European Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Chairperson
Nicholas Rzhevsky, Humanities Building 1055 (631) 632#7440

Graduate Program Director
Peter Carravetta, Humanities Building 1055, (631) 632#7442

Graduate Secretary
Mary Wilmarth, Humanities Building 1055, (631) 632#7440, 632-7442

Degrees Awarded
M.A. in Romance Languages and Literature, D.A. in Romance Languages and Literature

European Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

The Department, within the College of Arts and Sciences, offers a wide variety of programs emphasizing study of the European languages, literatures, and cultures, courses in pedagogical methodology, supervised teaching experience, and advanced training for careers related to international affairs. The Department is committed to providing the best possible graduate education: two of its members have been named Distinguished Professor, and four have received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. The proximity of numerous cultural institutions such as the Center for Italian Studies on campus, the Goethe House in New York, the Kosciuszko Foundation, the New York Public Library, and the Harriman Institute of Columbia University, enhance the quality of graduate study in the Department.

The programs have been designed with today’s career opportunities in mind. Students are encouraged to shape a personal curriculum, drawing on other Departments engaged in issues pertinent to pedagogy and European cultural history, such as Comparative Studies, History, Linguistics, Music, Philosophy, Political Science, and Theater Arts. The Department supports exchange programs with European universities, in France, Germany, Russia, Poland, and Italy.

More detailed program information is available from the Department office and on the Internet at www.sunysb.edu/eurolangs. Part-time study is permitted; most graduate courses are offered during the late afternoon or evening. Our advisors work closely with students in designing a program to meet individual needs and interests.

Degree Programs

M.A. Curriculum
The M.A. curriculum for each language program is designed to introduce students to research in European languages, literatures, and cultures leading to the D.A. or Ph.D. degrees, preparation for teaching on the college, university, or secondary school level, as well as careers involving international expertise. Students specialize in one of the offered languages, literary histories, and cultures, or create a combined program (i.e., two Romance languages), with the help of their advisors. Most courses are conducted in the target language. Experienced teaching assistants are encouraged to design and teach advanced courses on the undergraduate level. A carefully developed advising system enables students to tailor specially structured programs to suit their individual needs and interests.

M.A. Program in Romance Languages
The Department offers an M.A. in Romance Languages with possible concentrations in French and Spanish, Italian and Spanish, and French and Italian. The curriculum is formulated according to the individual student’s needs and interests. It is a flexible program that suits students who wish to go on to doctoral work as well as those who wish to complete their studies with the Master’s degree. There are two possible tracks:

Track A, Literature and Culture: Designed for students who wish to follow a traditional M.A. program or intend to proceed toward further study on the D.A. or Ph.D. level. Typically students design a curriculum that includes literature, linguistics, and culture courses in one of the Romance languages or in a combination of two Romance languages. This track gives the students a choice of writing a Master’s Thesis or passing a Comprehensive Examination to qualify for the degree.

Track B, Language Pedagogy for Secondary School Teachers: For students who have completed provisional requirements to teach languages in secondary schools and are required by State regulations to complete a Master’s degree. The track is specifically designed for students who have completed the Teacher Preparation Program in Foreign Languages at the undergraduate level. It allows secondary school teachers to further concentrate in the target language and culture they teach, or in a combination of two Romance languages. Upon completing 12 hours of graduate work, each student designs a course of study. Upon completing all coursework, the student develops an independent research topic under mentor supervision. All courses are offered no earlier than 5:20 p.m. to meet the time constraints of secondary school teachers.

Graduate courses in other fields, including those offered by the School of Professional Development, are open to qualified students. Departmental students are encouraged to take courses in related areas. With the permission of their advisor, students may obtain six credits outside the program.

M.A. Programs in German and Slavic
See the Degree Requirements section. [Program in German temporarily suspended.]

M.A.T. Program in French 7-12, German 7#12, Italian 7-12, Russian 7#12
Consult the SPD section in this bulletin.

D.A. Program in Foreign Languages
The program leading to the Doctor of Arts degree provides pedagogical training in European languages, literatures, and cultures. It is appropriate for those interested in teaching on the secondary school, junior college, college or university level, as well as for potential specialists in language laboratories, media studies, communications, marketing, and others interested in acquiring an in-depth knowledge of the European languages, literatures, and cultures. The course of study is flexible, competency based, and whenever possible, tailored to individual needs and interests.

The program consists of coursework, research in the major field, practice in areas of professional preparation, demonstration of successful teaching, a Comprehensive Examination, and a Doctoral Dissertation or Project. Students may elect to specialize in French, German, Italian or Slavic. Admission is granted to full-time and part-time students who have the B.A. or its equivalent.

A more detailed description of the graduate program is available from the departmental office. This information includes specific distribution requirements, fields of specialization, and material pertaining to the preliminary and qualifying examinations. Interested students should request information and apply as early as possible, especially if they plan to be considered for financial aid.

For admission to the M.A. Programs of European Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

For admission to graduate studies in the M.A. programs, the following, in addition to the minimum standards of the Graduate School, are normally required:

1. A Bachelor’s degree or its equivalent from a reputable scholarly institution. For the M.A. applicants selecting the concentration in two Romance Languages, a Bachelor’s degree or its equivalent with a major in French, Italian, or Spanish and at least 18 credits in a second language (French, Italian, or Spanish).

2. Three letters of recommendation written by persons qualified to assess the candidate’s preparation.

3. For foreign students, a TOEFL score meeting the current standards set by the Graduate School.

4. Transcripts of undergraduate records.

5. Acceptance by both the Department and the Graduate School.

6. Normally, a grade average of at least B in the undergraduate major.

Provisional admission may be offered in exceptional cases.

While it is expected that the applicant demonstrate superior preparation in a European language, an undergraduate major in that language is not always required. Students judged to be deficient in language proficiency are required to take remedial courses during the academic year or in the summer.

Foreign students must furnish as much information as possible about their training abroad (official certification degrees, lists of courses taken, and papers submitted, whenever possible), together with letters of recommendation. Each application will be judged individually. Transfer credit for previously taken graduate courses will be assessed by the faculty and approved within the regulations of the Graduate School.

For admission to the Doctor of Arts Program in Foreign Languages

In addition to the requirements of the Graduate School, the Department requires:

1. A B.A. degree or its equivalent in coursework and credits.

2. Three letters of recommendation from persons qualified to assess the candidate’s preparation.

3. Results of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test and, for foreign students, TOEFL.

4. Demonstrated proficiency in a European language.

5. Acceptance by both the Department and the Graduate School.

Provisional admission may be given to some students not meeting all of the above requirements.

European Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

The Language Learning and Research Center offers a variety of tutorial tools in the languages taught at the University and includes two computer laboratories, two audio and video laboratories and two multimedia classrooms. The Center regularly hosts workshops and courses (see listings of courses under the Doctor of Arts program), relating to the intersection between technology and language, literature, and culture learning.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the on-campus Humanities Institute. The Institute brings leading national and international specialists in the humanities to speak on current issues, and to provide Stony Brook students with the latest research in culture studies, literature, and the arts.

Students can also participate in many activities sponsored by the Alfonse M. D’Amato Chair in Italian and Italian American Studies.
The holdings of the Frank Melville, Jr. Memorial Library include extensive collections in print and other media pertinent to each of the four major language groups taught by the Department. The Department maintains a high profile in state-of-the-art technologies, including Internet applications of language, literature, and culture pedagogy.

Requirements for the M.A. Degree in Romance Languages (European Languages, Literatures, and Cultures)

Track A: Literature and Culture
The M.A. requires a specialization in French, in Italian, or in a combination of two Romance languages (French, Italian, and Spanish). It requires at least ten three-credit courses (eight courses for students who opt to write a Thesis), to be completed with a grade of B or better, for a total of 30 credits.

A. Course Requirements

French
1. FRN 501 Contemporary Culture and Civilization (3 credits)
2. FRN 507 Stylistics, Syntax and Composition (3 credits)
3. Eight additional courses (six for students who opt to write a Thesis), chosen in consultation with the advisor to formulate an area of specialization (18-24 credits). These courses may include three courses in related disciplines.
4. Master Thesis (optional) (6 credits)
Total credits: 30

Italian
1. ITL 501 Contemporary Italy (3 credits)
2. ITL 508 Syntax and Composition (3 credits)
3. One of the following courses: ITL 507, ITL 511, ITL 512, ITL 513 (3 credits)

Seven additional courses (five for students who opt to write a M.A. Thesis) chosen in consultation with the advisor to formulate an area of specialization (15-21 credits). These courses may include three courses in related disciplines.
4. Master Thesis (optional) (6 credits)
Total credits: 30

Romance Languages
1. Syntax and Composition in the two chosen languages (FRN 507, ITL 508, SPN 515) (6 credits)
2. One of the following Romance Linguistics courses: ITL 513, FRN 513, SPN 503, SPN 504 (3 credits)
3. Seven additional courses in two Romance languages (five for students who opt to write a M.A. Thesis), to formulate a major and a minor specialization (15-21 credits). These courses are to be chosen in consultations with the advisors and approved by the respective programs to formulate an area of specialization. These courses may include three courses in related disciplines.
4. Master Thesis (optional) (6 credits)
Total credits: 30

B. Language Requirement
Competence at the intermediate level in a language other than the language of specialization, preferably in a second modern Romance language or Latin. Students opting for a combination of two Romance languages will automatically satisfy this requirement. This requirement may be fulfilled through a departmental examination or a suitable language course designed for graduate students.

C. M.A. Thesis or Examination (Choice of Option 1 or 2)
1. M.A. Thesis: Students write a Master’s Thesis under the supervision of a faculty advisor, along with a second faculty member in his/her major program, and a third faculty member in a related field. Upon completion of the Thesis, the student prepares a formal presentation of the Thesis.
2. M.A. Examination: Students who opt not to write a Master’s Thesis must complete a four-hour written examination and a one-hour oral examination. The examination is based on a comprehensive reading list in the student’s area of specialization. Three faculty members will serve as examiners.

Track B: Language Pedagogy for Secondary School Teachers
The M.A. in Romance Languages for Secondary School Teachers consists of a total of 30 credits. Students will take three core courses (9 credits) and seven courses (21 credits) in their target language(s). Students must maintain a B average, and receive at least a B in their language courses (FRN 507, ITL 508, SPN 515).
A. Course Requirements
Core Courses (9 credits)
1. FLA 540 Foreign Language Acquisition Research (3 credits)
2. DLL/FLA 571 Foreign Language Technology and Education (3 credits)
3. FLA 581 Foreign Language Teaching Independent Project (3 credits)
4. Competence in a foreign language other than the target language
Courses of Study for Areas of Specialization (21 credits)

French
1. FRN 501 Contemporary Culture and Civilization (3 credits)
2. FRN 502 French Civilization in Its Historical Perspective (3 credits)
3. FRN 507 Stylistics, Syntax and Composition (3 credits)
4. FRN 510 French Phonetics and Diction (3 credits)
5. One course in literature in French (3 credits)
6. Two elective courses relevant to the program chosen in consultation with the advisor (6 credits)
Total credits: 21

Italian
1. ITL 501 Contemporary Italy (3 credits)
2. ITL 502 Special Topics in Italian Cinema (3 credits)
3. ITL 508 Syntax and Composition (3 credits)
4. ITL 511 History of the Italian language or ITL 507 Italian Linguistics (3 credits)
5. One course in literature in Italian (3 credits)
6. Two elective courses relevant to the program chosen in consultation with the advisor (6 credits)
Total credits: 21

Romance Languages
Students may choose two of the three Romance languages taught at Stony Brook, with one as major and one as minor. Configuration of courses will be developed on an individual basis according to each student’s needs and interests. The following courses are required:
1. ITL 513, FRN 513, SPN 503, or SPN 504 (Romance Linguistics) (3 credits)
2. Two of the following: FRN 507, ITL 508, SPN 515 (Syntax and Composition) (6 credits)
3. Two of the following: FRN 501, ITL 501, SPN 510 (Culture) (6 credits)
4. Two elective courses relevant to the program chosen in consultation with the advisor (6 credits)
Total credits: 21
Note: Culture and linguistics courses can be substituted with permission of the Department, subject to availability.

B. Language Requirement
Competence in a language other than the language of specialization, preferably in a second modern Romance language or Latin. Competence will be determined by departmental examination, or by completing specific graduate courses approved by the Department. Students opting for a combination of two Romance languages will automatically satisfy this requirement. For non-native English language speakers, fluency in English is also required.

C. Research Project
Students must complete a Research Project under the supervision of a faculty advisor and subject to approval by a second faculty member in his/her major program and by a third faculty member in a related field. Upon completion, the student prepares a formal presentation of his/her research.
Requirements for the M.A. Degree in German

[Program temporarily suspended.]

Track A

A. Course Requirements
1. One 19th-century German literature course (3 credits); one 20th-century German literature course (3 credits); GER 545 or GER 546 (3 credits); GER 539 Contrastive Structures or GER 557 History of the German Language (3 credits); GER 599 Thesis (6 credits).

2. Four additional offerings at the graduate level from courses within the Department or, upon prior approval by the Department, from those of other Departments within the Graduate School (12 credits).

Total credits: 30

B. Performance
Average of B or higher in all graduate courses taken at Stony Brook.

C. M.A. Thesis
Submission of a scholarly essay on a topic and of a standard acceptable to the Department is required.

Track B

A. Course Requirements
There is no Thesis required. All 30 credits can be fulfilled by coursework as follows:
1. GER 504 German Cultural History (3 credits); GER 539 Contrastive Structures or GER 557 History of the German Language (3 credits); one course in older Germanic languages, e.g., GER 558, GER 562, or GER 563 (3 credits); one course in 20th-century German literature, e.g., GER 545 or GER 546 (3 credits).

2. Six additional offerings at the graduate level from courses within the Department or, upon prior approval by the Department, from those of other Departments within the Graduate School (18 credits).

Total credits: 30

B. Performance
Average of B or higher in all graduate courses taken at Stony Brook.

Requirements for the M.A. Degree in Slavic Languages and Literatures

A. Course Requirements
1. Three courses in advanced language and/or linguistics (9 credits)

2. One course in culture (3 credits)

3. Two courses in Russian literature (6 credits)

4. Four electives in the student’s major area with the approval of the Department (12 credits)

Total credits: 30

B. Language Proficiency in Russian
The Russian language proficiency requirement may be satisfied by one of the following:

1. Passing an examination

2. Appropriate coursework in Russian (RUS 311, RUS 312, or equivalent)

3. One semester of study abroad in the Commonwealth of Independent States (C.I.S.), in an approved program, such as the SUNY-Albany/MGU Exchange.

C. Second Slavic Language Requirement
This requirement may be satisfied by one of the following:

1. A proficiency examination

2. Appropriate coursework in the language (e.g., SLV 580, SLV 581)

3. Study abroad in an approved program in Eastern Europe or the C.I.S.

With the approval of the program, a non-Slavic language of Eastern Europe or the C.I.S. may be substituted for the second Slavic language.

D. Thesis or Comprehensive Examination
A Master’s Thesis or Comprehensive Examination based on a reading list and coursework is required.
Requirements for the D.A. Degree in Foreign Languages

[Program suspended.]

A minimum of 36 credits is required, to be distributed as follows: 9 credits in pedagogical and methodological issues related to foreign languages, literatures, and cultures; 9 credits in the language of specialization; 9 credits in culture and literature; and 9 credits to be completed through an Internship or Externship, and a Dissertation or Project. The Dissertation or Project may be completed in conjunction with a qualified academic semester or summer study abroad program, teaching practice, or independent research determined in consultation with the principal advisor.

A. Language Proficiency
Upon completion of 24 credits, all candidates will be expected to demonstrate proficiency in the language of specialization and another language. Proficiency may be satisfied by one of the following:

1. A written recommendation of a faculty member from the Department
2. A formal written examination, when the major advisor and D.A. committee deem it necessary. Students who do not pass the examination may request a second testing during the following semester.

B. Practical Experience
All candidates are required to fulfill the following teaching and research assignments during the program:

1. Practicum: The student is given charge of a three-hour section in a beginning or intermediate course. The practicum takes place after the student has successfully completed training in language, literature, or culture instruction that covers objectives, grading, and testing.

2. Internship or Externship: For the Internship the student is apprenticed to a professor in charge of a literature, language, or culture course for at least one semester. For the Externship, the student teaches independently but under faculty supervision in a qualified secondary school, college, or university. The Internship or Externship may not precede the practicum.

3. Dissertation or Project: The student explores a research area developed in consultation with his/her advisor.

C. Final Evaluation
The final evaluation is based on the program of study that the candidate has completed. The student is expected to demonstrate mastery of the individual curriculum requirements, and a thorough understanding of the components of the program. Final examinations are scheduled twice a year, in November and April.

1. The final evaluation includes both a written and an oral Comprehensive Examination covering topics from all areas in the program. The examination is scheduled after the candidate has demonstrated competence in the area of specialization, pedagogical and methodological issues. It is the responsibility of the candidate to prepare, with his/her advisor, a reading list that includes the student’s area of specialization.

2. Dissertation or Project: Upon successful completion of the Comprehensive Examination, the candidate, in consultation with his/her advisor, submits a proposal. After the proposal is approved, a committee is appointed, in consultation with the program director. This committee includes a supervisor and at least two advisors. At least two faculty members must be from the Department and, subject to availability, one may be from outside the Department.

Transfer Credit: The D.A. committee may accept six graduate transfer credits earned within the past five years from non-SUNY institutions. Nine credits may be accepted from all SUNY institutions.

Under special circumstances, and with approval of the Department, additional cross-listed credits may be counted toward the D.A. requirements.

European Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Professors
Bona, Mary Jo, Coordinator of the Italian American Program, Ph.D., 1989, University of Wisconsin at Madison: Italian American studies; English literature.

Carravetta, Peter, Alfonse M. D’Amato Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Ph.D., 1983, New York University: Italian and French critical theory; postmodernism; Italian American and migration studies.

Fontanella, Luigi, Ph.D., 1981, Harvard University: Modern Italian literature; 20th-century Italian poetry.

Mignone, Mario B., Distinguished Service Professor and Director of the Center for Italian Studies, Ph.D., 1972, Rutgers University: Contemporary Italian literature and culture; emigration studies.

Rzhevsky, Nicholas, Chair, Ph.D., 1972, Princeton University: Russian and Soviet literature; Russian theater; ideology.

Associate Professors
Bloomer, Robert K., Director of Undergraduate Studies and Coordinator of the German Program, Ph.D., 1990, University of Michigan: Germanic linguistics; morphology; etymology.
Fedi, Andrea, Ph.D., 1994, University of Toronto: Italian Renaissance literature; historiography.

Franco, Charles, Coordinator of the Italian Program and Coordinator of the Medieval Studies Program, Ph.D., 1977, Rutgers University: Dante; medieval Italian literature.

Kalinowska-Blackwood, Izabela, Ph.D., 1995, Yale University: Russian and Polish literature, culture and film.

Kerth, Thomas A., Ph.D., 1977, Yale University: Medieval literature; Middle High German; philology; German poetry. Recipient of the State University Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. 1992.

Raynard-Leroy, Sophie, Ph.D., 1999, Columbia University: French literature and culture; Romance philology.

Westphalen, Timothy, Coordinator of the Slavic Languages Program and Coordinator of the European Studies Program, Ph.D., 1991, Harvard University: Russian poetry; Russian symbolism; 19th-century Russian literature; Bakhtin.

Assistant Professors
Dalmas, Franck, Ph.D., 2006, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: French language and literature.

Gazzola, Giuseppe, Ph.D., 2008, Yale University: 19th-century Italian literature; travel literature.

Jourdain, Sarah, Coordinator of the Teacher Training Program, Ph.D., 1996, Indiana University: pedagogy and teacher training; French language.

Full-Time Lecturers
Balducci, Gioacchino, Dottore in Lingue e Civiltà Orientali, 1964, Oriental Institute at the University of Naples: Italian cinema and theater.


Marchegiani, Irene, Coordinator of Student Teaching and Field Experience, Dottore in Lettere e Filosofia, 1973, University of Florence: Italian language and literature; pedagogy.

Sanou, Sini Prosper, Coordinator of the French Program, Ph.D., 1992, University of Minnesota: French language and pedagogy.

Turan, Madeline, M.S., 1975, Long Island University: foreign language pedagogy; French.

Viola Grosse-Middledorf, Birgit, D.A., 1990, Stony Brook University: German language and culture; business German.

Affiliated Faculty
Bailyn, John F., Department of Linguistics, Associate Professor, Ph.D., 1995, Cornell University: Slavic linguistics; Russian language and linguistics; syntax.

Bethin, Christina Y., Department of Linguistics, Professor, Ph.D., 1978, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: Slavic linguistics; Russian, Polish, and Ukrainian languages; phonology. Recipient of the State University Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. 1983.

Harvey, Robert, Department of Comparative Studies, Professor, Ph.D., 1988, University of California at Berkeley: contemporary French and Maghrebian Francophone literature; critical theory; film. Recipient of the State University Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. 1996.

Hurley, E. Anthony, Department of Africana Studies, Associate Professor, Ph.D., 1992, Rutgers University: francophone literature of the Caribbean and Africa; 19th-century French literature.

Petrey, Sandy, Department of Comparative Studies, Professor, Ph.D., 1966, Yale University: 19th-century French literature; comparative literature; literary theory.

Reich, Jacqueline, Ph.D., 1994, University of California at Berkeley: modern Italian literature; Italian film studies.

Repetti, Lori, Department of Linguistics, Associate Professor, Ph.D., 1989, University of California, Los Angeles: Romance linguistics; Italian dialectology; history of the Italian language.

Roncero López, Victoriano, Department of Hispanic Languages, Professor, Ph.D., 1988, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: Golden Age literature; Quevedo studies, picaresque novel; 16th-century Spanish poetry.

Silverman, Hugh J., Department of Philosophy, Professor, Ph.D., 1973, Stanford University: continental philosophy and criticism; history of aesthetic and literary theory; interdisciplinary studies in European philosophy, literatures, and cultures.

Emeriti Faculty


Blum, Carol, Emerita, Ph.D., 1966, Columbia University: 18th-century French literature; literature of the French revolution.

Brown, Frederick, Emeritus, Ph.D., 1960, Yale University: 19th- and 20th-century French literature.

Brown, Russell E., Emeritus, Ph.D., Harvard University: modern German literature; expressionist poetry; Trakl; Brecht; Jahn.


Tursi, Joseph, Emeritus, Ph.D., 1965, CUNY: Italian language and culture; pedagogy.


Zimmermann, Eléonore M., Emerita, Ph.D., 1956, Yale University: 17th- and 20th-century French literature; comparative studies.

*NOTE: The course descriptions for this program can be found in the corresponding program PDF or at COURSE SEARCH.*