

Language Study at Connecticut College



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Language Study at Connecticut College

At Connecticut College, students actively engage in global communities — both domestically and internationally. Our Connections curriculum includes study of a world language, so students develop an ability to empathize, communicate and collaborate with others from diverse cultures in their own languages. The study of world languages and cultures present and past fosters a mode of critical thinking that creates true cultural understanding.

Students are required to complete **two full semesters of language study**, at any level, ideally no later than the sophomore year, to allow them to incorporate what they have learned into their academic work in the junior and senior years. These classes must be taken at Connecticut College or a comparable institution. This requirement applies

to all students, including those who are already proficient in multiple languages. We encourage students who have advanced proficiency in a language other than English to meet with faculty in that language to discuss advanced-level coursework. In addition, students will work closely with advisers to incorporate their language learning into co-curricular experiences, such as internships, study away, research, student teaching and volunteer opportunities.

While all students explore the relevance of intercultural communication skills as an integral part of liberal learning through the World Languages and Cultures Requirement, those who build on this foundation through more advanced coursework and experiential opportunities are recognized through the awarding of a language citation.

The Global Learning Lab

The Global Learning Lab (GLL) is located in The Walter Commons for Global Study and Engagement on the first floor of Blaustein Humanities Center. The GLL supports language and cultural learning through its materials collection (textbooks, films, games, software) and its programming (events, tutoring, film screenings).

The GLL and the Academic Resource Center work together to offer weekly drop-in group study/tutoring for language learners on Sunday evenings in the Walter Commons. The GLL is

also the home of the Structured Independent Language Study (SILS) program, which leverages the online language learning platform Mango, as well as local expertise, to offer students the chance to study languages not taught as part of the formal curriculum.

The GLL offers a quiet study lounge with four open access computers and a teaching space that has been designed for web conferencing sessions and public presentations. It also serves as a meeting space for groups connecting virtually with off-campus partners.



Arabic

Arabic is the fourth most commonly spoken language in the world after Mandarin, Spanish and English. It is the official language of more than 20 countries and one of the six official languages of the United Nations. Learning the Arabic language incorporates the study of politics, culture, society, literature, film and history. It also promotes cultural and international understanding and prepares you to be a global citizen.

Students at Connecticut College study the Arabic language and literature to be able to understand one of the most complex regions in the world:

the Middle East. Our language courses emphasize speaking, listening, reading and writing skills, and content courses in literature are interdisciplinary. Learning how to read in Arabic enables students to conduct research about the region and travel abroad. Learning Arabic also opens a new window of knowledge for students who are interested in Islam as a religion and a lifestyle. Our students have worked with faculty members on campus and abroad on research topics such as feminism in modern Arabic literature; politics of refugees in Jordan, Syria and Iraq; and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in literature.

Language courses you could take:

ARA 101-102

ELEMENTARY ARABIC

An introduction to the writing and reading system of Modern Standard Arabic, with attention to basic reading comprehension and writing skills. Three 50-minute class meetings per week, plus an additional practicum hour (to be arranged) with an advanced Arabic student/fellow concentrating on speaking and interacting in Arabic.

ARA 201 INTERMEDIATE ARABIC

A study of Modern Standard Arabic, with emphasis on grammar and expansion of vocabulary, as well as current events and cultures of Arabic-speaking societies. Attention will be given to reading, writing, listening comprehension and speaking skills. Prerequisite: two or three years of Arabic at entrance, or completion of Arabic 101 and 102.

Related courses:

REL / GIS 214

ISLAMIC TRADITIONS

GOV 325 INTERNATIONAL

POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST

ARA 330

MODERN ARABIC LITERATURE (IN ENGLISH)

HIS 249

EARLY ISLAMIC HISTORY

GOV 238

MIDDLE EAST POLITICS

GIS 102 INTRO TO GLOBAL

ISLAMIC STUDIES

Japanese 日本語



Chinese 中文

Chinese and Japanese at Connecticut College have the reputation for being intense but immensely rewarding courses. The classes tend to be small (generally fewer than 15 students) and students receive highly individualized, hands-on guidance from their instructors.

Chinese (all dialects) is the most spoken language on the planet, with 1.6 billion speakers. Japan has been the most important ally of the United States in Asia since the mid-20th century. China and Japan boast the world's largest economies, along with that of the United States. In today's competitive job market, graduates with skills in these two languages will find a multitude of doors open to them.

The U.S. government has designated Chinese and Japanese as “critical-need languages” in order to nurture a new generation of leaders with strong cross-cultural communication abilities as part of the national security language initiative. College graduates trained in these languages are — and will continue to be — in high demand in civil service fields. As China and Japan continue to rise in importance on the global stage, so too does the need for experts able to serve as cultural mediators. Acquiring deep knowledge of Asian languages, literatures, art and popular culture opens doors to careers in translation, teaching, scholarship, museum curation, the art market, the film industry, journalism, publishing, advertising and much more.

If you have any questions about placement exams or the nature of the programs, or if you would like to observe a class, please contact Hisae Kobayashi, coordinator for Japanese, or Tek-wah King, coordinator for Chinese.

Language courses you could take:

JPN 201-202 INTERMEDIATE JAPANESE

Further development in both spoken and written Japanese beyond the elementary level. Students are required to communicate with native speakers in a sociolinguistically and culturally appropriate manner. Audiovisual materials and selected readings are used to develop these skills.

CHI 101-102 INTENSIVE ELEMENTARY CHINESE

An introduction to the written Chinese language and the spoken standard dialect of Mandarin.

JPN 101-102 INTENSIVE ELEMENTARY JAPANESE

An introduction to the Japanese language emphasizing primarily speaking and listening. Entry-level reading and writing is introduced. Students will be required to work with audio materials to develop these skills.

CHI 201-202 INTENSIVE INTERMEDIATE CHINESE

Further development of speaking and writing skills that are necessary to sustain interpersonal communications in Modern Standard Chinese at the intermediate proficiency level. Situation/theme-driven frameworks and drill/image-enriched instructions lead to the design and staging of a comprehensive oral practicum at the end of each semester. Throughout the year, students will learn 500 new characters and 160 grammar patterns.

CHI 405 BUSINESS CHINESE

Learn and comprehend Chinese business principles and etiquette. Build and strengthen relationships with Mandarin-speaking contacts and partners. Develop presentation skills to communicate and negotiate effectively in a Chinese business setting.



Related courses:

EAS 104 INTRODUCTION TO EAST
ASIAN ART

EAS 105 CC: CONTROVERSIES
IN EAST ASIA

EAS 101 BEYOND THE ORIENT

GOV 225 STATES & MARKETS
IN EAST ASIA



French

In small classes with attentive faculty, students studying French are challenged to hone their critical-thinking skills. Many French courses are co-offered with other academic departments, including anthropology, film studies, and gender and women's studies, offering students an unusually wide range of opportunities to explore a topic, issue or problem using the conceptual framework and tools of more than one academic discipline. Students may choose an established interdisciplinary major, choose to double major, or design one in consultation

with faculty advisers and the Committee on Student-Designed Interdisciplinary Majors and Minors (SDIMM). Students can also combine a French major with one of the College's interdisciplinary certificate programs; the CISLA certificate program is particularly popular among French majors. Depending on other interests, students may consider the certificate programs in environmental studies, public policy, arts and technology, or museum studies. Any of these programs may have an international focus, including an internship abroad.

Language courses you could take:

FRH 101-102 ELEMENTARY FRENCH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

The first semester of a yearlong introduction to French language and cultures. Students work actively with the language to make progress both in and outside of the classroom. Class meetings emphasize practical, especially spoken communication skills. Learning the language is the gateway to joining global communities of French speakers. Culturally, students learn about the current use of French throughout the world in the 21st century.

FRH 343 ÉVOLUTION ET RÉVOLUTION

A survey of French culture and history focusing on the interrelation of education and social order, from the medieval to revolutionary periods. In addition to the progressive effects of education, the course examines arguments against the “dangers” of universal education (education made available without regard to gender and social class).

FRH 301 PENSEZ FRANCAIS: FRENCH CULTURE EXPERIENCE

This course engages students in conversation and composition based on modern texts and films about France and Francophone countries.

FRH 110 LOWER INTERMEDIATE FRENCH LANGUAGE/CULTURE

For students with one or two years of secondary school French or the equivalent. Review and progress in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Treatment of French Culture.

Related courses:

HIS/FRH 441 THE FRENCH REVOLU- TION (IN ENGLISH)

ANT/FRH 256 “MIGRATION CRISIS” IN EUROPE (IN ENGLISH)

ANT/FRH 256F “MIGRATION CRISIS” IN EUROPE (IN FRENCH)



German

In the European Union today, more people speak German as their native language than they do any other. In total, it is spoken in 14 countries in Europe. Germany has Europe's largest economy and the fourth largest in the world. With a history of innovation, Germany is now a world leader in biotechnology, renewable energy and sustainability. Students of German have the opportunity to engage directly with a rich cultural heritage by reading the works of, among others, such

authors as Freud, Nietzsche and Kafka. Students also have the opportunity for summer study at a German university after their first year. Many students find German fits well with their other intellectual interests. Recent graduates have double majored in German and art, international relations, Italian, economics, history and biology. Over the past decade, our graduates have won 14 Fulbright scholarships to continue their studies in Germany.

Language courses you could take:

GER 101-102 BEGINNING GERMAN

This yearlong sequence (Fall 101, Spring 102) provides students with a basic understanding of German in speaking, listening, reading and writing through a variety of materials. The class concentrates on partner and group activities with an emphasis on targeted oral production. On Tuesday of each week, students practice for one extra hour in small groups with a native German speaker.

GER 201-202 LOWER INTERMEDIATE GERMAN

A review of grammar as well as the introduction of more advanced structures, this class has an increased culture component focused on the exploration of German cities. Students use a variety of materials including music, texts and Internet resources. Students also meet with a native speaker for an extra hour a week. Prerequisite: two or three years of high school German or other previous experience with the language.

GER 433 AFTER THE WALL: GERMAN FILM AND LITERATURE

An examination of post-wall German literature and film. Special emphasis on texts and films that deal with the legacy of the Nazi past, terrorism, the German Democratic Republic and unification; transnational German literature and film; and the representation of minorities. Authors and filmmakers include Oliver Hirschbiegel, Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, Fatih Akin, Ali Samadi Ahadi, Judith Hermann, Jenny Erpenbeck, and Christian Kracht.

GER 325 DEUTSCHLAND HEUTE

An exploration of the political and cultural developments in Germany today. Students will get an overview of the main institutions, public debates, movements, and people who have shaped the country. Topics include Germany's political structures and parties, society, economy, environmental issues, literature, film, music, architecture, and art.

Related courses:

HIS/GER/JS 243 DIFFICULT PAST: GERMAN HISTORY 1850-2000

GER/GWS 216 BORDERLESS WORLDS? TRAVEL, ART, LANGUAGE



Greek

Ancient Greek gives students direct access to many of the foundational texts of the West, especially in the areas of literature, philosophy, mathematics, physical science and political science. At Connecticut College, Greek courses introduce students to the actual writings of seminal thinkers in these and other fields. Students are given the tools to make connections between Greek and their other courses, while engaging with stories and ideas that shaped Western civilization. Reading Greek trains students to analyze and interpret information thoughtfully. Greek is systematic, and often attracts science and math students who find pleasure in analytical

and logical reasoning. As with Latin, Greek classes focus on developing the ability to read rather than on speaking or listening comprehension. In their first year, students learn Greek by tackling sentences taken from great works of literature, history, philosophy and religion, as well as medical writers and mathematicians like Euclid and Archimedes. At the end of this year, students have also gained an understanding of grammatical systems, and familiarity with the etymological origins of many scientific terms and English words. More advanced courses involve extended explorations of particular works by authors such as Sappho, Homer and Plato.

Language courses you could take:

GRK 101-102

ELEMENTARY GREEK I

The first semester of a two-semester course introducing students to the fundamentals of the ancient Greek language. While tackling progressively more challenging puzzles of grammar, students will learn Greek using sentences taken from some of the earliest surviving scientific, historical, literary and religious texts in the West, including Euclid, Homer, Plato and the New Testament.

GRK 230/330

READINGS IN GREEK PROSE

Intensive study of a selected author or theme.

GRK 221/321 HOMER, HESIOD & HOMERIC HYMNS

Students will acquire proficiency in the Homeric dialect of ancient Greek while reading and discussing the oldest and most influential poetry in the Western canon. Selections will be chosen from the Iliad and Odyssey of Homer, Hesiod's creation poem Theogony, and the Homeric Hymns.

Related courses:

CLA 101

CC: ANCIENT GREECE

PHI 201 HISTORY OF ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY

GOV/PHI 211 ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL POLITICAL THOUGHT



Hebrew

Hebrew, the language of the Jewish Bible, was used and spoken by the ancient Israelites and their descendants until well into the founding of the Roman Empire. After that, it fell into disuse as a spoken language and was used only for liturgical, scholarly and commerce purposes until the mid-19th century, when Hebrew was revived as the official language of a future Jewish state. This history enables students of Hebrew to access the Jewish Bible in ways that are at once alien and immediate. As a non-Latinate

language, Hebrew gives students an alternate framework through which to understand the Jewish religion, culture and history. In addition, knowledge of Hebrew — one of the three official languages of Israel and closely related to Arabic — enables students to understand more deeply the complex politics of the current Middle East.

Students who take Hebrew may apply one course towards the Jewish Studies minor.

Language courses you could take:

HBR 101-102

ELEMENTARY HEBREW I

An introduction to the fundamentals of classical Hebrew, developing skills in both biblical texts and modern spoken language.

HBR 201-202

INTERMEDIATE HEBREW I

Reading and discussion of selected works in Hebrew. Designed to increase proficiency across the wide spectrum from biblical to medieval literature, with emphasis on grammatical precision and vocabulary development in reading, writing, and oral expression.

Related courses:

REL/JS 210

CC: JEWISH TRADITIONS

FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR 108J

THE IDEA OF GOD

HIS/GER/JS 243 DIFFICULT PAST: GERMAN HISTORY 1850-2000

PHI 202

HISTORY OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY

REL/JS 248 HOLOCAUST / POST-HOLOCAUST RESPONSES

HIS 337 JEWS AND MUSLIMS IN EUROPE



Italian

Italy is renowned for its multifaceted cultures, histories and landscapes. It is also known for art, film, fashion, design and cuisine. Knowledge of Italian will enable you to explore Italy's past and present with expertise and build connections with other disciplines. You will become informed scholars, skilled professionals and competent interlocutors in the communities in which Italian is spoken.

Knowledge of Italian will help you appreciate the subtle nuances of Italian literature, film and political texts in the Middle Ages, the Renaissance and the contemporary period. You will understand the works of numerous authors as they were originally conceived. You will be able to read a variety of texts, including canonical works like Dante's "Divina Commedia" and contemporary writing resulting from women's movements and

migrant groups.

Knowledge of Italian will be crucial for you to grasp the sense of art. According to UNESCO, over 60 percent of the world's art treasures are found in Italy. Italian is also important in understanding and appreciating the operatic written texts of such composers as Verdi, Puccini and Mascagni.

Knowledge of Italian will be beneficial if you are interested in business or engineering. Roughly 7,500 American companies do business with Italian ones, and more than 1,000 U.S. companies have bases in Italy, including Exxon and Mast Global. Moreover, Italy is acclaimed for its machine tool manufacturing, robotics, electromechanical machinery, shipbuilding, space engineering and construction machinery.

Language courses you could take:

ITL 101-102 ELEMENTARY ITALIAN

This is an introductory course in Italian and is designed for students with no prior knowledge of Italian. The course aims to develop speaking, listening, reading and writing skills at the elementary level. The course also provides the students with an introduction to Italian culture in its many forms.

ITL 201-202 INTERMEDIATE ITALIAN I: SGUARDO SULL' ITALIA

Develops basic language skills through grammar review and vocabulary building while introducing topics in Italian culture such as fashion and design, regional cultures, travel, migration, the American influence in Italy, and the role of Italy in Europe. Resources for class activities vary from year to year, and may include films, videos, songs, journal articles and literature.

ITL/GWS 316 CULTURAL IDENTITY IN ITALY & ADJACENT AREAS

Study of identity formation in verbal and visual works representing Italian unity during Risorgimento, the South (e.g. questione meridionale and mafia), and the Mediterranean area. Particular emphasis on diverse conceptions of regionalism, nationalism, diaspora, gender, and class. Authors may include Garibaldi, Serao, Rosi, and Ben Jelloun.

Related courses:

ANT 270 TATTOO2TUTU: THE CULTURED BODY

ANT 270F TATTOO2TUTU: THE CULTURED BODY (IN ITALIAN)

ITL 303 ISLAM IN THE AGE OF DANTE (IN ENGLISH)

ITL 303F ISLAM IN THE AGE OF DANTE (IN ITALIAN)



Latin

Latin, the language of the ancient Romans, was used and spoken by people in many nations and many regions over a continuous time period from antiquity all the way through the 19th century. Knowledge of Latin offers access to thoughts, perspectives and literatures spanning thousands of years and a vast geographical area — from Britain to Northern Africa, and from Spain to the Near East. The study of Latin, an inflected language, trains students to analyze and interpret information thoughtfully, while at the same time inviting creativity and imagination. Most

students of Latin see a great improvement in their English writing and communication skills. Science and math students often find Latin rewarding as its grammar is presented as a complete system, and requires analytical reasoning. Latin classes focus on developing the ability to read, rather than on speaking or listening comprehension. The early focus on the vocabulary and structure of literary Latin allows students to read sophisticated texts by authors writing in Latin such as Vergil, Ovid and Livy by the end of the second semester.

Language courses you could take:

LAT 101-102 ELEMENTARY LATIN I

The first semester of a yearlong introductory course to the fundamentals of the Latin language with readings of passages from Roman authors, as well as exposure to Roman daily life, and the vast influence of Latin in English vocabulary, botanical and medical terminology, and other facets of American life.

LAT 201-202 INTERMEDIATE LATIN I

A review of Latin grammar and syntax providing a transition from learning grammar to reading original works by Roman authors. Readings will include an adapted selection of Petronius' "Satyricon," a fictional account of a dinner party that critiques wealth and class, and selected poems of Catullus, which provide a firsthand look at the loves, losses, political views and personal affairs of a Roman poet. Emphasis will be placed on developing reading strategies and applying Latin language skills to study the style, content and cultural context of these works.

LAT 320

READINGS IN LATIN POETRY

Intensive study of a selected author or theme.

Related courses:

CLA 102

CC: THE ROMAN WORLD

CLA 209

THE ROMAN FAMILY

LIN/EDU/GRK/LAT/SLA 214 SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION



Linguistics

Linguistics is an interdisciplinary program that focuses on the scientific study of language, including its structure, function in society and historical development. The minor is a natural complement to any major in which the nature of language is considered.

Note that, while linguistics courses enhance students' understanding of language's structure and function, they do not fulfill the language requirement.

Courses in Linguistics:

LIN/ENG/GER/SPA 110 INTRO TO LANGUAGE AND MIND

This course exams the nature, structure and mental faculty of human language as studied in modern linguistics. The course increases the student's ability in critical thinking, data analysis, problem solving, and hypothesis formulation and evaluation with the use of linguistic samples and methodology. It enhances the study of world languages, cognitive science, psychology, anthropology, philosophy, and computer science, as well as mathematics and music.

LIN/EDU/GRK/LAT/SLA 214 SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

A systematic examination of how languages are learned, this course is an introduction to theories of second language (L2) acquisition and strategies for learning and teaching foreign languages. Readings explore paradigms of effective L2 teaching (behaviorist, communicative, sociocultural); pedagogical approaches (error analysis, input hypothesis, scaffolding); and significant contributions to the field. The course includes practicum sessions at New London public schools, where students will teach foreign languages to children in grades 2-5.

Other courses in the Linguistics program:

LIN 201 PHONOLOGY

LIN 202 SYNTAX

LIN/ANT/SLA 226 LANGUAGE IN CULTURE

ANT/LIN 220 LANGUAGE DEATH/REVITALIZATION



Russian

As the world's eighth most spoken language, with 275 million speakers, Russian will open many doors for students in their studies and long after graduation. The Russian program at Connecticut College prepares students to communicate freely with native speakers of Russian, making them more competitive for careers in the fields of journalism, business, law, education and government. The Department of Slavic Studies promotes learning outside of the classroom through partnerships

with the Higher School of Economics in St. Petersburg, Collegium Civitas in Warsaw, New Bulgarian University in Sofia, as well as with the Regional Multicultural Magnet School in downtown New London, where students teach Russian to children in grades 2-5. Students and faculty meet regularly over lunch at the Russian language table in Knowlton House and take trips to cultural events in neighboring cities.

Language courses you could take:

RUS 101-102

ELEMENTARY RUSSIAN

An introduction to Russian language and culture. Students will master the basic structures of Russian grammar and be able to converse with native speakers by the end of the second semester. Video iPods with Russian curricular materials — language drills, songs, podcasts, music videos, animated films and lectures — are provided to help students improve pronunciation and gain knowledge of contemporary Russian culture.

RUS 201-202

INTERMEDIATE RUSSIAN

Study of Russian language, culture, and current events with an emphasis on Russian grammar, animated films, newscasts, and the Russian internet. Students will improve speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing skills throughout the semester.

Related courses:

HIS/SLA 247 THE SOVIET
UNION AND ITS LEGACIES

SLA 205 REALISMS: THE RUSSIAN
NOVEL (IN ENGLISH)

LIN/EDU/GRK/LAT/SLA 214
SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

SLA 205F REALISMS: THE RUSSIAN
NOVEL (IN RUSSIAN)

SLA 105
CC: INTRO TO SLAVIC CULTURES

FLM/SLA 307 HISTORY OF RUS-
SIAN & SOVIET FILM (IN ENGLISH)



Spanish

Spanish is the second language of the United States and one of the three most spoken languages in the world. Recent census reports indicate that Hispanics now form the largest minority population in the United States. Accelerated classes are offered (Spanish 101, 121) both semesters to help you develop the skills you need in order to communicate in Spanish on a variety of topics, from social media to survival skills, global and local. Students can also take interdisciplinary courses, including environmental justice (Spanish 204), religion and violence (Spanish 316),

contemporary Spanish cinema (Spanish 319), U.S. Latino urban youth Narrative (Spanish 333), and immigration (Spanish 334). The Hispanic Studies Department offers flexible majors adaptable to varied student interests and needs. The traditional focus on language and literature is a departmental strength, complemented by new offerings in cultural studies and interdisciplinary Latin American studies, and in coursework toward teaching certification. The department participates in honors study for all of the majors it offers.

Language courses you could take:

SPA 101 ACCELERATED ELEMENTARY SPANISH

A fast-paced introductory course that prepares students through engaging, meaningful activities that develop real-world skills and abilities. The course integrates a wide variety of interactive materials to put language into practice. Students will learn to create speech; explore the products, practices and perspectives of Hispanic cultures; exchange opinions; and talk, read and write about people, places, experiences and events.

SPA 250 SPAIN: JOURNEY CULTURE & HISTORY

A cultural and historical portrait of Spain from 800,000 B.C. to the present. Considerable attention will be paid to literature and the visual arts, especially painting and film. Discussion of current affairs, as presented in newspapers and on television. Video-chat software will be used to engage with local and regional politicians, emigrants, and education and health professionals to provide a more vivid picture of Spanish realities.

SPA 103 INTERMEDIATE SPANISH: HISPANIC ART

Computer-based course designed as an overview of major works of art and architecture from Spain and Latin America through a fast-paced grammar and vocabulary review. The course emphasizes common problems of Spanish grammar for English speakers. Practice in reading and writing, with emphasis on communicative skills.

Related courses:

HIS 219 REVOLUTIONS IN LATIN AMERICAN

HIS 219F REVOLUTIONS IN LATIN AMERICAN

REL/CRE/SPA 245 CHICAN@ LATINX RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

