World Languages & Cultures

Program Overview

We offer programs in Chinese Studies, French and Francophone Studies, German Studies, and Spanish. The richness and diversity of offerings permit our students to find multilevel academic opportunities in one single department. We provide a comprehensive, unifying theme around the study of languages and cultures, from the national to the international. You have endless and exciting opportunities in diverse professional settings, at home and abroad.

We firmly believe that students with national and international understanding of cultural, ethnic, and racial issues, coupled with second or third language competency, will be better equipped to meet the professional challenges of the 21st century. Whether you want to earn a language major or minor, or choose to build a language component in your professional profile while pursuing a non-language major, several options are offered to give you the opportunity to learn languages, experience the culture of the people who speak the language, and share their knowledge in service learning projects.

With few exceptions, language classes are taught in the target languages so that the active use of the language allows you to acquire the greatest possible facility in comprehension and communication. The study of languages is also supported by the David E. Webb Language Learning Center, which is equipped with the latest technology and programs to enhance language learning in an interactive and self-paced mode. Local schools offer field experience opportunities, and students have the opportunity to conduct studies in WLC programs abroad.

Our intellectually, ethnically, culturally, and internationally diverse cadre of qualified and dedicated faculty and staff possess an invaluable store of experience and knowledge with which to counsel you about educational and career opportunities in the United States and abroad. We have an International Faculty in Residence Program that brings scholars and artists from different parts of the world to teach for a full semester in the area of their expertise. Please see the next page for individual program descriptions.

Bachelor of Arts
French & Francophone Studies
Spanish (certified by California Commission on Teacher Credentialing)

Minors
Chinese Studies
French & Francophone Studies
German Studies
Spanish

Related Careers
Airline Employee
Bilingual Occupations
Foreign Correspondent
Health Care Worker
Import-Export Business Person
International Financier
Interpreter
Linguist
Literary Translator
Teacher
Technical Translator
Travel Agent
U.S. Government Service Officer

Careers listed may require additional education.

For more information about careers & employers, see the World Languages & Cultures Career Guide.

Academic & Career Advising Center
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2017-2018 academic year
Chinese Studies
The Chinese Studies Program offers unique opportunities to study Chinese, China's ancient civilization, and its contemporary culture. At present four levels of Chinese and Introduction to Chinese Studies are offered, which, in combination with seminars such as the Chinese Cinema, Chinese Language Origins, and Chinese Belief Systems, form an integral part of the program and important preparation for participating in diverse Chinese exchange programs. Students who spend an academic year in China return with highly functional language skills and a rich knowledge of Chinese society. Students may pursue a Chinese Studies minor or apply their studies to a major in International Studies with a concentration in Chinese Studies.

French & Francophone Studies
The French and Francophone Studies Program emphasizes the use of the French language through a curriculum that closely relates the classroom to the Francophone world. Creating a personal environment, French and Francophone Studies faculty and students participate in weekend workshops and retreats. In small classroom settings, students study the literature and culture of France and such Francophone regions and countries as Quebec, Nova Scotia, Belgium, Switzerland, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Burkina Faso, Congo, and the French-speaking Caribbean. Majors are required to study abroad in a Francophone region for a minimum of one semester and as long as an academic year, during which they may also participate in an internship program designed by department faculty. A summer semester in Senegal will offer students a unique HSU professor-directed study abroad experience.

German Studies
The German Studies Program offers unique opportunities for students in the language and cultures areas. We offer a minor in German Studies which is both dynamic and student-centered. The program focuses on making it possible for each individual student to learn the language well and thus to live and study in a German-speaking country. Classes are taught in German and focus on communication, both spoken and written. The German studies aspect of advanced courses makes students familiar with both past and present situations in Germany, Switzerland, and Austria. Many of our students study in Germany and later go to graduate programs in fields such as language teaching, international studies, or international business.

Spanish
The Spanish Program provides the well-balanced course offerings necessary to acquire and consolidate language skills, up to advanced and near-native proficiency levels, as well as expertise in the areas of literatures and cultures, ranging from Spanish, USA Hispanic, Mexican, Central and South American cultures. The Spanish Program offers unique opportunities for full language and cultural immersion through the León, Oaxaca and Quito Programs, which take place in northern Spain, southern Mexico and in the capital of Ecuador, respectively, during the summer. In addition, a number of students participate in the year-long CSU International Program in Spain (Madrid and Granada). Majors are required to study abroad for a semester in a Spanish-speaking country.