

# LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

## Overview

### About the Department

The Department of Languages and Cultures offers a variety of programs in languages, literatures, linguistics, and cultures. Its broad aim is to explore the linguistic, cultural, and textual forms by which human beings have constructed and interpreted reality and fictional forms.

The department prepares students to develop expertise in the following areas: literatures of the world, literary studies, cultural studies, visual culture, intercultural theory and communication/translation, *eloquentia perfecta* (theater, performance, writing, and public speaking), linguistics and bilingualism/multilingualism, and humanitarianism (anthropology/political science/international studies). Our students demonstrate a commitment to collaborative leadership in community-engaged learning, contact zones, and language cultures (business, health, social justice, translation).

The department offers language courses in Arabic, French, German, Hebrew (LC), Italian, Japanese (LC), Mandarin Chinese, Russian (LC), and Spanish; majors in the following languages and literatures and area studies: Chinese studies, French and Francophone studies, German, Italian, Spanish Language and Literature, and Spanish studies, and minors in Arabic, French and Francophone studies, German, Italian, Linguistics, Mandarin Chinese, Russian, and Spanish.

Courses at the 2000 level normally concentrate on advanced language, communication, linguistics, and cultural studies. Courses at the 3000 level normally concentrate on in-depth analysis of literature and artistic productions, intercultural theory, cultural and humanitarian studies, and linguistics. Courses at the 4000 level include Interdisciplinary Capstone Core courses, Senior Values Seminars, and courses that provide students with the opportunity to pursue faculty-mentored research either in the form of an individualized thesis, in our neurolinguistic or sociolinguistic laboratories, or in the social innovation project on water and migration in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Languages and Cultures also offers a variety of hands-on Community Engaged Learning Courses that enable students to use their linguistic and cultural skills as they work with local New York City communities on a variety of social justice minded issues in addition to LACU courses taught in English on a myriad of subject matters. The majority of our majors are double majors in a wide variety of fields of specialization including among others: communication and media studies, comparative literature, English, humanitarian studies, integrative neuroscience, international political development, international studies, philosophy, psychology, political science, and visual arts.

### Program Activities

The department offers a broad range of activities for undergraduates and the broader Fordham community including weekly conversation cafés in the various languages, cultural nights and concerts, literary journals such as *Le Bélier*, sponsored film screenings, master classes with some of the most preeminent creators in the industry, Fordham Reads Dante, the Bronx Italian American History Initiative (BIAHI), and numerous other interventions. Invited speakers offer formal lectures, informal talks, seminars, and workshops either designed for or open to undergraduates. The French section's *Concours d'éloquence* in partnership with the French Office of Cultural Services offers Fordham students the opportunity to

compete both internally and against students from Columbia, CUNY, and NYU.

Since summer 2020, the department has embarked on the LACU Vocab Diversity Initiative, a collaborative initiative between faculty and students which seeks to understand how language, and the way we and our textbooks present and represent language/vocabulary in the classroom, create, reinforce, and normalize certain forms of bias, stereotype, and prejudice. As a result of the ongoing roundtables and workshops devoted to the subject and various other related initiatives, LACU remains committed to the ongoing revision of our curriculum and our pedagogy to be more actively anti-racist and inclusive.

The students studying abroad at Fordham's center in Granada, Spain, publish the journal *Por Granada*, which collects the term papers completed in the course *Spain in Context*. Students taking the LACU course "Berlin Tales," which includes a study tour to Berlin over spring break, publish their research papers in the journal *Kiez Kieken*.

### Awards and Scholarships

Each year the department bestows a number of awards and scholarships on Fordham students for excellence in the study of foreign languages, literatures, and cultures, and for outstanding commitment to promoting foreign language learning and foreign culture awareness at Fordham and in the larger community. Awards and scholarships include:

- Francis R. Favorini Italian Achievement Award (FCRH)
- French Achievement Award (FCRH)
- German Achievement Award (FCRH/FCLC)
- Anthony and Cecilia Guardiani Award (FCRH)
- Heydt French Award (FCRH)
- Heydt Spanish Award (FCRH)
- Spanish Achievement Award (FCRH/FCLC)
- Istituto Italiano di Cultura Award (FCRH)
- Arabic Achievement Award (FCRH/FCLC)
- Mandarin Achievement Award (FCRH/FCLC)
- Russian Achievement Award (FCRH/FCLC)
- Fernand and Santina Vial Scholarship (FCRH, FCLC, GSB)

In addition, honors are awarded to the student with the highest GPA in each of the minors and majors our department offers at FCLC. Students who excel in their German classes will receive a Certificate of Achievement from the German government.

### Internships

Students who wish to pursue an internship and receive college credit for it should contact their major adviser and Career Services to identify internship opportunities relevant to their field of study and professional interests. Credits for internship tutorials will be granted depending upon the type of internship, the extent to which the relevant language is used in the work environment, and the significance of the experience for a student's course of study. The number of credits is contingent on the fulfillment of various requirements, such as regular meetings with the adviser, weekly written reports, and completion of a substantial final project, among others.

Below is a sample of organizations at which some of our students have done internships in past years:

- Alliance Française of New York (FIAF)
- Bayern München (the soccer club's NYC office)
- Cultural Services of the French Embassy (CALEC)
- German-American Chamber of Commerce
- Goethe Institute
- Hermès
- Kino Lorber
- *Le Figaro* (sports division)
- Met Cloisters
- Morgan Library and Museum
- National Organization of Italian American Women (NOIAW)
- New Sanctuary Coalition
- New York African Film Festival
- One Week/Un Acte
- Pergamena parchment makers
- Rare Books Collection at Columbia University Library
- Sorteer
- Theatrical production of *Fragments of a Star*
- Theatrical production of *Les Bonnes* at La Mama Theater
- *Vogue*

## Student Clubs and Honor Societies

Languages and Cultures students are encouraged to share and develop their literary and cultural interests by becoming involved in student clubs and Honor Societies at Rose Hill and Lincoln Center. Such clubs as the following sponsor academic and social events including lectures, film series, outings and dinners to foster an understanding and appreciation of foreign languages and cultures beyond the traditional classroom setting:

- Academia Hispana (RH)
- El Grito de Lares (RH)
- Le Cercle Français (RH)
- CIAO Amici (LC)
- Deutscher Studenten Klub (RH)
- Insieme Italian Cultural Society (RH)
- La Société Française (LC)
- Honor Societies:
  - Alpha Mu Gamma (foreign languages, RH)
  - Gamma Kappa Alpha (Italian, RH and LC)
  - Pi Delta Phi (French, RH)
  - Sigma Delta Pi (Spanish, RH and LC)

## Study Abroad

The faculty of the Department of Languages and Cultures believe immersive study is one of the best ways to gain linguistic and cultural fluency and encourage our students to study abroad for a semester or an entire academic year. As such, the faculty works carefully with each individual student to discover and prepare for a study abroad experience whether for a semester, year, summer, or as part of a Fordham study tour. We send students each year to Africa, China, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East, and have relationships with some of the best and most academically rigorous programs in the world. In addition, Fordham maintains fall, spring, and summer study abroad programs in Granada (Spain) and at our London campus (United Kingdom). It also has exchange agreements with universities in Argentina, Austria, Brazil,

Colombia, France, Italy, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Perú, Spain, and South Korea.

Students who study abroad can rather easily become a double major in our department and usually at least two of the courses taken abroad can apply to both of the student's majors or to a major and minor. Students who opt to apply study abroad credits toward their major or minor must seek approval from their major or minor adviser in their language area prior to their going abroad. See program requirements above for accepted maximum number of courses. Additional study abroad credits accepted by Fordham University may be applied as elective credits toward graduation, but not toward the major or the minor. For further information about study abroad, interested students should contact the department and the Office of International and Study Abroad Programs ([www.fordham.edu/isap](http://www.fordham.edu/isap)).

## For more information

Visit the Languages and Cultures department web page.

## Contribution to the Core

A 2000-level course or above in a modern language other than English fulfills the language requirement. In order to achieve this level of mastery of a foreign language, a mastery that will allow students to comprehend a text of average sophistication in its oral and written form and to comment on it orally and in writing in a coherent and grammatically correct manner, the 2000-level course provides a critical analysis of selected cultural and literary texts, with composition, conversation, and review of pertinent grammatical structures.

Language skills preparation: One to three courses. Students who need preparation before taking the required 2000-level course have:

- Four entry points in French and Spanish, depending upon their prior knowledge of the language:
  - 1001-Introduction I
  - 1002-Introduction II
  - 1501-Intermediate I
  - 1502-Intermediate II
- Three entry points in Arabic, German, modern Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, and Russian:
  - 1001-Introduction I
  - 1501-Intermediate I
  - 1502-Intermediate II

All those beginning a language at the most basic level take an intensive one-semester course worth five credits in order to accelerate their progress. Other students begin with the course in which they are placed by the department and progress to the 2000-level course. Spanish-heritage speakers, who place out of levels 1001 through 1502 of the language, will take SPAN 2301 Spanish for Heritage Speakers instead of 2001 or 2201 to fulfill the language requirement. Students with advanced skills will take SPAN 2500 Approaches to Literature Incoming students seeking a substitution/waiver for the foreign language core through the Office of Disability Services must complete this process by the end of the fall semester of their sophomore year.

Exemptions: B.S. and B.F.A. students, B.A. students in PCS, and those majoring in natural science will not have a language requirement unless required for their major.

In addition, the department offers courses that fulfill the American Pluralism, Global Studies, *Eloquentia Perfecta* 2, 3, and 4, Advanced Literature, Interdisciplinary Capstone, and Senior Values core requirements. It also offers Community Engaged Learning Courses that integrate coursework with service in the diverse and multilingual context of New York City.

Study abroad is an integral part of the study of foreign language, literature, and culture. Students are highly encouraged to study abroad in a foreign-language-speaking country for a semester or a year.

All courses counting towards the core language requirement and the major or the minor in a modern foreign language, literature and culture must be taken for credit and a letter grade. When AP or IB credits are awarded as equivalent to the 1502 level in a language, these credits will be applied toward the core language requirement and, as elective credits, toward graduation, but they will not be applied toward the major or the minor in that language.

## Programs Majors

- Chinese Studies Major
- French and Francophone Studies Major
- German Language and Literature Major
- German Studies Major
- Italian Language and Literature Major
- Italian Studies Major
- Spanish Language and Literature Major
- Spanish Studies Major

## Minors

- Arabic Minor
- French and Francophone Studies Minor
- German Minor
- Italian Minor
- Linguistics Minor
- Mandarin Chinese Minor
- Russian Minor
- Spanish Minor

## Learning Outcomes

### Language Programs' Learning Outcomes

#### GOAL 1 - STUDENTS WILL DEVELOP A CRITICAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE LANGUAGES AND DIVERSE CULTURES ASSOCIATED WITH THE LANGUAGES

At the completion of 2001/2301:

- Students will be able to use the language of study at Intermediate Mid ACTFL level and Intermediate High level/CEFRFL B1 as part of their ability to move between and among languages and cultures.
- Students will be able to illustrate examples of the diversity within the cultures associated with the language of study

At the completion of the minor:

- Students will be able to conduct critical analyses of written/ audiovisual/cultural texts, by examining language uses as historically

and contextually situated in a system informed by colonialism, ideologies, and faith traditions.

In addition, at the completion of the major:

- Students will be able to illustrate how differences are discursively constructed, recognizing some of the subtleties of how language can be used to exercise and resist power.

#### GOAL 2 - STUDENTS WILL REFLECT ON THEMSELVES AND ON THEIR BELONGING TO SPACES AND COMMUNITIES, THROUGH THE LENS OF MULTILINGUALISM

At the completion of 2001/2301:

- Students will be able to explore in writing and in speech how their own linguistic and cultural backgrounds enter into dialogue with the cultures and languages they study.

At the completion of the minor:

- Students will be able to examine and interpret materials in the languages they study to deconstruct nation-based notions of culture and contextualize (multi) language use.

In addition, at the completion of the major:

- Students will be able to describe how the cultural narratives, stereotypes, and perception of the language of study and of their own expanding multilingualism are shaped along the lines of power within the communities and contexts in which they live.

#### GOAL 3 - STUDENTS WILL REFLECT ON THE WORLD THROUGH LANGUAGE USE AND CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

At the completion of 2001/2301:

- Students will be able to articulate questions and participate in pressing social, environmental, and political conversations locally and globally, drawing from texts in the languages studied.

At the completion of the minor:

- Students will be able to articulate questions and participate in pressing social, environmental, or political conversations locally and globally, drawing from a variety of texts in the languages studied.

In addition, at the completion of the major:

- Students analyze texts and topics assuming a variety of disciplinary lenses and frameworks and critically examine the implications of this multidisciplinary approach.

At the completion of a CEL course:

- Students will be able to actively engage with the multilingual and multicultural community in and outside Fordham, building on their linguistic and cultural knowledge to be "people for others."

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## Linguistics' Learning Outcomes

At the end of their linguistics studies, students will be able to:

- Apply the tools of linguistic analysis to language data;
- Participate actively in discussions of language and linguistics issues;

- Demonstrate a clear understanding and professional command of what language is and how language works and is used;
- Observe and analyze how linguistic phenomena manifest in the larger world;
- Connect language and linguistics insights with social justice issues;
- Critically evaluate linguistic work, including empirical research, theoretical perspectives, and future directions; and
- Enrich their interdisciplinary expertise by engaging with diverse fields of linguistic inquiry including psycholinguistics, linguistic anthropology, sociolinguistics, communications, and language learning.