World Languages and Cultures

Introduction

The acquisition of a second language, and through it an understanding of another country's culture, is a rich academic experience for all students, not only in the arts, humanities, and social sciences, but also in business, education, nursing, the natural sciences, and engineering. Knowing how to communicate effectively in another language significantly enhances one's career opportunities and contributions as a citizen. This page provides an overview of the academic offerings of the Department of World Languages and Cultures.

Mission Statement

The Department of World Languages and Cultures is dedicated to teaching students the language skills and cultural knowledge necessary for succeeding in today's multilingual world of cultural diversity, global markets, political interdependence, and international scientific and cultural collaboration.

Within the B.A. in Foreign Languages, students may choose French, German, Russian, or Spanish as a focus language, and may also concentrate in Foreign Language and International Trade in cooperation with the College of Business. Students can pursue foreign language teacher certification in French, German, or Spanish in conjunction with the College of Education, and they may minor in any of the four focus languages, or take Arabic or Japanese at the introductory and intermediate levels. The department also offers the Certificate in Foreign Language and Global Engagement, which focuses on language acquisition and Global Studies, and the Global Professional Pathways Certificate, which allows students to explore language and careers through study or internship abroad and a professional portfolio. The department also serves nursing and pre-health students by offering Spanish for Medical Professionals periodically at the introductory level.

In addition, the department assists students in identifying study abroad opportunities and domestic and international internships that give students cultural and professional experience that greatly enhances their career opportunities after graduation. World Languages and Cultures also sponsors language clubs and extracurricular activities that contribute to the university's rich campus life.

The department offers an integrated curriculum comprising the teaching of linguistic proficiency and the promotion of a critical awareness of other cultures. Faculty use traditional methods as well as varied media and new technologies to engage students with world languages, literature, and film in their historical, social, and interdisciplinary contexts. World Languages and Cultures faculty promote academic pluralism by fostering a variety of interpretive and pedagogical approaches, and by virtue of their commitment to the highest standards in teaching, research, and service, they aim to uphold and further strengthen the national and international standing of UAH.

Languages Offered

Arabic, French, German, Japanese, Russian, Spanish

The Department of World Languages and Cultures offers a B.A. in Foreign Languages. A student may choose a focus language of French, German, Russian, or Spanish, and may also concentrate in Foreign Language and International Trade or pursue teaching certification. Arabic and Japanese cannot be taken as majors or minors, but can be taken to satisfy the language requirement for the B.A. degree or as electives. Certificate programs are available in our four major languages and may also be available in Arabic and Japanese depending on current course offerings.

General Education Requirements and Placement Procedures

Three semester hours of credit in one foreign language are required for most of the B.A. degrees. Most introductory language sequences begin in the fall semester, but more limited offerings of 101 level courses are available in spring and summer for students who need to complete their requirements.
Placement Procedures

Students with no previous language instruction or experience are placed into WLC 101, while students with some level of instruction or experience are placed in a variety of ways depending on their previous coursework or skill level. Since placement procedures vary, all students with previous experience are encouraged to contact the WLC department chair or a WLC faculty member in their language of interest to ask about placement. Students can schedule an appointment to take the standardized Web Cape International Foreign Language Placement Exam by emailing the WLC department at wlc@uah.edu. The exam is computerized and can be taken for a small fee (around $10), payable to the exam website by card. **NOTE: By itself, the placement exam does not grant any academic credit.** Departmental credit is only granted to students in WLC major, minor, or certificate programs who have completed additional WLC coursework at the appropriate level.

Read below for placement information related to various populations of students.

Native or Near-Native Speakers: Native and near-native speakers are those who have achieved fluency in a language and who have had formal education in that language. Native or near-native speakers of a foreign language may not take introductory and intermediate courses in that language, but are welcome to take upper level courses in their language or introductory level courses in another language. Students in this category should make an appointment with the department (wlc@uah.edu) to take a placement exam. Native or near-native speakers pursuing a major or minor in their language may earn up to six (6) hours of departmental credit that will satisfy the Charger Foundations language requirement for the B.A. Students in this category who are only interested in taking one lower-level language course to complete the Charger Foundations language requirement should enroll in a language other than the one(s) in which they are fluent.

Heritage Speakers: Heritage speakers are classified as individuals who have grown up speaking a language, but who have little or no formal education in that language. Most heritage speakers should not enroll in introductory level courses in their heritage language. Students in this category must still take a minimum of three (3) additional semester hours of foreign language course work to complete Charger Foundations requirements for the B.A., and should make an appointment with the department (wlc@uah.edu) to take a placement exam. Heritage speakers pursuing a major or minor in their heritage language and who place above the WLC 102 level may earn up to six (6) hours of departmental credit that will satisfy the Charger Foundations language requirement for the B.A.

Transfer Students with College Language Credits: Students who have earned language credits at another college or university will be placed into the next logical course in the language sequence. If students have questions about whether they are prepared for the level of language courses at UAH, they are encouraged to contact a faculty member in their language of interest for guidance, or to take the placement exam to help confirm their level. Placement exams can be scheduled by emailing the WLC department at wlc@uah.edu.

High School Experience: All students with high school language experience below the Advanced Placement level are encouraged to take the placement exam to confirm placement. Placement exams can be scheduled by emailing the WLC department at wlc@uah.edu. Typically, students with 0-2 units of high school foreign language study will be placed in WLC 101, while students with 3-4 units will be placed in WLC 102 or 201. A minimum grade of C is required for a unit to be counted. Regardless of placement, students must take a minimum of three (3) additional semester hours of foreign language course work to complete Charger Foundations requirements for the B.A. If an interval of two years or more occurs between the study of a language in high school and continuation of that language in college, placement levels may be adjusted downward.

Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate (IB), and CLEP Examinations: The University will award credit to students who have earned a score of three or higher on Advanced Placement (AP) Program examinations of the College Entrance Examination Board according to the following scale:

- Score of 3: 6 semester hours credit (i.e. through WLC 102, 3 semester hours each course)
- Score of 4: 9 semester hours credit (through WLC 201)
- Score of 5: 12 semester hours credit (through WLC 202)

The AP credit thus awarded will satisfy Charger Foundations Requirements for the B.A. and count toward a major, minor, or certificate. However, it will be recorded without grades or quality points and will not be included in the calculation of the grade point average.

Students scoring 5-7 on the Higher Level IB exam will be awarded 15 hours of credit (through WLC 301). Currently, there is no placement procedure for students who have completed the Standard Level IB exam. Those students should take the Web Cape International Foreign Language Placement Exam and consult with a faculty member to determine placement. Placement exams can be scheduled by emailing the WLC department at wlc@uah.edu.

Students with CLEP examination scores in French, German, or Spanish will be granted credit for WLC 101, or WLC 101 and 102 depending on their score, following the UAH course placement guidelines (https://catalog.uah.edu/undergrad/policies-procedures/course-placement-credit-examination/) for CLEP exams.

Students Planning to Earn a WLC Major, Minor, or Certificate: If students wish to major or minor in French, German, Russian, or Spanish, they may take the Web Cape placement exam to test out of a maximum of twelve (12) hours of course work (WLC 101, 102, 201, 202).
After taking the Web Cape exam, students majoring or minoring in a world language will be placed in an appropriate higher level language course. They will receive credit hours, without grade/quality points, for the two (2) highest elementary/intermediate language courses as is appropriate. If students test out of more than six (6) hours, the remaining courses will be waived from the major or minor requirements with no credit hours granted.

Students pursuing a WLC certificate may also test out of language courses, but no courses may be waived from certificate requirements. This means that if a student tests out of more than the six (6) hours allowed for department credit, the remaining hours must be fulfilled by substituting other relevant courses to be determined in consultation with an advisor.

All students, irrespective of language background and placement, must take all remaining upper-level coursework to complete the major, minor, or certificate.

**Majors in World Languages and Cultures**


**Minors in Foreign Languages and Literatures**


**WLC 101A - INTRO FOREIGN LANG I: ARABIC**
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches beginning listening, speaking, reading and writing within cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. No prerequisites.

**WLC 101F - INTRO FOREIGN LANG I: FRENCH**
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches beginning listening, speaking, reading and writing within cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. No prerequisites.

**WLC 101G - INTRO FOREIGN LANG I: GERMAN**
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches beginning listening, speaking, reading and writing within cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. No prerequisites.

**WLC 101J - INTRO FOREIGN LANG I: JAPANESE**
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches beginning listening, speaking, reading and writing within cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. No prerequisites.

**WLC 101MS - INTRO TO MEDICAL SPANISH**
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches beginning listening, speaking, reading and writing within cultural contexts with special emphasis on medical terminology and tasks. Conducted in the target language. No prerequisites.

**WLC 101R - INTRO FOREIGN LANG I: RUSSIAN**
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches beginning listening, speaking, reading and writing within cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. No prerequisites.

**WLC 101S - INTRO FOREIGN LANG I: SPANISH**
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches beginning listening, speaking, reading and writing within cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. No prerequisites.
WLC 102A - INTRO FOREIGN LANG II: ARABIC
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches beginning listening, speaking, reading, and writing within cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisites: WLC 101A or placement by exam.

WLC 102F - INTRO FOREIGN LANG II: FRENCH
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches beginning listening, speaking, reading, and writing within cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisites: WLC 101F or placement by exam.

WLC 102G - INTRO FOREIGN LANG II: GERMAN
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches beginning listening, speaking, reading, and writing within cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisites: WLC 101G or placement by exam.

WLC 102J - INTRO FOREIGN LANG II: JAPANESE
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches beginning listening, speaking, reading, and writing within cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisites: WLC 101J or placement by exam.

WLC 102MS - INTRO TO MEDICAL SPANISH II
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches beginning listening, speaking, reading, and writing within cultural contexts with special emphasis on medical terminology and tasks. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisites: WLC 101MS.

WLC 102R - INTRO FOREIGN LANG II: RUSSIAN
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches beginning listening, speaking, reading, and writing within cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisites: WLC 101R or placement by exam.

WLC 102S - INTRO FOREIGN LANG II: SPANISH
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches beginning listening, speaking, reading, and writing within cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisites: WLC 101S or placement by exam.

WLC 199A - SPECIAL TOPICS
Semester Hours: 3
Study of special topics in world languages, literature, or culture on campus or abroad. Prerequisites: Placement by exam.

WLC 199F - SPECIAL TOPICS
Semester Hours: 3
Study of special topics in foreign language, literature, or culture on campus or abroad. Prerequisites: Placement by exam.

WLC 199G - SPECIAL TOPICS
Semester Hours: 3
Study of special topics in foreign language, literature, or culture on campus or abroad. Prerequisites: Placement by exam.

WLC 199J - SPECIAL TOPICS
Semester Hours: 3
Study of special topics in world languages, literature, or culture on campus or abroad. Prerequisites: Placement by exam.

WLC 199R - SPECIAL TOPICS
Semester Hours: 3
Study of special topics in foreign language, literature, or culture on campus or abroad. Prerequisites: Placement by exam.

WLC 199S - SPECIAL TOPICS
Semester Hours: 3
Study of special topics in foreign language, literature, or culture on campus or abroad. Prerequisites: Placement by exam.
WLC 201A - INTERM FOREIGN LANG I: ARABIC
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches intermediate listening, speaking, reading, and writing within cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisite: WLC 102A or placement by exam.

WLC 201F - INTERM FOREIGN LANG: FRENCH
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches intermediate listening, speaking, reading, and writing within cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisite: WLC 102F or placement by exam.

WLC 201G - INTERM FOREIGN LANG: GERMAN
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches intermediate listening, speaking, reading, and writing within cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisite: WLC 102G or placement by exam.

WLC 201J - INTERM FOREIGN LANG: JAPANESE
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches intermediate listening, speaking, reading, and writing within cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisite: WLC 102J or placement by exam.

WLC 201R - INTERM FOREIGN LANG: RUSSIAN
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches intermediate listening, speaking, reading, and writing within cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisite: WLC 102R or placement by exam.

WLC 201S - INTERM FOREIGN LANG: SPANISH
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches intermediate listening, speaking, reading, and writing within cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisite: WLC 102S or placement by exam.

WLC 202A - INTERM FOREIGN LANG II: ARABIC
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches listening, speaking, reading and writing within cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisites: WLC 201A or placement by exam.

WLC 202F - INTERM FOREIGN LANG II: FRENCH
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches listening, speaking, reading and writing within cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisites: WLC 201F or placement by exam.

WLC 202G - INTERM FOREIGN LANG II: GERMAN
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches listening, speaking, reading and writing within cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisites: WLC 201G or placement by exam.

WLC 202J - INTERM FOREIGN LANG II: JAPANESE
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches listening, speaking, reading and writing within cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisites: WLC 201J or placement by exam.

WLC 202R - INTERM FOREIGN LANG II: RUSSIAN
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches listening, speaking, reading and writing within cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisites: WLC 201R or placement by exam.

WLC 202S - INTERM FOREIGN LANG II: SPANISH
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches listening, speaking, reading and writing within cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisites: WLC 201S or placement by exam.
WLC 204 - INTERNATIONAL CINEMA
Semester Hours: 3
Analyzes foreign language films centered on changing themes, such as family, religion, children, society, and the arts. Conducted in English. No prerequisite.

WLC 301A - CONVERSATION: ARABIC
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches conversational communication through cultural texts and media. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisite: WLC 202A or placement by instructor.

WLC 301F - CONVERSATION: FRENCH
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches conversational communication through cultural texts and media. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisite: WLC 202F or placement by exam.

WLC 301G - CONVERSATION: GERMAN
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches conversational communication through cultural texts and media. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisite: WLC 202G or placement by exam.

WLC 301J - CONVERSATION: JAPANESE
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches conversational communication through cultural texts and media. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisite: WLC 202J or placement by exam.

WLC 301R - CONVERSATION: RUSSIAN
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches conversational communication through cultural texts and media. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisite: WLC 202R or placement by exam.

WLC 301S - CONVERSATION: SPANISH
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches conversational communication through cultural texts and media. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisite: WLC 202S or placement by exam.

WLC 302F - COMPOSITION: FRENCH
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches writing skills through cultural texts and media. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisite: WLC 202F or placement by exam.

WLC 302G - COMPOSITION: GERMAN
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches writing skills through cultural texts and media. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisite: WLC 202G or placement by exam.

WLC 302R - COMPOSITION: RUSSIAN
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches writing skills through cultural texts and media. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisite: WLC 202R or placement by exam.

WLC 302S - COMPOSITION: SPANISH
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches writing skills through cultural texts and media. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisite: WLC 202S or placement by exam.

WLC 303F - FOREIGN LANG LIFE & PROF: FRENCH
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches foreign language skills for careers in business, technology, politics, etc. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisite: WLC 202F or by placement.

WLC 303G - FOREIGN LANG LIFE & PROF: GERMAN
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches foreign language skills for careers in business, technology, politics, etc. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisite: WLC 202G or by placement.
WLC 303R - FOREIGN LANG LIFE & PROF: RUSSI
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches foreign language skills for careers in business, technology, politics, etc. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisite: WLC 202R or by placement.

WLC 303S - FOREIGN LANG LIFE & PROF: SPANI
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches foreign language skills for careers in business, technology, politics, etc. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisite: WLC 202S or by placement.

WLC 304F - CULTURE: FRENCH
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches the arts, histories, social customs, and values of the target culture. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisites: WLC 301F or WLC 302F.

WLC 304G - CULTURE: GERMAN
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches the arts, histories, social customs, and values of the target culture. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisites: WLC 301G or WLC 302G.

WLC 304R - CULTURE: RUSSIAN
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches the arts, histories, social customs, and values of the target culture. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisites: WLC 301R or WLC 302R.

WLC 304S - CULTURE: SPANISH
Semester Hours: 3
Teaches the arts, histories, social customs, and values of the target culture. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisites: WLC 301S or WLC 302S.

WLC 305F - INTRO TO LITERATURE: FRENCH
Semester Hours: 3
Introduces the literature of the target language in cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisite: WLC 301F or WLC 302F.

WLC 305G - INTRO TO LITERATURE: GERMAN
Semester Hours: 3
Introduces the literature of the target language in cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisite: WLC 301G or WLC 302G.

WLC 305R - INTRO TO LITERATURE: RUSSIAN
Semester Hours: 3
Introduces the literature of the target language in cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisite: WLC 301R or WLC 302R.

WLC 305S - INTRO TO LITERATURE: SPANISH
Semester Hours: 3
Introduces the literature of the target language in cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. Prerequisite: WLC 301S or WLC 302S.

WLC 404F - TEXTS & CONTEXTS: SEM LIT: FRENCH
Semester Hours: 3
In-depth study of authors, genres, or movements in cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. May be repeated when taught with a different topic. Prerequisite: WLC 301F or WLC 302F.

WLC 404G - TEXTS & CONTEXTS: SEM LIT: GERMAN
Semester Hours: 3
In-depth study of authors, genres, or movements in cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. May be repeated when taught with a different topic. Prerequisite: WLC 301G or WLC 302G.

WLC 404R - TEXTS & CONTEXTS: SEM LIT: RUSSIAN
Semester Hours: 3
In-depth study of authors, genres, or movements in cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. May be repeated when taught with a different topic. Prerequisite: WLC 301R or WLC 302R.
WLC 404S - TEXTS & CONTEXTS: SEM LIT: SPANI
Semester Hours: 3
In-depth study of authors, genres, or movements in cultural contexts. Conducted in the target language. May be repeated when taught with a different topic. Prerequisite: WLC 301S or WLC 302S.

WLC 409 - SR SEM: COMPARATIVE LANG & CUL
Semester Hours: 3
The senior seminar will explore a special topic relevant to all world languages and cultures; examples include but are not limited to education, family, fine arts, music, food, and politics. Students will compare their own language and culture to other languages and cultures, develop connections to other languages and disciplines, and cultivate an understanding of and appreciation for world cultures and communities with the aim of understanding that there are multiple ways of viewing the world. This is the capstone course for majors who opt out of completing an international internship (WLC 410). Prerequisites: Two 300-level WLC courses and senior standing.

WLC 410 - INT'L INTERN: COMP LANG/CULT
Semester Hours: 3-6
Capstone for majors, offering practical experience in commercial or public organizations domestically or abroad. Conducted in English. Prerequisite: WLC 303.

WLC 499F - INDEPENDENT STUDY: FRENCH
Semester Hours: 3
Independent study and/or study abroad. Prerequisite: WLC 202F.

WLC 499G - INDEPENDENT STUDY: GERMAN
Semester Hours: 3
Independent study and/or study abroad. Prerequisite: WLC 202G.

WLC 499R - INDEPENDENT STUDY: RUSSIAN
Semester Hours: 3
Independent study and/or study abroad. Prerequisite: WLC 202R.

WLC 499S - INDEPENDENT STUDY: SPANISH
Semester Hours: 3
Independent study and/or study abroad. Prerequisite: WLC 202S.