Modern Languages & Literatures

Faculty Office Bldg. (47), Room 28
805 756-1205

Department Chair, William Martinez, Jr.
Kevin Fagan John J. Thompson
Brian Kennelly Gloria Velásquez
Karen Muñoz-Christian

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
French – Minor
German – Minor
Modern Languages and Literatures – BA
Spanish – Minor

The Modern Languages and Literatures Department offers coursework in French, German, and Spanish, as well as elementary Italian, Japanese and Mandarin. Instruction at all levels emphasizes communicative competence to prepare students for cultural, educational, literary and professional needs in California, throughout the United States and abroad. Audiovisual components are used in the classroom as well as in the language laboratory.

Students who wish to enroll in Spanish courses for the first time at Cal Poly, numbered 101 through 124, must take the Spanish Placement Examination prior to enrolling. Students who have never studied Spanish are exempt. Students should contact the Modern Languages and Literatures Department for test dates. The department strongly encourages students to follow its placement formula: one year of high school French, German, Italian, Mandarin or Japanese is equivalent to one quarter at Cal Poly.

The department supports the concept of international education and encourages students to investigate all opportunities for overseas study. The department works closely with the CSU's International Programs to insure that all courses taken in an overseas experience count toward either major, support, minor, general education and/or free electives. The department also sponsors summer and single term (fall quarter) experiences abroad. Students interested in studying abroad should consult with the International Education and Programs Office and their assigned academic advisor.

The department is active in training students who wish to obtain a bilingual teaching credential. It administers the Bilingual Proficiency Examination in Spanish.

The department also supports such student clubs as C.U.L.T.U.R.E, the French Club, the German Club, the Circolo Italiano, the Latin American Studies Association, MEXA (Movimiento Estudiantil Xicano de Aztlán), and Tomo Dachi Kai.

The PolyLingual International Resource Center (PIRC) is the department's digital language laboratory and multimedia production facility. Students and faculty members use the Center for class activities and presentations, and for drop-in language practice and curriculum development. The PIRC also houses the College of Liberal Arts MultiMedia Center (CLAMM), where students and faculty may create a cadre of projects for professional and academic development.

The curriculum for the Bachelor of Arts degree provides strong preparation for a career in single-subject teaching, multiple-subject teaching, business, government, and international affairs; it also provides preparation for graduate study in business administration, Chicano/Latino studies, comparative literature, ethnic studies, languages, Latin American studies, and other fields in the humanities social sciences, and various service areas.