



An Introduction to Modern Literatures and Cultures

The study of languages and cultures other than one's own is more important today than ever before. We are increasingly aware of the practical necessity to "think globally" in today's social, political and economic environments. Acknowledging and entering into the linguistic realities of other cultures, as well as the multiple languages within our own, are crucial components of coming to terms with cultural diversity. The Department of Modern Literatures and Cultures promotes the use of language as an expression of human culture, aesthetic insight and means of recording collective memory.

Elementary and intermediate language courses stress immersion in the target language as the best means of achieving proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing. After the intermediate level, students focus on improving specific skills, writing more extensively and gaining a deeper appreciation of literature and culture. Many choose to study abroad at this point.

The most advanced seminars allow students to experience the wealth of other cultures firsthand, to express themselves with clarity and nuance, and to become acquainted with the world of disciplinary scholarship. Literary, linguistic and cultural studies are relevant to education in any field or pursuit that values the need to read, reflect and write critically and effectively.

Programs

Among the multiple languages taught in the department, majors are offered in French, German and Russian studies. An Asian studies concentration is offered as part of the international studies major. Minors are offered in Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian and interdisciplinary Italian

studies. Majors are also offered in combined programs such as German or French and international business, or German or French and English. The department is inaugurating a pilot program for the first two semesters in Arabic. Many of the language programs offer advanced students the opportunity to work as drill assistants in beginning and intermediate language classes. All students enjoy the collaborative atmosphere of these small-group sessions and even the most advanced find that their own language skills improve through helping others. The curriculum prepares students for graduate school in the many fields of study open to the language major, as well as for immediate entrance into the job market.

Study Abroad Opportunities

For students planning a minor or major, a semester or year of study abroad is highly recommended. In stressing the importance of study abroad for all students, the department strongly encourages participation in university-sponsored programs. Summer language programs currently are available in China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Russia. Semester programs are available in France, Germany, Italy, Russia and many other locations.

The University has established cooperative arrangements with universities around the world and is constantly increasing such educational opportunities. Both the department and the Office of International Education will work with individuals to plan and organize study abroad. Financial aid for studying abroad is available. Merit-based scholarships are awarded through the department; applications for need-based scholarships are obtained through the Office of Financial Aid.

The department encourages students to explore the relationships between

the study of languages, literatures and cultures and other disciplines. Modern Literatures and Cultures students have been involved in community service projects in the local Russian communities; and they have benefited from other opportunities for cultural immersion such as the annual University of Richmond/Virginia Commonwealth University French Film Festival. The department also sponsors numerous cultural events and lectures.

Multimedia Laboratory

A new state-of-the-art multimedia foreign language laboratory is located in Puryear Hall. This laboratory contains 22 stations, each with audio equipment, a computer and facilities for word-processing, World Wide Web access, videodiscs and CD-ROM programs.

Examples of Employment Pursuits of Recent Graduates

- Accounting
- Development Administration
- Finance
- Management
- Marketing
- Peace Corps
- Research (nonscientific)
- Social Services Administration
- Teaching at both the university and secondary levels

A Sampling of Schools Accepting Recent Graduates

- Columbia University
- Duke University Law School
- Harvard Divinity School
- Monterey Institute of International Studies
- Ohio State University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Stanford University
- University of California, Berkeley

University of Graz, Austria
University of North Carolina at
Chapel Hill
University of Rochester Medical
School
University of Salamanca, Spain
University of Texas at Austin
University of Virginia

Faculty

Julie Baker

Ph.D., Indiana University
Director, Intensive Language
Program in French

Thomas Bonfiglio

Ph.D., Indiana University
Professor of comparative literature
and linguistics
Distinguished Educator Award, 1989,
Gaines Chair, 2005
Areas of specialty: German and com-
parative literature, 18th-century
studies, feminist theory, Freud, lin-
guistics

Kathrin Bower

Ph.D., University of Wisconsin
Associate professor of German
Distinguished Educator Award, 2001
Areas of specialty: Holocaust litera-
ture, German-Jewish writers, 20th-
century women writers, media and
memory

Yvonne Howell

Ph.D., University of Michigan
Associate professor of Russian
Areas of specialty: Russian language,
Soviet and post-Soviet culture,
20th-century Russian and Czech
literature

Kasongo M. Kapanga

Ph.D., Vanderbilt University
Associate professor of French
Areas of specialty: Francophone liter-
ature, post-colonial criticism

Lorenza Marcini

Laurae, Università di Urbino
Director, Italian Language Program

Sara Pappas

Ph.D., Cornell University
Assistant professor of French
Areas of specialty: 19th-century
French literature and art history

Lidia Radi

Ph.D., Rutgers University and the
Université Grenoble III-Stendhal,
France
Assistant professor of French and
Italian
Areas of specialty: French literature of
the Renaissance, contemporary
Italian culture and film

Francoise Ravoux-Kirkpatrick

Ph.D., Michigan State University
Professor of French
Distinguished Educator Award, 1988
Areas of specialty: 20th-century
French literature, semiotics, French
cinema

Martin Sulzer-Reichel

M.A., Albert-Ludwigs Universität,
Freiburg Germany
Director of German and Arabic
Language Programs
Areas of specialty: German language,
culture and literature, Arabic language

Sharon Scinicariello

Ph.D., University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill
Director, Multimedia Language Lab

Akira Suzuki

M.A., University of Pittsburgh
Director, Japanese Language Program

Rose Lee-Yong Tan

M.A., The Chinese University of
Hong Kong
Director, Chinese Language Program

Robert M. Terry

Ph.D., Duke University
Professor of French
Gaines Chair Award, 2002
Areas of specialty: foreign language
pedagogy, French grammar, French
phonetics

Joseph Troncale

Ph.D., Cornell University
Associate professor of Russian
Distinguished Educator Award, 1983
Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award,
1989
Areas of specialty: Russian literature,
art and art history