

VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

SUSAN S. GOODE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Through language we penetrate from the mind and heart of one people to another, from one civilization to another, from the wisdom of one literature to that of another. By learning a foreign language, students become familiar with the literature, history, philosophy, art, and the economic and social conditions of the people who speak that language. Seven-eighths of the world's people do not speak English. Languages provide the keys for access to these other cultures and countries. Learning a foreign language helps grasp the nature, function, and social importance of one's own native tongue. Language learning, therefore, becomes the bridge between the peoples and cultures of the world.

THE PROGRAM

Virginia Wesleyan's programs in French studies, German studies, and Hispanic studies are designed to prepare students for meaningful international and intercultural exchange in a competitive, globalized world. Students pursuing one of these majors will acquire a multidisciplinary and comprehensive understanding of the target culture, its language, and its impact on the world at large. In the ever-changing world, where contact with a variety of languages and peoples is both desirable and inevitable, the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures strongly believes in the teaching of languages in their contexts as the means to overcome obstacles to intercultural and international contact and communication.

THE MAJOR

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures strives, by teaching foreign languages in their cultural contexts, to expose students to ways of thinking different from their own and to help them become better prepared to live in today's multi-linguistic, multi-cultural, and transnational world. The majors are designed to develop the skills, knowledge, attitudes, and values necessary for living and working in a society with little or no dependence on English. Students attain language skills at a high-advanced level, as well as knowledge of history, literature, and the arts, including cinema. Courses are designed to help students understand contemporary culture as compared to their own and deepen their appreciation of these differences.

THE COURSES

Classes at VWU are small and interactive. Students may choose from French studies, German studies, and Hispanic studies. Some of the courses within the foreign languages and literatures program include: Masterpieces of French Literature, French History I & II, Great German Thinkers, Modern German Literature, Civilization of Latin America, Studies in Hispanic Poetry. All majors require courses in advanced conversation and composition. Students seeking certification in secondary education must fulfill the requirements for a French, German or Spanish major as well as specific courses required by the education department. Those students are strongly encouraged to take the Practicum Teaching Course.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

This major primes students for meaningful exchange in an increasingly complex, globalized, transnational, and multicultural world where interaction with non-English speaking people has become not just desirable, but unavoidable and where liberal arts graduates should have a sense of enlightened understanding of, appreciation for, and solidarity with other countries, nations, and peoples. Students are prepared for careers in education, diplomacy, business, communications, political science, and journalism, and for graduate study.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Susan Wansink

Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

Professor of German

swansink@vwu.edu

