

World Languages and Literature

Department Location

Camille O. Hanks Cosby Academic Center – 4th Floor

Special Entry Requirements

A student applying to be a Spanish major must first take the Spanish Assessment in the Language Resource Center (Cosby LL17). The assessment results will be reviewed and she will be assigned an advisor.

Placement Examinations

Offered online prior to the beginning of each semester and at the beginning of each semester, placement exams are mandatory for any incoming student with one year or more of foreign language in high school; the results are used to place the student at the appropriate level in a foreign language course from 101 through 202 (or 222). In cases of exceptional proficiency, as demonstrated through an oral interview, a student may be exempted from the core language requirement and placed in an advanced course. No credit hours are awarded a student who exempts a language course through the departmental placement process; however, credit hours may be awarded on the basis of work completed at another institution or Advanced Placement (AP) scores. No placement exam, and consequently no possible exemption, is given for languages that are not taught through the 202 level in the Atlanta University Center schools.

Goals

The department serves a diverse student constituency, including those enrolled in core-mandated courses as well as majors and minors. For each, the department seeks to broaden a student's understanding of a foreign culture through its primary manifestation: language. In addition to improving the skills of speaking, reading, writing, and listening in a foreign language, departmental courses expose students to literary, historical, and social artifacts of a foreign culture. Analysis of the formal aspects of a foreign language also heightens awareness of English language structures.

A major in French or Spanish helps students to develop significant proficiency and makes them aware of the principal literary and other cultural manifestations of the language. With its emphasis on language, literature and critical thinking, the foreign language major prepares students for graduate work, teaching, government, and other careers with an international focus.

Objectives

Upon completing a course sequence in a foreign language through the 202 /222 level, a student will be able to

- demonstrate basic oral proficiency in the foreign language.
- understand basic grammatical structures in the foreign language and show an awareness of syntactic patterns.

- demonstrate critical thinking, especially in relation to analyzing, synthesizing, and producing the foreign language.
- demonstrate an awareness of the basic literary and cultural manifestations of the foreign language

General Core Requirements

The second-year courses in any foreign language (201 and 202 or 222) fulfill the general core requirement in foreign languages. Students enrolled in the first-year language course sequence (101-102) receive no credit toward completion of the general core requirement; however, these courses may be counted as electives for graduation. When possible, students should complete the general core requirement on the Spelman campus.

International/Women's Studies Requirement

Courses that satisfy the International/Women's Studies requirement are listed in the Course Sequence Booklet or on the Spelman Web page.

Teacher Certification

See Education Studies Department

Departmental Honors

Students with 18 semester credit hours, including one course in Hispanic literature, culture or civilization and with a grade point average of 3.0 or better in Spanish may apply for membership in Sigma Delta Pi, Lambda Nu chapter, a national Spanish honor society for "those who attain excellence in the study of the Spanish language and in the study of the literature and culture of the Spanish-speaking peoples."

Departmental Advising

All majors and minors in the Department of World Languages and Literature must meet with their designated departmental advisors before registering for courses taught by the department. Students who do not know their advisor should see the Chair of the department.

Major Requirements

French

A major in French consists of 12 classes and 45 hours, with no grade below "C." French majors must take the one credit hour FRE 485 class in the fall of their senior year to prepare them for the Senior Comprehensive Exam. All French majors must take the following courses: FRE 302, 303, FRE 306-307, FRE 308, FRE 309-310-311, FRE 321-322, FRE 485, and FRE 400.

Spanish

A major in Spanish consists of 12 classes and 45 hours, with no grade below "C." Spanish majors must also spend a minimum of one semester of study in a Spanish-speak-

ing country with a Spelman-approved program. Spanish majors must take the one-credit-hour SPA 485 class in the fall of their senior year to prepare them for the Senior Comprehensive Exam. All Spanish majors must take the following courses: SPA 303, SPA 306, SPA 307 or SPA 308, SPA 309-310, SPA 311-312, SPA 321 or SPA 331, SPA 425, SPA 485. Additionally, Spanish majors must take two electives from the following: SPA 427, SPA 430, SPA 433, SPA 434, SPA 443, SPA 478.

Minor Requirements

French

A French minor consists of 24 hours. The following courses are required: FRE 303, FRE 306 or 307, FRE 309, FRE 310, FRE 321 or 322 and one of the following electives: FRE 308, FRE 311, or FRE 313.

Spanish

A Spanish minor consists of 24 hours. The following courses are required: SPA 303; SPA 306; SPA 307 or SPA 308; SPA 309-310 or SPA 311-312; SPA 321 or SPA 331.

Study Abroad

The Department of World Languages and Literature requires Spanish majors to participate in a Spelman-approved study abroad program in a Spanish-speaking country for at least one semester, and strongly encourages all major and minor students to have a study abroad experience.

The department recognizes the unique opportunity inherent in foreign study to further develop students' abilities in oral comprehension and speaking as well as to improve their reading and writing skills. Study abroad also provides students with a broader understanding of the culture of the host country, current affairs, traditions, socio-cultural problems, and, from the study of its past, the relevance of its history to contemporary events.

For the semester or year-abroad programs, the department urges that only students who have completed the intermediate level of the target language participate. These students must be in good standing with the College. Students may enroll only in a study-abroad program that has been approved by the department and the Curriculum Committee. It is the student's obligation, before departing to the host country, to have her classes approved by the department(s) from which she will be awarded college credit. The College reserves the right to determine the maximum number of credits a student may receive.

Department-Sponsored Summer Study Programs

The Department of World Languages and Literature sponsors summer programs in most of the languages we teach. In these programs, students spend 4-5 weeks living with a host family, they take classes in language and culture at a local school, and they take excursions to nearby sites of interest. Students who have completed the intermediate level

of the language may begin participating in these programs as early as the summer of their first year. Upon successful completion of our programs, students receive up to eight hours of language credit. Our department sponsors programs in Chinese, French and Spanish. We also cooperate with the Japanese Studies Program for summer study in Japan. Depending on the year, students may participate in one of the following departmental programs:

Chinese

One month of study in Chinese language and culture at a university in Shanghai.

French

One month of study on the island of Martinique where students live with host families and study French language and French-Caribbean culture.

Spanish

- Costa Rica: One month of study in San José, Costa Rica, where students live with families and study Spanish language and culture. This program is recommended for students with interest in social or environmental issues and community service.
- Dominican Republic: One month of study in Santiago, Dominican Republic, where students live with families and study Spanish language and culture. For students with interest in current social, political and economic issues in the Caribbean that affect Dominican life.
- Ecuador: Five weeks of study in Cuenca, Ecuador, where students live with families and study Spanish language and culture. This program is recommended for students with interest in the Andean cultures of South America and in visiting an area of great biodiversity.
- Mexico: Five weeks of study in Oaxaca, Mexico, where students live with families and study Spanish language and culture. This program is recommended for students with interest in studying the history and culture of this important neighbor to the U.S. and in its rich indigenous and Afro-Mexican heritage.
- Spain: One month of study in Málaga, Spain, where students live with families and study Spanish language and culture. This program is recommended for students with interest in the culture of Spain and its ties to Africa and the European community.

Course Descriptions

Chinese Courses

CHI 101, 102 – ELEMENTARY CHINESE I & II (4, 4)

Elementary introduction to Mandarin Chinese. These courses help students develop the fundamental language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in Mandarin Chinese. They emphasize pronunciation and the tones, the writing of Chinese characters, and the basic patterns of Chinese grammar. Relevant Chinese cultural background is also included. Digital tools and multimedia materials are integrated in teaching and learning.

CHI 201, 202 – INTERMEDIATE CHINESE I & II (4, 4)

These courses help students continue to develop language skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing in Mandarin Chinese. Students will

improve their communicative competence in daily topics at a higher level. Cultural background will also be introduced. Prerequisite: Elementary Chinese or equivalent proficiency demonstrated through placement exam.

CHI 301 – ADVANCED CHINESE I (4)

This course is designed for students to develop an advanced level of communicative competence in Mandarin Chinese in the areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Language-related Chinese culture will also be introduced. Prerequisite: CHI 202 or permission of instructor.

CHI 345 – UNDERSTANDING MODERN CHINA (4)

Taught in English, this course surveys Chinese history, society, and culture from the Manchu conquest of 1644 to the present with an emphasis on contemporary China. We review the land, the demographics, philosophy and religion, food and fashion, customs, educational and political systems, China's modernization and globalization process, contemporary issues such as Sino-US relations, environmental problem, and housing etc. Comparative studies are required on topics that relate to the United States and China. No prerequisite.

French Courses

FRE 101, 102 – ELEMENTARY FRENCH I & II (4, 4)

This course introduces the study of the language based on the fundamental skills approach (listening, speaking, reading, and writing), with an emphasis on oral proficiency. Limited to students with little or no previous training in the language or those who are placed in the course by examination. These courses do not fulfill the general core requirement.

FRE 201, 202 – INTERMEDIATE FRENCH I & II (4, 4)

This course provides the development of proficiency in oral communication, reading and writing. Student is guided through a comprehensive review of basic conversational patterns and pertinent grammar. The language laboratory forms part of the required activities in the courses. Enrollment limited to those who successfully complete the first-year sequence or are placed in the course by examination.

FRE 222 HONORS – INTERMEDIATE FRENCH FOR MAJORS/MINORS (4)

Accelerated transition course for French majors, minors and other interested students. Replaces FRE 202. Introduces more advanced literary texts and analysis. Also provides an intensive reinforcement of grammar and conversation skills. Prerequisite: FRE 201 or equivalent.

FRE 302 – AFRICAN/FRANCOPHONE CINEMA (4)

Taught in English, this course is an introduction to Francophone films shown in French with English subtitles. It focuses on postcolonial Francophone cinematographic productions and examines the issues of ethnicity, class, religion, political and cultural domination. It explores how directors seek to improve social, economic, and political conditions, and to reach very diverse audiences. This course also serves as an introduction to cinematography. No prerequisite.

FRE 303 – FRENCH CONVERSATION (4)

Intensive training in aural comprehension and the idiomatic use of the spoken language through class discussion and presentations on current topics. It introduces and reviews advanced grammar and syntactical constructions. Prerequisite: FRE 202 or equivalent.

FRE 304 – FRENCH CINEMA (4)

Taught in English, this course consists of a survey of recent French films shown in French with English subtitles. In addition to oral and written discussions of important political and ideological issues (race, gender, class, etc.) thematically illustrated by the films chosen. Students will also familiarize themselves with the underpinnings, methodology, and rhetorical discourse of contemporary film studies.

FRE 305 – FRENCH PHONETICS AND READINGS (4)

This course provides scientific study of the sounds and pronunciation of the French language using the International Phonetics Alphabet (IPA) as a foundation. Prerequisite: FRE 202 or equivalent.

FRE 306, 307 – ADVANCED GRAMMAR AND COMPOSITION (4,4)

This consists of advanced problems in grammar and syntax as well as frequent written and oral exercises, which include themes, translations, reports on assigned subjects, and compositions. Prerequisite: FRE 202 or equivalent.

FRE 308 – INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY STUDIES IN FRENCH (4)

This course is intended to give students interested in French and Francophone literature the skill to critically analyze and discuss literary texts written in French and to write research papers in literature courses on the junior and senior levels. Prerequisite: FRE 306, FRE 307.

FRE 309, 310 – SURVEY OF FRENCH LITERATURE (4, 4)

This course provides a study of the essential works in the literature of France from the earliest beginnings to the modern epoch. Prerequisite: FRE 306 or FRE 307.

FRE 311 – SURVEY OF FRANCOPHONE LITERATURE (4)

This course serves as an introduction to the Francophone world and Francophone authors. It focuses on literary movements and examines the literary works of authors from five continents who are not originally from France and who write in French for various reasons. It is also an investigation of the intimate links between the Francophone experience and the history of French colonialism in as much as they affect artistic and literary productions. Prerequisite: FRE 306 or 307 and FRE 309, 310.

FRE 313 – BUSINESS FRENCH (4)

This course provides a study of types of French business, advertising, postal services, banks, business correspondence, etc. It emphasizes practical application, with a close examination of business documents. Prerequisite: FRE 306 or 307.

FRE 321, 322 – CIVILIZATION OF FRANCE/CIVILIZATIONS OF FRANCE AND THE FRANCOPHONE WORLD (4, 4)

This course provides study of the French people from their origins to the present time through their geographical, historical, economic and cultural backgrounds, including a study of the Francophone world starting with French colonialism. Students are advised to take these courses before the Survey courses of literature.

FRE 371, 372 – SPECIAL PROJECTS – STUDY ABROAD (0-8)

This course provides special summer study conducted abroad in French-speaking countries with direction and consultation from appropriate faculty. Number of hours dependent on departmental approval. Maximum eight hours credit.

FRE 400 – INDEPENDENT STUDY (1-4)

This course consists of special reading assignments, investigative paper or research project in a specific area of French or Francophone literature or culture directed by a specialist in that area. Prerequisite: Consent of the department.

FRE 478 – SPECIAL TOPICS IN FRENCH (4)

This course provides intensive coverage of themes as suggested by the faculty of the department. They may be chosen from culture, civilization, literature, movements, contemporary political or economic topics, themes, genres. Prerequisite: FRE 309, 310 or 311 and departmental approval.

FRE 485 – SENIOR COMPREHENSIVE (PASS/FAIL ONLY) (1)

This course prepares students for the comprehensive exams to be taken during the senior year. The comprehensive exams have a written component and an oral component based on an established reading list.

FRE 491/EDU 450 – TEACHING OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES (4)

This course prepares students for successful teaching of a foreign language at the secondary and elementary levels by providing a general knowledge of the history of foreign language teaching in the United States; an understanding of and practice in the application of the latest techniques and procedures for teaching languages; and an awareness of the significance of the status of language learning and research in the contemporary school curriculum.

Japanese Courses

JPN 101, 102 – ELEMENTARY JAPANESE I & II (4, 4)

This course introduces the study of the Japanese language and is limited to students with little or no previous exposure to the elementary level of Japanese. The first-year courses help students acquire a basic structural and communicative competence in the language through listening, speaking, reading and writing practice with an emphasis on pronunciation and intonation, basic sentence patterns, common idiomatic expressions, the hiragana, katakana and basic kanji writing systems. The required activities in the language laboratory/writing center form part of the coursework. These courses do not fulfill the general core requirement.

JPN 201, 202 – INTERMEDIATE JAPANESE I & II (4, 4)

These courses develop and reinforce proficiency in oral communication, reading, and writing skills in Kanas and Kanji initiated in the previous 100-level Japanese courses. It introduces students to the more complex sentences requiring the use of verb conjugation and modifiers to enrich expressions in the subject and predicate structures needed to communicate on familiar topics presented in the text. The required activities in the language laboratory/writing center form an essential part of this course. Prerequisite: JPN 101 and 102 or placement.

JPN 303, 304 – ADVANCED JAPANESE I & II (4, 4)

These courses develop more advanced reading comprehension and writing skills using Kanas and sufficient Kanji, translation skills, and situational conversations. They introduce students to different styles of speaking and writing, and idiosyncrasies of Japanese culture and society based on Japanese texts. They help students strengthen the essential oral-aural capability and enhance their Japanese language skills and knowledge to a higher level. The required activities in the language laboratory/ writing center form part of the coursework. Prerequisite: JPN 202 or placement.

JPN 400 – INDEPENDENT STUDY (1-4)

This course consists of special reading assignments, investigative paper or research project in a specific area of Japanese language, literature, or culture directed by a specialist in that area. Prerequisite: Consent of the department.

JPN 401, 402 – ADVANCED JAPANESE IN CULTURAL CONTEXTS (4, 4)

An advanced study of the Japanese language in its cultural contexts, these courses bring students to a more advanced level of Japanese language knowledge and skills in reading comprehension, conversation, and composition. The selected reading material covers a wide range of topics on idiosyncrasies and traits of Japanese culture, including its society and people, lifestyle, traditions, economic issues, as well as Japan-America economic and diplomatic relations and issues. The courses help students study the Japanese language by looking at how it is used in real-life situations. Prerequisite: JPN 304 or equivalent.

JPN 478 – SPECIAL TOPICS IN JAPANESE (4)

The course focuses on Japanese social, cultural, political, and economic issues as reflected in Japanese civilization, culture, literature, language, and pragmatics. Intended mainly for advanced students. The course will be given in the form of assigned readings and class discussion. It is taught in Japanese. Prerequisite: JPN 304 or equivalent.

Latin Courses

LATIN 101, 102 – ELEMENTARY LATIN I & II (4, 4)

These courses provide students with an opportunity to begin or review basic Latin. Through class exercises, drills, reading and translation exercises, the students learn Latin forms, vocabulary and syntax. Assigned readings furnish discussion topics on Roman social culture, history and mythology. These courses carry elective credit and do not fulfill the general core requirement.

LATIN 201 – INTERMEDIATE LATIN I (4)

This course introduces Latin prose. Students apply and refine their knowledge of Latin grammar in reading continuous passages of Roman prose authors. Students read from oratorical, historical or biographical texts. Prerequisite: LATIN 102 or placement.

LATIN 202 – INTERMEDIATE LATIN II (4)

This course introduces Latin poetry. Students read an extended text of Latin verse from Ovid or Virgil. These texts introduce students to rules of metrics and ways in which poetry can play with rules of syntax. Students prepare translations and practice reading in verse. Prerequisite: LATIN 201 or placement.

Portuguese Courses

POR 101, 102 (4, 4)

These courses introduce the study of Portuguese, based on the fundamental skills approach (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) with an emphasis on oral proficiency. They are limited to students with little or no previous training in the language or those who are placed in the course by examination. These courses do not fulfill the core curriculum requirement.

POR 201 (4)

This course is designed to develop students' fundamental linguistic skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing with emphasis on oral proficiency. It reinforces and builds upon skills acquired at the 100 level, introducing students to new grammatical structures and vocabulary related to seasons and celebrations, the job market, food, and health care. This course also aims to expand students' knowledge of everyday culture, as expressed through language, in Portuguese-speaking countries,

POR 202 (4)

This course is designed to develop students' fundamental linguistic skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing with emphasis on oral proficiency. It reinforces and builds upon skills acquired at the 100 level and in Portuguese 201, introducing students to new grammatical structures and vocabulary related to traveling, the environment, society, and technology. This course also aims to expand students' knowledge of everyday culture, as expressed through language, in Portuguese-speaking countries.

Spanish Courses

SPA 101, 102 – ELEMENTARY SPANISH I & II (4, 4)

These courses introduce the study of the language, based on the fundamental skills approach (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) with an emphasis on oral proficiency. They are limited to students with little or no previous training in the language or those who are placed in the course by examination. These courses do not fulfill the general core requirement.

SPA 201, 202 – INTERMEDIATE SPANISH I & II (4, 4)

These courses develop proficiency in oral communication and reading and writing. Students are guided through a comprehensive review of basic conversational patterns and pertinent grammar. The language laboratory forms part of the required activities in the courses. Enrollment limited to those who successfully complete the first-year sequence or are placed in the course by examination.

SPA 222 – INTENSIVE INTERMEDIATE SPANISH (4)

An accelerated transition course for honors students, Spanish majors, minors and other interested students. It replaces SPA 202 and introduces students to more advanced literary texts and analysis. Also it provides an intensive reinforcement of grammar and conversational skills. Prerequisite: SPA 201 or equivalent.

SPA 301 – SPANISH GRAMMAR REVIEW (2)

This course offers a review of Spanish grammar for the student in need of a transition course beyond the 200-level before entering more advanced Spanish classes. It also serves as a "bridge" class for the student who has been away from the language for a while or who still needs help with the essential grammar of Spanish. It is offered pass-fail only, for two credit hours. Prerequisite: SPA 202 or equivalent.

SPA 303 – SPANISH CONVERSATION (4)

This course is an intensive training in oral comprehension and the idiomatic use of the spoken language through class discussion and presentations on current topics. Taught in Spanish. It is required of majors and minors and is offered each semester. Prerequisite: SPA 202, 222, or permission from instructor.

SPA 305 – CURRENT TOPICS IN SPANISH: NEWS (2)

This course offers an overview of important current events in the Spanish-speaking world, using Latin American and Spanish newspapers as language and learning tools to present another perspective. In addition to finding, analyzing, summarizing and presenting news information from a variety of Hispanic media, students will also make a comparative study of editorial viewpoint from different national perspectives. Pass/fail only. Prerequisite: SPA 202 or equivalent.

SPA 306 – ADVANCED SPANISH GRAMMAR (4)

This course focuses on the linguistic foundations of Spanish with an emphasis on the morphological and syntactic components of the language. As such, it brings together all the grammatical notions that students have acquired in previous courses and shows the logic behind the rules that govern the actual use of the Spanish language. It combines theory and intensive practice. Taught in Spanish. Required of majors and minors. Offered once a year. Prerequisite: SPA 202 or 222, and permission from instructor.