

MODERN AND CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

All language study is a necessarily interdisciplinary enterprise, affording students exposure to meaningful discussions of history, culture, the social sciences, literature, philosophy, and contemporary society. The department seeks to furnish our students the opportunity to immerse themselves in a culture not their own and, by doing so, encourages them to develop a global perspective that is both reflective and passionate.

In addition to instruction in Classical Latin, the department offers instruction in four modern languages: French, Spanish, Chinese, and Arabic. Our pedagogical approach in the modern languages fosters proficiency and interculturality, with the overarching goal of learning to communicate effectively and appropriately with members of the target cultures. Listening and speaking skills are fostered through conversation, oral and aural exercises, and a variety of methods focused on active student participation. Students begin writing in the target language in the first level and complete assignments ranging from composition of poetry to analytical papers. New in 2019-20 is an interdisciplinary course taught in English entitled “Global, Digital Cultures”; please see page 19 for a full description.

Course texts and materials are selected in order to present an authentic cultural and literary experience, with the broad aim of acquainting the student with the ethos of other peoples. The Language Learning Center provides students with opportunities in an exploratory setting to practice and record their own communication, sample an ever-increasing array of media, polish linguistic skills, and explore foreign literature and culture online and through a variety of specially designed software.

For information on courses designated *GESC*, please refer to pages 5–6.

Arabic

Arabic I

This yearlong course introduces the basics of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), with an introduction to Levantine Colloquial Arabic (from the region including Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinian Territories). Emphasis during the first term will be on mastering the 28-letter alphabet of the Arabic script and pronouncing its sounds, with introductory vocabulary and cultural expressions. The second and third terms will begin to build vocabulary in Levantine and MSA and teach introductory grammar. This course is taught using the *Alif Baa* and *Arabiyyat Al-Naas* with accompanying DVDs. Students practice their writing, reading, listening, and speaking skills in both the classroom and independently. This course is not open to native speakers of Arabic.

Arabic II

This yearlong course continues the development of the grammar and vocabulary of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and spoken Levantine Colloquial Arabic (from the region including Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinian Territories). The course continues where students left off in Arabic I in *Arabiyyat Al-Naas*, using specially designed video segments with characters and plot to gain exposure to task-based vocabulary and grammatical structures. Emphasis is placed on reading and writing in MSA, in addition to using Arabic for communication with native speakers. Students practice their writing, reading, listening, and speaking skills in both the classroom and independently. Prerequisite: Arabic I or permission of the department

Arabic III

This yearlong course continues the development of the grammar and vocabulary of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and spoken Levantine Colloquial Arabic (from the region including Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinian Territories). The course prepares students for advanced Arabic by guiding them through the *Al-Kitaab* textbook series widely used at the university level. Emphasis is placed on reading and writing in MSA, in addition to using Arabic for communication with native speakers. Students practice their writing, reading, listening, and speaking skills both in the classroom and independently. Prerequisite: Arabic II or permission of the department

Arabic IV

This yearlong course continues the development of the grammar and vocabulary of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and Levantine Colloquial Arabic (from the region including Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinian Territories).

The course continues where students left off in Arabic III in the *Al-Kitaab* series and uses primary sources in media, history, literature, and film, according to student interest. Emphasis is placed on reading, writing, and speaking in MSA, as the students develop their abilities to engage with more sophisticated topics. Students practice their writing, reading, listening, and speaking skills both in the classroom and independently. Prerequisite: Arabic III or permission of the department

Arabic V (GESC)

half course

This course explores historical and contemporary issues in the Arabic-speaking world through examining primary source material in media, history, literature (e.g. poetry, plays, and short novels), and film. Emphasis is placed on reading, analytical writing, and speaking in MSA, as the students develop their abilities to engage with the sophisticated topics in the primary sources. Students practice their writing, reading, listening, and speaking skills both in the classroom and independently. Prerequisite: Arabic IV or permission of the department

Chinese

Chinese I

This course introduces the basic structures of Mandarin Chinese. Emphasis is placed on pronouncing Chinese sounds, developing listening comprehension, learning Chinese characters, and mastering the fundamentals of Chinese grammar, along with an introduction to Chinese culture. This course is taught using the “pinyin” phonetic system and simplified characters. The course is not open to native speakers of Chinese.

Chinese II

This course further develops mastery of all fundamentals, with emphasis on oral and written skills, along with some attention to social and cultural issues. This class includes frequent written and oral practice.

Advanced Chinese II

This course continues the development of both written and oral skills in the target language with additional emphasis on acquiring more Chinese characters and improving self-expression on familiar and personal topics. Students will study additional readings and selections of poetry at an accelerated pace that will afford extensive exposure to key cultural topics. Open to students who have performed well in Chinese I or the equivalent. Prerequisite: permission of the department

Chinese III

Students continue to expand their base of vocabulary and sentence patterns, and they focus on developing fluency in the language. There is heavy emphasis on practicing both conversational and written Chinese. The course exposes students to colloquial and common idiomatic expressions and other nuances of spoken Chinese. Students also practice writing letters and essays on reading topics.

Advanced Chinese III

Designed for students who have clearly demonstrated strong proficiency in speaking and writing with a mastery of fundamental grammar, this intermediate course further develops the students' ability to write effectively in the target language and to discuss topics centered on daily life. Students develop a functional, working vocabulary at an accelerated pace. In addition, the study of Chinese history and culture form an increasingly critical role in the curriculum. Open to students who have successfully completed Advanced Chinese II or the equivalent. Prerequisite: permission of the department

Chinese IV

This course allows students to extend their mastery of the Chinese language. The syllabus includes readings and class discussions on topics relevant to contemporary life in China, Taiwan, and other Chinese communities. Composition writing and oral presentations are also required. Students should expect frequent conversation exercises.

Advanced Chinese IV

This advanced course emphasizes composition and discussion in Chinese. The textbook provides the structure and framework for students to understand further the idiosyncrasies and details of Chinese language and culture. Additionally, the course covers a rich variety of topics, including Chinese customs, social phenomena, Chinese proverbs, the role of women, and human rights issues. The study of China's history as well as contemporary China in the larger global context will play a critical role. Class is conducted exclusively in Chinese. Prerequisite: permission of the

department.

Chinese V (GESC)

This course allows students to further their study of Chinese language and culture. The syllabus includes readings and class discussions about Chinese history, Chinese language/characters, social changes, and other issues of interest. Class is conducted exclusively in Chinese. Composition/essay writing and oral presentations are also required.

CL Chinese V (GESC)

This course is designed in accordance with the College Board guidelines to prepare students for the AP exam in Chinese. Students must develop a deeper appreciation and understanding of the Chinese language and culture. Through intensive reading, writing, speaking, and listening practices, this course aims to elevate students' level of Chinese proficiency across the three communicative modes (interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational) and the five goal areas (communicative, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities). Students are encouraged to take the AP Chinese exam upon completion of the course. Class is conducted exclusively in Chinese. Prerequisite: permission of the department

CL Chinese VI: Modern China through Literature (GESC)

half course/not offered 2019-20

This course explores the work of a few well-known Chinese authors after the Mao era (1976–present). Through readings and discussions of essays, short stories, and novels, students learn the fundamental changes that Chinese people have lived through during the last 30 years (1980–2012). These social, political, and economic changes have affected long-held traditional values, Chinese society, and culture. Prerequisite: completion of CL Chinese V or departmental approval

CL Chinese VI: Contemporary Issues in China (GESC)

half course

Through selected newspaper articles and essays, this course explores the evolution of Chinese society over the past several decades — a period of time during which we have witnessed a departure from many traditional Chinese ideals. From the astronomical prices of housing and university studies to the “one child” policy, students will tackle difficult topics and gain a better understanding of contemporary issues in the “New China.” Pre-requisite: permission of the department

Independent Studies in Chinese

term course

A student who is highly proficient in a foreign language may propose an Independent Study Project (ISP). The student has to have exhausted all curricular offerings to be considered for an ISP. The student must arrange for a project advisor from within the department, **submit a written proposal**, and obtain approval from the academic advisor, project advisor, department head, and dean of faculty for any ISP. All discussion and all writing submitted must be in Chinese.

School Year Abroad in China

Please see Alternate Study beginning on page 52.

French

French I

This course introduces the basic structures of the French language, stressing communication skills: understanding, speaking, reading, and writing. Students practice listening comprehension as well as speaking in the classroom and in the Language Learning Center.

French II

This course continues the development of communication skills, with increasing emphasis on oral proficiency, reading comprehension and written expression. Students speak in French for the majority of class time.

Advanced French II

In this class, introductory literary readings accompany extensive oral and aural training as well as exercises focused on form. In the classroom, students speak French almost exclusively, honing their pronunciation and communication skills. Francophone culture and literature are explored through reading selections and films representing a variety of genres and topics. Enrollment is restricted to students who have excelled in French I or whose preparation qualifies

them for the work at an accelerated pace. Prerequisite: permission of the department

French III

In addition to reviewing basic grammar, this course emphasizes a conversational approach to acquiring all linguistic skills necessary for communication in French. Students practice writing and speaking and discuss short stories and films. Aspects of French culture and history are also introduced.

Advanced French III

This course is an enrichment of French III, offered to students who have performed well in Advanced French II or in an equivalent course at another school. In addition to promoting mastery of grammatical structures and the acquisition of vocabulary, the course presents topics in French and Francophone culture, as well as a variety of reading materials. Students practice their communication skills, written and oral, through a variety of activities. Successful completion of this course may qualify a student to continue in the CL French Language IV course. Prerequisite: permission of the department

French IV

This course provides continued development of all linguistic skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing and cultural competency. It includes review and further study of grammatical structures, and conversational language taught in context. Francophone culture and literature are explored through reading selections and films representing a variety of genres and topics.

CL French Language IV

This comprehensive, full-year course is designed to consolidate the mastery of linguistic skills, including listening and reading comprehension, conversation, and composition. Students develop their literary skills by reading, discussing, and writing about works by modern authors and articles from the French and Francophone press. Students may achieve the mastery necessary to sit for the Advanced Placement examination. Successful completion of this course may qualify students to pursue Advanced French V. Prerequisite: permission of the department

French V

At the fifth level of language study, students may elect term courses, taken either separately or as a three-term sequence. Prerequisite: French IV or permission of the department

French V: Global Challenges in the Francophone World (GESC)

fall term

This course considers a number of current global challenges in the Francophone world related to the environment, health, nutrition, and safety. Students strengthen their command of the language through readings, discussions, and presentations on topics ranging from the birth of the concept of *Francophonie* to the recent effects of climate change in the French West Indies. Readings include selections from French daily newspapers and monthly magazines, while audio and video clips are used from online French-speaking websites.

French V: Modern Writers (GESC)

winter term

This course explores the work of three contemporary French authors and the cinematographic adaptations of one of their novels. After completing a brief overview of Francophone literature in the 20th and 21st centuries, students strengthen their command of the language through reading excerpts from each work. Students take turns leading class discussions, bringing to the fore a particular aspect of the work that strikes them. After viewing the filmic version of the novel, students complete comparative analytic essays.

French V: Cinema (GESC)

spring term

In this course, selected films by well-known French and Francophone directors are viewed and discussed. Films range in genre from comedy to contemporary classics to Nouvelle Vague. Students analyze characters and themes, and complete oral work and scene preparation in order to enhance the cinematographic experience.

CL French V (GESC)

year course

This full-year course provides an in-depth study of literary, cultural, and social works by authors such as Voltaire, Baudelaire, Camus, Azouz Begag, Leïla Sebbar and Yazmina Reza. Films from around the Francophone world complement these textual studies. In this stage in their studies, students are able to lead discussions solely in the target language as well as fine tune their analytical and creative writing skills. Prerequisite: permission of the department

CL French VI (GESC)

half course

This course is offered to students who have successfully completed the Advanced French V course (or its equivalent at another school) or who have returned from the SYA program in Rennes, France. The course concentrates on readings of all genres, from literature to newspaper articles to historical texts. The goal of the course is to acquaint the highly advanced French student with topics from the French-speaking world. The course is taught entirely in French, seminar style and requires active class participation and debate as well as an ability to make cross-cultural and comparative literature analyses. Prerequisite: permission of the department

Independent Studies in French

term course

A student who is highly proficient in a foreign language may propose an Independent Study Project (ISP). The student has to have exhausted all curricular offerings in order to be considered for an ISP. The student must arrange for a project advisor from within the department, **submit a written proposal**, and obtain approval from the academic advisor, project advisor, department head, and dean of faculty for any ISP. All discussion and all writing submitted must be in French.

School Year Abroad in France

Please see Alternate Study beginning on page 51.

Classical Latin

The study of classical Latin immerses its students among the influences and consequences of the Roman Republic and Empire. While comprehensive study of the language's grammar guides early lessons, exposure to cultural and historical elements are of prime importance, and further coursework leads students to a robust and nuanced understanding of the ancient Mediterranean.

The aim is to produce students who can read and enjoy Latin; therefore, the focus is on the comprehension of Latin poetry and prose and the careful comprehension of this material in the context of the English idiom. Readings are chosen from a select range of primary sources; within the first three levels, a student gains some acquaintance with the principal writers of the late Republic and the Augustan ages as well as the grammatical and linguistic skills needed for advanced study.

Latin I

This course introduces the fundamental vocabulary and grammar required for mastery of classical Latin. By providing both intensive study of basic linguistic elements and practice in reading Latin, this course prepares students for the varied reading program in Latin II. Students focus on mythology as they begin their cultural study of Roman civilization.

Latin II

This course begins with a study of grammar and vocabulary, and proceeds with selections from several classical Roman authors. As students work to build Latin vocabulary, they study the Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes that enrich English vocabulary. Students also continue their cultural and historical study of the Roman world.

Advanced Latin II

This fast-paced course begins with an intensive study of grammar and vocabulary, and proceeds with selections from several classical Roman authors. As students work to build Latin vocabulary, they study the Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes that enrich English vocabulary. Students also continue their cultural and historical study of the Roman world. Prerequisite: permission of the department

Latin III

The third level is structured around the reading and interpretation of various Latin authors from the Republic to the late empire, as well as selected pieces by Medieval and Renaissance authors. In addition to nightly readings, students analyze texts in class discussion and written assignments. Instruction includes the study of the development of Latin culture: the arts, socio-political themes, and history. The fall term includes an intensive grammar review necessary for the assigned readings.

Advanced Latin III

Like Latin III, this course provides students the opportunity to develop reading skills. Beginning with a comprehensive review of the second-year material, the third-year student learns all the grammatical forms and constructions and many of the literary terms and concepts necessary for reading all Latin literature. The proximate goal is to read an extended selection of Cicero, but the ultimate goal is to develop and solidify all the skills needed to be lifelong readers of the Latin language.

Upper-level Latin

After completing the equivalent of Latin III, a student may enroll in a fourth, fifth, and even a sixth level of Latin by selecting any combination of the two cycles of term electives and the CL Latin course.

Latin IV/V: Roman Comedy (GESC)

fall term/not offered in 2019-20

This course examines a play by either Plautus or Terence. In addition to an interpretation of the social aspects of the play, the technical and linguistic workings of a Roman comedy are examined.

Latin IV/V: Augustan Poets (GESC)

winter term/not offered in 2019-20

Students read selections from the works of Horace, Vergil, and Ovid in Latin and in English translation. Special attention is given to the various ways in which these poets reflected upon Augustus' rise to power and the imperial regime he inaugurated.

Latin IV/V: Roman Satire (GESC)

spring term/not offered in 2019-20

Excerpts from Juvenal and the *Satyricon* of Petronius are presented. Through the reading, the students gain insights into both the personality of these authors and the Roman society that influenced them.

Latin IV/V: Historians at Rome (GESC)

fall term

The nature of the process of writing history from the Romans' viewpoint, in addition to the actual historical situations themselves, forms the focus of this course. Excerpts from the writings of Nepos, Caesar, Livy, Tacitus, and others are examined and compared.

Latin IV/V: Cicero (GESC)

winter term

Selections from Cicero's public orations and private correspondences are read. Pertinent modern political speeches are discussed and compared with Cicero's speech. The political situation in Rome during the late Republic is also covered.

Latin IV/V: Catullus (GESC)

spring term

This course examines in detail a major portion of the poetry of Catullus, which traces the development of his unique personality. The importance of the author as a linguistic innovator in Rome is considered.

CL Latin

year course

The objective of this course is to hone skills in reading, translating, understanding, analyzing, and interpreting original Latin texts in preparation for the Advanced Placement examination. The syllabus of the course centers on Vergil's *Aeneid* and Caesar's *Gallic War*, including the study of the cultural, social, and political context of these works. Assignments include analytical essays, comprehensive exams, and oral presentations in class. Students may achieve the mastery necessary to sit for the Advanced Placement examination. Prerequisite: permission of the department

Independent Studies in Latin

term course

A student who is highly proficient in a foreign language may propose an Independent Study Project (ISP). The student has to have exhausted all curricular offerings to be considered for an ISP. The student must arrange for a project advisor from within the department, **submit a written proposal**, and obtain approval from the academic advisor, project advisor, department head, and dean of faculty for any ISP.

Spanish

Spanish I

This course serves as an introduction to the language and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. The proficiency-based approach provides students with opportunities to use the target language to express themselves in both speech and writing. Authentic texts and videos in Spanish — in addition to the examination of selected current events — encourage students to make cultural comparisons and use the target cultures as a lens for reflecting on their own beliefs and practices. This course introduces students to the basic structures of the Spanish language and is appropriate for novice Spanish students as well as those who need to strengthen their basic skills.

Spanish II

This course continues the development of the essential components of Spanish. There is increased emphasis on reading, writing, and oral proficiency.

Advanced Spanish II

This class stresses oral and written proficiency. Additional readings and poetry may be included. Enrollment is restricted to students who have performed well in Spanish I and those whose preparation qualifies them for work at an accelerated pace. Prerequisite: permission of the department

Spanish III

This course builds on the skills developed in Spanish II, and, through the study of the Spanish language and cultural practices, continues to broaden students' knowledge and appreciation of the Spanish-speaking world with an increased emphasis on building proficiency. Students read authentic texts, write compositions and begin to express more complex thoughts in speech.

Advanced Spanish III

Intended for students who have clearly demonstrated proficiency in the language and mastery of the details of grammar and usage of Spanish, this class provides in-depth review and the opportunity to strengthen their intercultural competency and hone the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. Students watch short documentary films and engage in open discussions of cultural issues through personal and presentational speaking in the target languages. In addition, students read authentic, short stories by acclaimed Spanish-speaking authors and undertake literary analysis through discussion and writing in Spanish. Enrollment is restricted to students who have performed well in Advanced Spanish II and those whose preparation qualifies them for the challenges of this intensive course. Prerequisite: permission of the department

Spanish IV

This course deals with the evolving culture and civilization of Spain. It is designed to acquaint students with the important historical events and fundamental figures from the fields of literature, art, and politics that have contributed significantly to the shaping of modern Spain. Readings are selected from authors including Casona, Buero-Vallejo, and Sender.

CL Spanish Language IV

This comprehensive course helps consolidate the mastery of both literary and linguistic skills, including listening and reading comprehension, conversation, and composition. Throughout the year, students explore the culture of the Spanish-speaking world in both contemporary and historical contexts. Students may achieve the mastery necessary to sit for the Advanced Placement examination. Prerequisite: permission of the department

Spanish V

At the fifth level of language study students may elect term courses, taken either separately or as a three-term sequence. Prerequisite: Spanish IV or permission of the department

Spanish V: Latin American Civilization (GESC)

fall term

Through readings and discussion, students gain a better understanding of the historical, social, and cultural characteristics of Latin America and are prepared for further literary studies. Students' fluency increases as they discuss and write in Spanish about the topics covered through an exploration of civilization, culture, current events, and literature of selected Latin American countries.

Spanish V: Latin American Short Story (GESC)

winter term

This course focuses primarily on short stories of Latin America. By reading representative works, students study the nature of a short story, its development and literary devices, and they gain a better understanding of Latin American culture. Reading, speaking, and writing are carefully integrated with an emphasis on creative expression. Readings are selected from authors including Borges, García Márquez, Allende, and Castellanos.

Spanish V: Cinema (GESC)

spring term

In this course, selected films from the Spanish-speaking world are presented. The selections cover a variety of genres, topics, time periods, and styles. Each film is preceded by an introductory work to provide background, and followed by different forms of assessments, including essays, oral presentations, and sketches. Students participate in discussions before, during, and after each movie.

CL Spanish Literature V (GESC)

This full-year advanced course in Spanish literature provides a comprehensive survey of literary works in a variety of genres, modern and classical, both from Spain and Latin America. Students explore the historical contexts for many of those works and examine the interplay between historical influences and various artistic and literary movements. As students analyze literature in detail, they also participate in discussion, write critical essays, and make original presentations on a variety of topics, all in the target language. Prerequisite: permission of the department

CL Spanish VI (GESC)

half course

This course is offered to students who have successfully completed the CL Spanish Literature V course (or its equivalent at another school), or who have returned from the SYA program in Zaragoza, Spain. The main objective of the course is to engage in scholarly discussions on a wide variety of topics, particularly those from the Spanish-speaking world. For this purpose, we utilize authentic, written and audio-visual materials such as literary works, articles, videos, films, and more. The course is taught entirely in Spanish, in a seminar style, and requires active class participation and debate as well as an ability to make cross-cultural and comparative literature analyses. Prerequisite: permission of the department

Independent Studies in Spanish

term course

A student who is highly proficient in a foreign language may propose an Independent Study Project (ISP). The student has to have exhausted all curricular offerings to be considered for an ISP. The student must arrange for a project advisor from within the department, **submit a written proposal**, and obtain approval from the academic advisor, project advisor, department head, and dean of faculty for any ISP. All discussion and all writing submitted must be in Spanish.

School Year Abroad in Spain

Please see Alternate Study beginning on page 52.

Please note: *In rare cases, the school may deem that educational testing makes a language course waiver appropriate and necessary. In those cases, the student will meet graduation requirements in modern and classical language by taking humanities courses that provide insight into foreign cultures. The chair of the Modern and Classical Language Department maintains a list of suitable courses.*

General Modern Language Offerings

Global, Digital Cultures (GESC)

term course

Will our fascination with social media and technology lead to our downfall or will it save us? Are we growing more distrustful of one another and more attached to static definitions of identity, or does technology make us better connected and more fluid in our understanding of who we are? Using a variety of cultural lenses and texts, we will examine the effects that digital technology has had on the practices and products of modern society as we seek to gain a more nuanced understanding of the way the digital age is shaping the way we live, interact, and communicate. Resources guiding our investigation will range from excerpts of popular shows and literature such as Charlie Brooker's *Black Mirror* and Edmundo Paz Soldán's *The Matter of Desire* to academic texts such as Lisa Nakamura's *Digitizing Race*. Prerequisite: open to seniors, juniors, and sophomores by permission of the department