

Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures

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Mission Statement

The Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures is a central site on campus for the implementation of James Madison University internationalization efforts. Through its course offerings, study abroad programs, organizations and clubs, and the presence of faculty with research areas in diverse foreign cultures, the department embodies cultural diversity, particularly international diversity, at JMU. The strong presence of international students and faculty on campus is a critical indicator of this recognition of international diversity.

The Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures offers students and the community a broad range of educational courses and programs that help develop foreign language competence, a global perspective, and an understanding of foreign cultures both ancient and modern.

The department's mission is to ensure that all graduates with a B.A. have sufficient knowledge of a modern foreign language to build fluency in that language when future personal or professional needs require it; prepare language majors for success as professionals in language-related career fields; enhance the education of non-language majors by providing them foreign language skills that complement their chosen major; teach understanding and appreciation of foreign cultures and provide basic knowledge about the literature, culture, and intellectual achievements of countries other than the U.S.; play a leading role in internationalizing the college curriculum; provide opportunities for language and cultural study abroad; support cross-listed courses for the departments of English and history as part of their major requirements, and the General Education program with courses for the Cluster Two requirements. The department also plays an important role in the university interdisciplinary minors by offering courses for Russian studies, Latin American studies, world literature and classical studies.

Goals and Objectives

The department strives to fulfill that mission by pursuing the following goals. Within each area, students should:

Knowledge

- Be familiar with a variety of linguistic principles in both the target language and their own.
- Understand the major literary movements of the target culture and be familiar with selected major literary texts of the target culture.
- Be familiar with the great ideas of humanity and of Western civilization in particular, especially as they have originated in or influenced the target culture.
- Understand the institutions and history of the target culture.
- Understand similarities and differences between the target culture and their own.

Skills

- Demonstrate reading, writing, listening and speaking skills in both English and the target language.
- Think critically, analytically and objectively.
- Make and formulate informed aesthetic and linguistic judgments.
- Research a topic thoroughly using both traditional and online sources.
- Use computers effectively for a variety of purposes, from word processors and spell checkers in the target language to terminological data bases and machine-aided translation tools.

Experiences

- Ponder what it means to be human in response to literary and cultural studies.
- Engage great texts and great ideas.
- Realize what it is like to be a foreigner with incomplete cultural and linguistic competence.
- See the world through the filter of another language and culture.
- Realize that every language is an imperfect vehicle, riddled with traps and ambiguities.

Attitudes

- Embrace life-long learning.
- Approach issues from interdisciplinary, global and historical perspectives.

- Respect diversity among cultures and within any given culture.
- Respect the opinions and beliefs of other people – and other peoples – while defining and advancing their own.
- Recognize the contingent nature of knowledge.

Program

The department offerings address a wide spectrum of student needs. Our program seeks to:

- Offer a minor and a major in a specific language.
- Strongly recommend a second major and/or minor in another discipline.
- Offer advanced courses for interdisciplinary programs.
- Offer basic courses required for Bachelor of Arts candidates.
- Organize and participate in Honors courses.
- Provide General Education courses in Cluster Two and reinforce Cluster One goals in all courses.

Faculty

The faculty members of the department strive to:

- Meet the ever-evolving needs of the students.
- Develop innovative teaching techniques, courses and programs while preserving a traditional core.
- Engage consistently in scholarship.
- Provide dutiful service to the college, the university and the profession.
- Be a role model for students as educators and as human beings.

All language majors are expected to meet certain objectives.

General

- To have a knowledge of critical thinking methods and to be able to apply these.
- To have had an introduction to computers that includes word processing as well as working with software devoted to grammar exercises, vocabulary development, literature and culture.
- To have developed an appreciation and affective feel for other cultures, not just an intellectual perspective.

Specific

The Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures offers programs designed to:

- Teach students to understand and speak a language with facility.
- Develop skills in reading and writing.
- Provide an acquaintance with foreign literatures.
- Develop an appreciation of foreign cultures.
- Prepare students for professions in education, government work, international trade or for research leading to advanced degrees.

Career Opportunities

- Banking
- Criminal Justice
- Education
- Foreign Service
- Import/Export
- Law

- Management
- Marketing
- Medicine
- Ministry
- Museum work
- Public Relations
- Social work
- Translation

Co-curricular Activities and Organizations

The department supports the following organizations:

- Le Cercle Francophone
- Dobro Slovo
- German Club
- Il Circolo Culturale Italiano
- Phi Sigma Iota
- Russian Club
- El Club de Espanol
- Sigma Delta Pi

Degree Requirements

Bachelor of Arts in Modern Foreign Languages

A student can earn both a B.A. in Modern Foreign Languages and a minor in a specific language. Currently the department provides:

- Four years of instruction in French, German, Italian and Spanish
- Three years of instruction in Arabic and Chinese
- Two years of instruction in Ancient Greek, Japanese, Latin, Korean, Persian, Portuguese, Russian and Swahili

The minimum requirement for a major in languages is 33 upper-division credit hours in a specific language.

Degree Requirements

Required Courses	Credit Hours
General Education ¹	41
Foreign language classes (intermediate level required) ²	0-14
Second Foreign Language (intermediate level required) ²	0-14
Philosophy course (in addition to General Education courses)	3
University electives ³	15-43
Major requirements (listed below)	33
	120

¹ The General Education program contains a set of requirements each student must fulfill. The number of credit hours necessary to fulfill these requirements may vary.

² The foreign language requirement and the second language requirement may be satisfied by successful completion of the second semester of the intermediate level of the student's chosen language (typically 232) or by placing out of that language through the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures' placement test. The second language is not required of double majors or education minors.

³ The number of university electives varies depending on the number of actual credits earned with the first and second language requirements. These language requirements may be fully or partly satisfied through the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures' placement tests, but these tests do not confer actual credits and subsequently the number of university electives students take will vary.

Major Requirements

All language sections share certain core requirements.

Courses	Credit Hours
Two language courses (300 and 320) ¹	6
Two civilization courses (307 and 308)	6
Literature courses in the target language	6-12
Other courses as specified by the section ² (see lists for each language below)	9-15
	33

¹ These courses fulfill the College of Arts and Letters writing-intensive requirement for the major.
² The courses required for Spanish majors are different, as shown in the Spanish listing.

French

FR 300. French Grammar and Communication ¹	3
FR 307. A History of French Civilization	3
FR 308. Contemporary French Civilization	3
FR 320. French Oral and Written Communication	3
FR 335. Introduction to Literature	3
Three 300- or 400-level FR literature courses	9
Three other 300- or 400-level FR courses	9
	33

¹ This course fulfills the College of Arts and Letters writing-intensive requirement for the major.

German

GER 300. German Grammar and Communication ¹	3
GER 307. A History of German Civilization	3
GER 308. Contemporary German Civilization	3
GER 320. German Oral and Written Communication	3
GER 341. German-English Technical/Commercial Translation	3
Two 400-level GER literature courses	6
Four more courses (see following list)	12

Group 1:

- GER 308. Contemporary German Civilization (second time)
- GER 330. Business German
- Any 400-level GER literature courses
- GER 341. German-English Technical/Commercial Translation (second time)

Group 2 (no more than one):

- ENG/GER 436. Studies in German Literature
- GHUM 200. (German works in translation)
- HIST 388. Germany Since 1871

33

¹ This course fulfills the College of Arts and Letters writing-intensive requirement for the major.

Italian

ITAL 300. Italian Grammar and Communication ¹	3
ITAL 307. A History of Italian Civilization	3
ITAL 308. Contemporary Italian Civilization	3
ITAL 320. Italian Oral and Written Communication	3
ITAL 351. Italian-English Technical/Commercial Translation	3
Three 300- or 400-level ITAL literature courses	9
Three other 300- or 400-level ITAL courses	9
	33

¹ This course fulfills the College of Arts and Letters writing-intensive requirement for the major.

Russian

Not available 2009-2010 academic year.

RUS 300. Russian Grammar and Communication ¹	3
RUS 315. Russian Phonetics	3
RUS 320. Russian Oral and Written Communication	3
RUS 400. Advanced Russian Conversation	3
RUS 405. Russian Literature of the 19th Century	3
RUS 426. Russian Literature of the 20th Century	3
Choose one of the following:	3

- RUS 308. Introduction to Russian Civilization
- GEOG 348. Russian and the Former U.S.S.R.
- HIST 385. Russian to 1855
- HIST 386. Russian since 1855

HIST 475. Soviet Russia

POSC 337. Russian Political System

Choose any four of the following: 12

GHUM 200. Great Works in Russian

RUS 490. Special Studies in Foreign Languages² (may be repeated)

RUS 405. Russian Literature of the 19th Century (second time)

RUS 426. Russian Literature of the 20th Century (second time)

TR 300. Introduction to Translation

TR 361. Russian-English Technical/Commercial Translation¹

TR 400. Text Revision

33

¹ This course fulfills the College of Arts and Letters writing-intensive requirement for the major.

² For the RUS 490 course description, see FL 490.

Spanish

SPAN 300. Grammar and Communication ¹	3
SPAN 307. Spanish Civilization	3
SPAN 308. Latin American Civilization	3
SPAN 320. Oral and Written Communication	3
SPAN 335. Introduction to Spanish Literature	3
Three SPAN literature courses	9
Three other 300- or 400-level SPAN courses	9
	33

¹ This course fulfills the College of Arts and Letters writing-intensive requirement for the major.

Additional Language

Students majoring in modern foreign languages must complete the intermediate level of a second language unless they are

- Completing a second major
- Completing an education minor

In case the student has a previous background in a second language, the second language requirement may also be satisfied by placing out of it through the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Culture's placement test. However, in this case, the student must proportionally increase the number of university electives as indicated in the B.A. Degree Requirement (Page 31.)

Teaching Licensure

Students interested in becoming teachers must meet specific curriculum requirements in their major as part of the undergraduate academic degree. In conjunction with the College of Education, the department offers programs leading to the teaching license in French, German, Italian and Spanish. The Collegiate Professional Teaching License in a modern foreign language requires 36 credits in language study.

In addition to the general education and academic major requirements, modern foreign language majors desiring secondary teacher licensure must be admitted to teacher education, complete the pre-professional program in secondary education at the undergraduate level and complete the graduate level Master of Arts in Teaching degree.

It is critical that students seeking licensure consult regularly with both their education adviser and their major adviser to support their progression through the programs. For a full description of the program in secondary teaching, refer to the Department of Middle, Secondary and Mathematics Education, in addition to the College of Education section of the catalog.

Minor Requirements

Modern Foreign Language Minor

A minor in a modern foreign language consists of 18 upper-division credit hours in a specific language.

Arabic

ARAB 300. Arabic Grammar and Communication	3
One 300- or 400-level ARAB literature course	3
Four other 300- or 400-level ARAB courses	12
	<hr/> 18

French

FR 300. French Grammar and Communication	3
FR 320. French Oral and Written Communication	3
FR 335. Introduction to Literature ¹	3
Three other 300- or 400-level FR courses	9
	<hr/> 18

¹ One other French literature course with permission of the department head.

German

GER 300. German Grammar and Communication	3
One 300- or 400-level GER literature course	3
Four other 300- or 400-level GER courses ¹	12
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Italian

ITAL 300. Italian Grammar and Communication	3
One 300- or 400-level ITAL literature course	3
Four other 300- or 400-level ITAL courses	12
	<hr/> 18

Russian

RUS 300. Russian Grammar and Communication	3
RUS 405. Russian Literature of the 19 th Century OR RUS 406. Russian Literature of the 20 th Century	3
Four other 300- or 400-level RUS courses	12
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Spanish

SPAN 300. Grammar and Communication	3
SPAN 335. Introduction to Spanish Literature	3
Four other 300- or 400-level SPAN courses	12
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Professional Minors

Business French

FR 300. French Grammar and Communication	3
FR 320. French Oral and Written Communication	3
FR 330. Business French	3
FR 308. French Civilization	3
FR 351. French/English Translation	3
One 300- or 400-level FR Course	3
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Business German

GER 300. German Grammar and Communication	3
GER 320. German Oral and Written Communication	3
GER 308. German Civilization	3
GER 330. German Business	3
GER 341. German/English Translation	3
One 300- or 400-level GER Course	3
	<hr/> 18

Business Italian

ITAL 300. Italian Grammar and Communication	3
ITAL 320. Italian Oral and Written Communication	3
ITAL 308. Contemporary Italian Civilization	3
ITAL 330. Business Italian	3
ITAL 351. Italian/English Translation	3
ITAL 375. Business and Society in Italy	3
	<hr/> 18

Business Spanish

SPAN 300. Spanish Grammar and Communication	3
SPAN 320. Spanish Oral and Written Communication	3
SPAN 307. Spanish Civilization or SPAN 308 Latin American Civilization	3
SPAN 330. Business Spanish	3
SPAN 321. Spanish/English Translation	3
One 300- or 400-level SPAN Course	3
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Law Enforcement Spanish

SPAN 300. Spanish Grammar and Communication	3
SPAN 320. Spanish Oral and Written Communication	3
SPAN 360. Law Enforcement Spanish	3
SPAN 490. Practical Law Enforcement Spanish	3
SPAN 321. Spanish/English Translation	3
One 300- or 400-level SPAN Course	3
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Legal Spanish

SPAN 300. Spanish Grammar and Communication	3
SPAN 307. Span Civilization or SPAN 308. Latin American Civilization	3
SPAN 320. Spanish Oral and Written Communication	3
SPAN 370. Legal Spanish	3
SPAN 435/TR 435. Translation Strategies	3
One 300- or 400-level SPAN course	3
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Medical Spanish

SPAN 300. Spanish Grammar and Communication	3
SPAN 320. Spanish Oral and Written Communication	3
SPAN 365. Medical Spanish	3
SPAN 490. Practical Medical Spanish	3
SPAN 321. Spanish /English Translation	3
One 300- or 400-level SPAN Course	3
	<hr/> 18

Spanish-English Translation and Interpretation

SPAN 300. Spanish Grammar and Communication	3
SPAN/TR 311. Contrastive Linguistics	3
SPAN/TR 312. Translation Competencies	3
SPAN 320. Spanish Oral and Written Communication	3
SPAN 435/TR 435. Translation Strategies	3
SPAN 436/TR 436. Community Interpretation	3
	<hr/> 18

International Education and Studies Abroad

The department strongly supports – and greatly benefits from – the university's excellent Studies Abroad programs. Majors are strongly encouraged to spend a significant amount of time abroad. Students are urged to check with their language advisers to see which courses taken abroad count toward the language major. Majors in modern foreign languages must take 33 credit hours of foreign language courses specified by the department. Students are required to take 18 of those in courses taught in the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures based on the main JMU campus.

Minors in modern foreign languages must take 18 credit hours of foreign language courses specified by the department. Students are required to take nine of those in courses taught in the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures based on the main JMU campus.

Placement Tests

The score a student receives from the online placement test will be valid for registering in a language class that takes place up to and including the second semester of the sophomore year at JMU. A student who chooses to wait until his or her junior year to begin language study will be required to repeat the online placement test. Students will be placed in a class according to the new score, even if this means starting in a lower-level class than was indicated by the first placement test. In this circumstance, the student will take more classes to fulfill the language requirement for the B.A. degree.

The faculty of the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures strongly recommend that students begin their required language classes no later than the second semester of the sophomore year, and ideally as soon as possible after taking the online placement exam.

Semester Registering	Accepted Placement Score
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Fall, first year	First year test
Spring, first year	First year test
Fall, sophomore year	First year test
Spring, sophomore year	First year test
Fall, junior year (and all later semesters)	Must retake test in spring of sophomore year or later in order to register for language classes for this semester and all later semesters