

SUSAN S. GOODE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

The study of languages, cultures, and civilizations is meant to enrich us, stretch our imagination, and expand our horizon beyond the narrow confines of our own country, society and culture. It also prepares us for life in an increasingly multicultural and interconnected world and equips us for a workplace that has itself become multicultural. By majoring or minoring in one of our languages, or simply by taking classes in our department, students do not just learn a language, but also become familiar with the literature, the arts, the history, the philosophy, and the specific civilizations and societies of the people who speak that language. Seven-eighths of the world's people do not speak English, and thus, by learning a foreign language, students are provided the tools to access these cultures, populations and countries. Studying foreign languages and cultures is also necessary for true understanding of one's own country.

THE PROGRAM

The University's programs in French 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 or minors will acquire a multidisciplinary and comprehensive understanding of the target culture, its language, and its impact on the world at large. In an ever-changing world, where contact with a variety of languages and peoples has become both desirable and inevitable, the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, and Classics strongly believes in the teaching of languages and cultures as the major means to limit conflicts and overcome obstacles to intercultural and international contact, exchange and mutual understanding.

THE MAJOR

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, and Classics strives, by teaching foreign languages in their 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, the arts (including cinema), societies and civilizations. 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 and Hispanic Studies. Some of the courses within the Foreign Languages and Literatures programs include: Masterpieces of French Literature, French History I & II, Introduction to French Cinema, Civilization of Latin America, Studies in Hispanic Poetry and Hispanic American Women Writers. All majors are required to take courses in advanced conversation and composition. Students seeking certification in secondary education must fulfill the requirements for a French Studies or Hispanic Studies major as well as specific courses required by the Education Department. Those students are strongly encouraged to take the Practicum Teaching Course in their respective area of interest.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

These studies prime 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, journalism, and for graduate studies.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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