FOREIGN LANGUAGES ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

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In keeping with the college's commitment to integrative study and global perspective, the program in Foreign Languages Across the Curriculum (FLAC) offers students opportunities to combine their knowledge of a foreign language with their study of other fields in the liberal arts. By definition, FLAC courses combine at least two fields of knowledge: a language other than English and a discipline such as history, religion, or political science.

FLAC courses are specially designated courses that offer 0.25 credit foreign-language component. Each component meets an additional hour each week beyond the regular class time. In most components, students read and discuss supplementary texts in the designated foreign language. In some components, students read texts in the foreign language and discuss them primarily in English. In others, the “texts” are actually oral/aural sources (e.g., newscasts, dramatizations, films) in a foreign language, discussed in that language. FLAC courses are particularly appropriate for students who are preparing for, or returning from, study abroad, who appreciate literature and the power of language, who enjoy analyzing original texts, or who are considering graduate study that requires the use of foreign language in reading and research.

Requirements

To be eligible to participate in FLAC courses, students should have proficiency in a foreign language equivalent to at least the fourth semester (232 level or equivalent) of college language study. Students who successfully complete the foreign-language component in two FLAC courses (in the same language) will earn Applied Foreign Language Certification on their St. Olaf transcript.

Courses

FLAC courses span the curriculum. Since 1989, foreign-language components have been developed for courses in a variety of disciplines (including art/Asian studies, history, Latin American studies, religion, political science, and music) and in a variety of languages (Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Latin, Norwegian, Russian, and Spanish). Not every FLAC course is available every year, and new courses are developed periodically. Students should consult the roster of FLAC options available each semester in the class and lab schedule.

Faculty

Director, 2018-2019
Jeane DeLaney (on leave Interim and spring)
Associate Professor of History
Latin American history; Argentina and Cuba; environmental history of Latin America

Karen R. Achberger
Professor of German
German cinema; 20th-century German and Austrian literature; Ingeborg Bachmann; Green Germany; fin-de-siècle Vienna

Jolene M. Barjasteh (on leave fall and Interim)
Professor of Romance Languages - French
19th- and 20th-century French literature; autobiography

Gwendolyn Barnes-Karol
Professor of Romance Languages - Spanish
Peninsular literature and culture; contemporary Spain; orality and literacy; second language acquisition

Benjamin E. Heidgerken
Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion

Dolores Peters
Associate Professor of History
modern France; modern Europe; history of medicine

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Associate Professor of History
modern France; modern Europe; history of medicine

Hsiang-Lin Shih
Assistant Professor of Asian Studies
Chinese literature; classical and modern eras

Jill A. Watson
Assistant Professor of Education
ESL; SLIFE education