

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES

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Through coursework, experience abroad, community outreach activities, and other cultural encounters, the Department of Modern Languages cultivates communicative skills and cultural awareness that prepare students at Western Kentucky University to be more knowledgeable and sensitive citizens of the global community. The department's goals are to deliver high-quality language instruction based on nationally-recognized standards, to contribute actively to cross-disciplinary international initiatives on campus, and to graduate majors and minors whose language skills provide enhanced opportunities for careers at the regional, national, and international levels, and who are competitive for graduate study, should they choose that route.

Language students may join any one of the department's language clubs and may also be selected for membership in chapters of national language honor societies. They may attend international films, interact with exchange students, take part in community or regional outreach activities, and enjoy the benefits of multi-media enhanced instruction. The department strongly encourages students to take advantage of study abroad opportunities. With advance approval of the department, students can earn credit toward majors and minors through participation in WKU's own direct exchanges, the programs of the Kentucky Institute for International Studies or other accredited programs.

When planning programs of study in this department, students should be aware of the University's academic requirements and regulations contained in this catalog in the chapter "Academic Information." Specific attention should be given to the subsections in the chapter entitled

1. Academic Programs,
2. Colonnade Requirements, and
3. Academic Requirements and Regulations.

Students should be aware that some academic programs may require additional scholastic regulations and standards not specified in the catalog. To obtain a copy of these regulations, students should contact the Department Chair.

WKU Language Requirement Colonnade Program

Students enrolling as first-time, degree-seeking college students in fall 2014 or thereafter should demonstrate language proficiency at the Novice High level before completing 60 hours of college credit. Two credits (or equivalent) of High School language in a single world language satisfies the WKU Proficiency requirement. Students who have taken one semester of a world language in high school have NOT fulfilled the world language requirement. Alternatively, students may start a new language with a 101 course and then complete the second semester (102) course with a C or higher to demonstrate proficiency; or they may

take a STAMP assessment or present an adequate CLEP or AP score to demonstrate proficiency based on previous knowledge, or they may place properly and complete at least a second semester (102) course or higher to demonstrate proficiency. For information, go to <http://www.wku.edu/modernlanguages> (<http://www.wku.edu/modernlanguages/>) and click on Placement.

Previous Catalog Years

Students who enrolled as first-time, degree-seeking college students in summer 2004 or after must fulfill the foreign language general education requirement of "proficiency at the second-semester level." They can do this by successfully taking a 102 (second-semester of first year) course, by taking a department exam for 102, by gaining appropriate CLEP or AP credit, or by placing into and successfully passing a course at the intermediate (201 or 202) level or higher that is taught in the target language. Students who wish to continue a language that they studied for 2 or more years in high school will generally begin that language at the 102 level or higher. Students who want to begin the study of a new language in order to fulfill the general education requirement should enroll in the first-semester (101) course of that language. Students who enrolled as first-time, degree-seeking college students prior to the summer of 2004 may fulfill the foreign language general education requirement of proficiency at the first-semester level. They can do this by successfully taking a 101 or first-semester course.

Credit for Students Intending to Major or Minor in a Language

Students who have good language skills and those who plan to major or minor in one of these languages should take measures to gain credit for their previous knowledge. For current information on verified credit, AP credit, or CLEP credit, go to the Modern Languages website at this address: <http://www.wku.edu/modernlanguages> (<http://www.wku.edu/modernlanguages/>) and click on Placement.

International Study Opportunities

WKU students may take part in faculty-led study abroad programs or enroll for short-term, summer, quarter, semester or year abroad programs at study centers abroad and have that coursework transferred back to WKU and credited to their Modern Language major. See the international programs section of this publication or <http://www.wku.edu/studyabroad> (<http://www.wku.edu/studyabroad/>) for more information. The Department offers several scholarships and awards annually intended primarily to assist students who study abroad.

Degrees

- Chinese, Bachelor of Arts (624) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/arts-letters/modern-languages/chinese-ba/>)
- Spanish, Bachelor of Arts (778) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/arts-letters/modern-languages/spanish-ba/>)

Minors

- Chinese, Minor (337) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/arts-letters/modern-languages/chinese-minor/>)
- Spanish, Minor (464) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/arts-letters/modern-languages/spanish-minor/>)

Certificates

- Chinese Studies, Certificate (1755) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/arts-letters/modern-languages/chinesestudies-certificate/>)
- Language Certificate in Spanish, Certificate (1771) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/arts-letters/modern-languages/spanishlanguage-certificate/>)

Faculty

Professor

Ke Peng PhD (East Asian Studies, East Asian Studies), University of Arizona, 2011

Inmaculada Pertusa PhD (Spanish), University of Colorado at Boulder, 1996

Melissa A. Stewart PhD (Hispanic & Italian Studies), Johns Hopkins University, 1992

Pedagogical Associate Professor

Francesca D. Sunkin MA (Spanish), Bowling Green State University, 1999

Pedagogical Assistant Professor

Yuyun Lei PhD (East Asian Languages & Culture), University of Illinois Central Admin, 2021

Kai Liang PhD, The Ohio State University Main Campus, 2022

Instructor I

Zhuqin T. Borders PhD (Foreign Philosophy), Renmin University-China, 2017

Na Li MR (Teaching Chinese to Speakers of other Languages), Liaoning University, 2012

Instructor II

Yerty M. Vandermolen MA (Spanish), University of Northern Iowa, 2012