

# The Foreign Languages Newsletter

Clark University · Worcester, Massachusetts

Vol. XXIX, No. 1 · August 2007

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

This is a special edition of the *Foreign Languages Newsletter* for new students. The information given below should be a useful addition to materials you will receive during Orientation.

At the end of this newsletter there is a coupon you can return to us once you know your Clark Box number. That way we can keep you up to date on activities sponsored by Foreign Languages, such as films, guest speakers, and social occasions. Meanwhile, we invite you to visit our web site at [www2.clarku.edu/departments/foreign](http://www2.clarku.edu/departments/foreign).

Welcome to Clark and Foreign Languages!

*Marvin D'Lugo*

### *Is there a language requirement at Clark?*

No, but every student is expected to take at least one course that deals with the interrelation between language and culture. This is called the Language and Culture Perspective, or "LP" for short.

### *What is the LP?*

The Language and Culture Perspective is one of six Perspectives courses that all students take to fulfill the requirements for Program of Liberal Studies. Although all elementary and intermediate language courses and some that are more advanced offer LP credit, students may also satisfy the LP by taking courses offered periodically in English, for example certain courses in Communications, that examine how language reflects and complements culture.

In your course selection materials you'll find a list of courses that fulfill the LP. Our Department offers the LP in Chinese, French, German, Classical Greek, Hebrew, Japanese, Latin, and Spanish.

Most courses offer the LP for one semester's work. Please note, however, that for beginning language courses, designated as 101-102, students are required to complete two semesters in order to receive credit.

### *How do I know which course is the right level for me?*

Language levels are determined by previous years of study as determined by the following scale.

Consult the faculty coordinator of the particular language for any additional questions.

### **Guidelines for higher level courses:**

Previous Years Language Study	FRENCH	GERMAN	SPANISH
<b>NONE</b>	<b>101-102</b>	<b>101-102</b>	<b>101-102</b>
<b>0 - 1</b>	<b>101-102</b>	<b>101-102</b>	<b>101-102</b>
<b>1 - 2</b>			<b>103 Intensive</b>
<b>2 - 3</b>	<b>105*</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>3 - 4</b>	<b>106*</b>		<b>105</b>
<b>4 +</b>	<b>120, 124 +</b>	<b>Advanced</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>5 + more</b>	<b>See instructor</b>		<b>127 + above</b>

Students who have taken four years in a strong program and have done well are encouraged to enroll in 106 or above to avoid redundancy in their language study.

Oral and Written / Ways of Writing: FREN120, SPAN127, is designed for students with a strong high-school background or who have had an AP class. Native speakers should consult with the Coordinator for each language.

*Suppose I had four years of French or Spanish in high school, but I don't think I learned much. Could I just start over?*

No. Our rule is that regular beginning courses (101-102) are closed to anyone who has had two years of that language. The Department reviews high school transcripts to make sure students are not over-qualified for a class.

In French and Spanish, however, we do offer an intensive one-semester beginning course that builds on the experience you've had in high school. Students in these intensive courses have studied the material in the past but may have forgotten much of it. Since their purpose is to refresh knowledge, these one-semester courses move at a faster pace than the two-semester beginning courses.

**How many students are there in a typical class?**

The official capacity for a language class is 20. Actual enrollments may vary from seven to 20.

Our goal is to present language in an active engagement with students, so that they have the maximum opportunity to develop linguistic skills. Small classes are obviously ideal for this purpose. Most language classes also have discussion sessions with teaching assistants; these are either native speakers or language majors who have spent time abroad.

**Are study abroad programs limited to language majors?**

Study Abroad options are available in China, Japan, France, Spain, Germany, and the Dominican Republic. A new program will soon be available in Chile.

You need **not** be a language major to participate in any of these programs, but you do need the appropriate level of language background.

Language majors are required to complete at least two units of study abroad, but other students regularly sign on as well: language minors, students in the International Studies Stream, and others who want to have a competitive advantage when entering the job market in their discipline—Business, Government, International Development, Geography, Psychology, or any other field in which knowledge of another language is helpful.

**What are the requirements for a language major?**

The specific courses will vary according to the requirements of each discipline (see the *Academic Catalog*). In general terms, the major requires eight units of credit, two of which must be completed in a study abroad program, as well as five related courses to be determined in consultation with your major advisor.

Some courses are required, such as the capstone course, usually given in seminar form for seniors. Also required for all Foreign Languages majors is *The National Imagination*, a multi-disciplinary team-taught course offered every spring that examines concepts of national identity in three different cultures.

The other related courses are chosen with an eye toward future plans. For example, students who contemplate a career in teaching would naturally take related courses in Education, while someone who wants to work for the State Department would add courses in Government. Students with double majors ordinarily take fewer related courses, especially when the disciplines intersect.

**Does Clark have a language lab?**

At Clark, as in most colleges and universities, the traditional language lab has evolved into a media center. Our Language Arts Resource Center (LARC) is located on the fourth floor of Goddard Library. There you will find tapes to complement language instruction (audio and video); SCOLA, which provides satellite broadcasts from around the world; and a series of audio stations and video stations that can accommodate both foreign (PAL/SECAM) and US (NTSC) videos.

**Some useful names and addresses:**

Department Chair:

Marvin D'Lugo, Estabrook Room 408, 793-7725

Secretaries:

Joanne Berg, 793-7342

Zinta Moskalew, 793-7234

Director of LARC: Constance Montross, 793-7251  
or in 308 Estabrook Hall, 793-7354

Program Directors and Coordinators:

Ancient Civilization: Paul Burke, 793-7365

Chinese and Japanese: Alice Valentine, 793-7726

Comparative Literature: Marvin D'Lugo, 793-7725

French: Beth Gale, 421 - 3781

German: Dieter Blaul, 793-7713

Hebrew and Jewish Studies: Everett Fox, 793-7355

Spanish: María Acosta Cruz, 793-7677

THE FOREIGN LANGUAGES NEWSLETTER is published by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Estabrook Hall 301, Clark University, Worcester, MA 01610. Please send news items and announcements of coming events to Newsletter Editor, care of the Department, or call us at (508) 793-7342, 793-7234 (e-mail: jberg@clarku.edu). If you are not yet on our mailing list, please fill out this coupon and return it to us so that we can keep you fully informed of Foreign Languages Department activities.

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