and Spanish honoraries (Pi Delta Phi and Sigma Delta Pi) to recognize outstanding achievement in these disciplines. The French, German, Japanese and Spanish sections all sponsor clubs which provide students with extracurricular, cultural activities to enrich their academic programs.

Work Experiences for the Major

A Foreign Language major can apply for participation in a Cooperative Education Program in his or her freshman year. If approved, this will permit an alternation between full-time study and full-time employment with an international agency. Advanced majors who plan to teach a foreign language can apply for department tutoring positions.

Study Abroad and Internship Experiences

The department encourages students to take advantage of approved internships and study-abroad programs. The department has courses in French, German, Japanese and Spanish which allow for credit for study abroad and will advise students in arranging study and internships in foreign countries. And, finally, the department is a member of the Mid-Continent Consortium for International Education which sponsors each summer immersion programs at the University of Quebec at Chicoutimi and the University of Guanajuato (Mexico). Check with the department chair for further information.

Internships and Study Abroad in French, German and Spanish

Internships and study abroad in French, German, or Spanish are to be undertaken under the direction of a UT Martin faculty member or a faculty member from another institution. Prior approval is to be received from the Chair of the Department of Modern Foreign Languages. Students wishing to study abroad during their last thirty hours may do so under the following conditions.

1. Before departure, they must secure approval of their study-abroad program from their faculty adviser(s) and the Chair of Modern Foreign Languages and file their program with the Registrar.
2. They must undergo appropriate language testing before departure and upon return.
3. They may take no more than 16 of their last 30 hours abroad with no additional exceptions to the Residency Rule.

4. They must complete at least one course in the language studied abroad on the UT Martin campus after returning from the study-abroad experience and before graduating. Students also have the responsibility to make sure that the courses taken abroad do not put them in violation of university guidelines which mandate that at least 25% of their coursework be completed at UT Martin.

Careers for Students with Foreign Language Proficiency

As their senior exit exam, French and Spanish majors take the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview with a certified tester who assigns them a standardized oral proficiency rating. Graduates with a proficiency rating of Intermediate High or Advanced and other appropriate preparation will be competitive for bilingual positions in the following careers: civil service, consulates, customs officer, exporter or importer, foreign exchange officers, international banker, interpreter, librarian, missionary, foreign correspondent, researcher, social worker, teacher, translator, tourism and many jobs with government and international agencies such as the United Nations, the Armed Services, the State Department, USIA, CIA, FBI, OAS, NATO, World Bank, Immigration and Naturalization and many others. Foreign language proficiency can be a valuable auxiliary skill in virtually every profession.

Removing an Entrance Deficiency

An entrance deficiency in foreign languages can be removed by passing 111, the first semester of the elementary sequence of a foreign language, or 115 if continuing a foreign language begun in high school.

Placement

Students who entered with two or more high school units of Spanish or French and who wish to continue in the same language, will take the department's placement exam and, based on the results of that exam, will be advised to enroll in 115 or a more advanced class. Continuing students in German, Japanese and Portuguese may start with 122 or a more advanced class, depending on their score on the placement exam. The placement exams for French, German and Spanish are available online at the departmental website. College credit will not be given for courses used to remove high school entrance deficiencies.

Credit for Foreign Language Proficiency

Students who enter with proficiency in a foreign language and who place into 122 or above will earn, upon completion of their entry-level class with a B or better, up to eight hours of credit (graded P for Pass), for the classes they have skipped (that is, the one or two classes immediately preceding their entry-level class). Students who earn a D in their entry-level class will receive credit for this class only. Proficiency credit must be requested before the student enters his/her last 30 hours.

Students can also earn up to 12 hours of credit (graded P) by taking a CLEP test, depending on their score on this nationally normed test. CLEP guidelines will be followed in assigning credit. Additionally, students can receive credit for passing an Advanced Placement test. College Board guidelines are followed in assigning AP credit. In no case will students be awarded more than a total of 12 hours of credit by departmental placement, CLEP, or Advanced Placement.

Majors

B.A. Curriculum. A major in French (2510) or Spanish (2520) consists of at least 21 semester hours in courses numbered 300 or above, taught in the target language, including 341, 342, 451, three hours of culture and civilization and three hours of literature. Completion of 341 or 342 is prerequisite to all other courses above 300. Additional non-foreign language prerequisites to the major are History 121-122, 200 and Geography 152 or 381. For majors intending to pursue advanced degrees in graduate school, English 450 is strongly recommended. All general education requirements for the B.A. degree must be met.

Majors in foreign languages are required to complete a language immersion experience as approved by the faculty adviser. The department will assist in placement appropriate to the student's needs, which might include residence in a foreign country, study abroad, exchange programs, international internships, or other experiences that assure intensive cultural and language experiences. In the semester prior to graduation, majors are also required to assemble a portfolio under the supervision of a faculty adviser. This portfolio will include writing samples from various advanced classes and the results of two tests designed to assess language knowledge, proficiency and cultural literacy: an Oral Proficiency Interview and a departmental exam in advanced French or Spanish grammar.

Majors in foreign languages are encouraged to enhance their education by completing, as appropriate, complementary programs of study in fields as diverse as English, political science, economics, travel and tourism, communications and education. Combining foreign language with training in such fields will better enable majors to pursue graduate studies and careers in various professions.

Minors and Certificates of Proficiency

B.A. or B.S. Curriculum. A minor in French (M-2510), German (M-2530), or Spanish (M-2520) consists of at least 12 hours in courses numbered 300 or above.

A Certificate of Proficiency in French, German, or Spanish language and culture entails at least 15 hours of upper-division coursework, with the following specific requirements:

1. Advanced Conversation (341) and Advanced Composition (342);
2. one course in civilization and culture;
3. The Language of Business and the Professions (451);
4. any additional upper-division course in language, literature, film, or civilization or an approved internship;
5. in the semester prior to graduation, students will be required to demonstrate their competency in the target language by taking an Oral Proficiency Interview and an examination in advanced grammar. (Foreign-language majors are not eligible for this Certificate.)

Minors and Certificates of Proficiency are advantageous for students majoring in disciplines in the liberal arts, such as English, history and music, who intend to pursue advanced degrees in graduate school. They are also recommended for students majoring in professional fields, such as agriculture, business administration, engineering, travel and tourism, communications and social work, where knowledge of foreign languages and cultures is highly beneficial, given today's global economy.

Courses Offered by Department of Modern Foreign Languages

- French 111 Elementary French (F, Sp)
French 115 Transitional French (F, Sp)
French 122 Elementary French (F, Sp)
French 222 Intermediate French (F, Sp)
French 250 France Today: The French People and Their Culture (as needed)
French 300 (500) Intensive Conversation in a Foreign Country (as needed)
French 311 (511) Introduction to French Literature and the Arts (as needed)
French 321 (521) Introduction to French Civilization and Material Culture (as needed)
French 341 (541) Advanced Conversation (F)
French 342 (542) Advanced Composition (Sp)
French 350 Masterpieces of French and Francophone Literature (in English Translation) (as needed)
French 360 (560) Studies Abroad (as needed)
French 370 (570) Travel Study (as needed)
French 381-382 (581-582) Survey of French Literature (as needed)
French 401 Foreign Language Internship (as needed)
French 451 (651) The Language of Business and the Professions (Sp-even)
French 491 (691) French Cinema (F-odd)
French 495-496 (695-696) Topics in French Language, Literature, or Civilization (as needed)
French 498-499 (698-699) Independent Study (as needed)
German 111 Elementary German (F, Sp)
German 122 Elementary German (F, Sp)
German 222 Intermediate German (F, Sp)
German 250 Germany Today: The German People and Their Culture (as needed)
German 300 (500) Intensive Conversation in a Foreign Country (as needed)
German 321 Introduction to German Culture (Sp-even)
German 330 Twentieth-Century German Drama (as needed)
German 341 (541) Advanced Conversation (F-even)
German 342 (542) Advanced Composition (F-odd)
German 350 Masterpieces of German and Austrian Literature (in English Translation) (as needed)
German 360 (560) Studies Abroad (as needed)
German 370 (570) Travel Study (as needed)
German 381-382 (581-582) Survey of German Literature (as needed)
German 401 Foreign Language Internship (as needed)
German 451 (651) The Language of Business and the Professions (F-odd)
German 491 (691) German Cinema (as needed)
German 495-496 (695-696) Topics in German Language, Literature, or Civilization (as needed)
German 498-499 (698-699) Independent Study (as needed)
Japanese 111 Elementary Japanese (F, Sp)
Japanese 122 Elementary Japanese (F, Sp)
Japanese 222 Intermediate Japanese (as needed)
Japanese 250 Japan Today: The People and Culture of Japan (as needed)
Japanese 315 Intensive Reading in Japanese (as needed)
Japanese 341 Advanced Conversation (as needed)
Japanese 342 Advanced Composition (as needed)

Japanese 360 Studies Abroad (as needed)
 Japanese 370 Travel Study [Topic Title] (as needed)
 Portuguese 111 Elementary Portuguese (as needed)
 Portuguese 122 Elementary Portuguese (as needed)
 Portuguese 222 Intermediate Portuguese (as needed)
 Portuguese 230 Portuguese for Speakers of Spanish (as needed)
 Portuguese 341 Advanced Conversation (as needed)
 Spanish 111 Elementary Spanish (F, Sp)
 Spanish 115 Transitional Spanish (F, Sp)
 Spanish 122 Elementary Spanish (F, Sp)
 Spanish 222 Intermediate Spanish (F, Sp)
 Spanish 250 Latin America Today: The Peoples and Cultures of Latin America (as needed)
 Spanish 300 (500) Intensive Conversation in a Foreign Country (as needed)
 Spanish 321 (521) Introduction to Spanish Civilization (as needed)
 Spanish 322 (522) Introduction to Spanish American Civilization (as needed)
 Spanish 341 (541) Advanced Conversation (F)
 Spanish 342 (542) Advanced Composition (Sp)
 Spanish 350 Masterpieces of Spanish and Span-American Literature (in English Translation)
 (as needed)
 Spanish 360 (560) Studies Abroad (as needed)
 Spanish 370 (570) Travel Study (as needed)
 Spanish 381-382 (581-582) Survey of Spanish Literature (as needed)
 Spanish 385-386 (585-586) Survey of Spanish American Literature (as needed)
 Spanish 401 Foreign Language Internship (as needed)
 Spanish 451 (651) The Language of Business and the Professions (Sp-odd)
 Spanish 481 (681) 19th Century Spanish Literature (as needed)
 Spanish 482 (682) Contemporary Spanish Literature (as needed)
 Spanish 486 (686) Contemporary Latin-American Literature (as needed)
 Spanish 491 (691) Spanish and Latin-American Cinema (as needed)
 Spanish 495-496 (695-696) Topics in Spanish Language, Literature, or Civilization (as needed)
 Spanish 498-499 (698-699) Independent Study (as needed)

Complete course descriptions can be found in the Course Description section of the catalog.