MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures offers a variety of programs in foreign languages and literatures and in related area studies. Its broad aim is to explore the linguistic and literary forms by which human beings have constructed and interpreted reality in order to develop in students a competence in one or more modern foreign languages and cultures. Works of imaginative literature, among other forms of cultural expression, such as film, music, theater and the visual arts, are the focus of our programs, as is the study of languages, upon which humanistic education, personal development, and professional training all depend.

The department offers language courses in Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Russian, and Spanish; majors in the following languages and literatures and area studies: French, German, Italian, and Spanish, and minors in Arabic, French, German, Italian, Mandarin Chinese, Russian, and Spanish.

Courses at the 2000 level normally concentrate on advanced language, communication, and cultural studies. Courses at the 3000 level normally concentrate on literary movements, periods, and themes. Cultural studies courses with a substantial literary component are also numbered at the 3000 level. Courses at the 4000 level normally concentrate on in-depth study of individual authors and texts and are conducted as seminars.

Program Activities

The department offers a broad range of activities for undergraduates and regularly sponsors film screenings in conjunction with courses and lectures. Invited speakers offer formal lectures, informal talks, seminars, and workshops either designed for or open to undergraduates. The students participating in the study abroad program in Granada, Spain, also publish the journal Por Granada, which collects the terms papers completed in the course Spain in Contest.

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:

- The Francis R. Favorini Italian Achievement Award (FCRH)
- The French Achievement Award (FCRH)
- The German Achievement Award (FCRH)
- The Anthony and Cecilia Guardiani Award (FCRH)
- The Heydt French Award (FCRH)
- The Heydt Spanish Award (FCRH)
- The Istituto Italiano di Cultura Award (FCRH)
- The Alfred A. Puglisi Travel Award to Italy (FCRH, FCLC, GSB, PCS)
- The Russian Award (FCRH)
- The Fernand and Santina Vial Scholarship (FCRH, FCLC, GSB)

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 foreign 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.

Student Clubs and Honor Societies

Modern languages and literatures 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)
- Le Cercle Français (RH)
- CIAO Amici (LC)
- The Deutscher Studenten Klub (RH)
- Insieme Italian Cultural Society (RH)
- La Société Française (LC)
- The 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 modern languages and literatures faculty offer courses with study tour components in Austria, Chile, Cuba, and Germany and teach in Fordham-sponsored study abroad programs in Granada (Spain), and Rome (Italy). The department encourages students to study abroad for one or two semesters. 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).

For more information

Visit the Modern Languages and Literatures department web page.

Contribution to the Core

The 2001-level course 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 2001-level course provides a critical analysis of selected cultural and literary texts, with composition, conversation, and review of pertinent grammatical structures.
Modern Languages and Literatures

Language skills preparation: One to three courses. Students who need preparation before taking the required 2001-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 2001 level. Heritage speakers of Spanish, who place out of levels 1001 through 1502 of the language, will take SPAN 2301 Advanced for Spanish Speakers instead of 2001 to fulfill the language requirement. Incoming freshmen 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 and 3, Advanced Literature, and Interdisciplinary Capstone core requirements. It also offers service-learning courses that integrate language learning with service in New York City’s foreign-language-speaking communities.

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. For information on study abroad requirements and on applying study abroad course credits toward a major or a minor, please read below.

All courses counting toward 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:
  • French Language and Literature Major
  • French 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 Minor
  • German Minor
  • Italian Minor
  • Mandarin Chinese Minor
  • Russian Minor
  • Spanish Minor