



The Passion

In today's increasingly global society, a well-rounded education should include foreign language skills and cross-cultural understanding. The international nature of business and politics, as well as the changing demographics within the United States, have dramatically increased the demand for individuals who can transcend linguistic and cultural barriers. These individuals will hold increasingly pivotal roles in industry, government, and education.

The Program

Gonzaga's Modern Language Department offers majors and minors in French, Italian Studies, and Spanish, as well as minors in German and Italian, and three-year programs in Chinese and Japanese. The department also offers one to two years of Arabic, depending on demand. Our lower division language courses enable students to attain foreign language proficiency before going on to upper division courses in literature, film, culture, and advanced language. Faculty use modern methodologies and teaching aids. New state-of-the-art classrooms allow students to learn languages in a multimedia environment. A flexible placement policy allows incoming students with foreign language skills to begin their coursework at the most suitable level.

Our faculty believe that through encounter with a foreign culture, a student develops tolerance for difference, an understanding of other cultures and languages, and a greater insight into oneself and one's own culture as seen from new perspectives.

- **The French major and minor** are structured around the Gonzaga-in-Paris program; thus the study abroad program is an expectation for a major in French and is strongly encouraged for the minor in French. With courses at the Catholic Institute and the Sorbonne, the Paris program offers students the opportunity to acquire fluency in French in one of the world's most culturally rich cities. The French Program awards the Martin Blum scholarship to a second-year student who demonstrates outstanding ability in the study of French.
- **The German minor** helps students develop grammatical competence and achieve oral proficiency. Upper division courses that coordinate with the International Studies program focus on reading, writing, and speaking skills. German plays an important role in higher education and an increasingly global economy. Gonzaga's German program develops and perfects the German language skills

that help students compete in these environments. Language, literature, and culture classes focus on interactive acquisition of German.

- **The Italian Studies major and minor** are interdisciplinary programs designed to foster understanding and appreciation of Italian culture. The Gonzaga-in-Florence Program enriches the Italian Studies Program by enabling students to immerse themselves in the heart of Italy's history and tradition for a semester or a full year. A language-intensive minor in Italian is also available.
- **The Spanish major and minor** focus equally on Latin America and Spain. Gonzaga students may study in Granada, Spain during the fall or spring semesters or attend a six-week summer immersion program in Cuernavaca, Mexico, which includes a home-stay with a Mexican family. A limited number of students may study in El Salvador in a program that includes a community-service component, as well as classes in political science, sociology and history. More than one-tenth of the U.S. population speaks Spanish, and trade with Latin America continues to expand. Spanish language proficiency and an awareness of Hispanic culture have never been more important than they are in today's job market and global economy.
- Although no major or minor is available in Japanese or Chinese, a **major or minor in Asian Studies**, which requires proficiency in either Chinese or Japanese, is available through the International Studies Program. Japanese language students may study for a semester or a year at Sophia University in Tokyo or at Akita International University in Akita, Japan. Chinese language students may participate in Gonzaga-approved programs in Beijing, Nanjing, Shanghai, and Taipei. All indications are that the phenomenal growth in the Pacific Rim will continue, so Chinese and Japanese language proficiency will be powerful tools for students with an interest in this region.

Photo Credits: Alan Bisson, Dean Davis, Eric Galey, Craig Hill, Lauren Intinarelli, Jennifer Raudebaugh, Amy Sinisterra, and Allen Hubbard.

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- Language students may also **major in European or Latin American Studies**, multidisciplinary programs that combine advanced language classes with courses on history, politics, and society related to these specific geographic regions. Students acquire foreign language proficiency more readily by staying in a country where that language is spoken. Consequently, the Modern Languages Department works closely with the Study Abroad Office to locate suitable foreign study sites.

In addition to Gonzaga's established programs in France, Italy, Japan, China, Mexico, and Spain, students may arrange individualized programs in other countries. Students have recently pursued language studies in Germany, Taiwan, Costa Rica, Argentina, and Chile.

The Potential

Mastery of a foreign language noticeably enhances students' career prospects, especially when combined with study in other disciplines. Department graduates have used their language backgrounds in fields such as business, journalism, the travel industry, teaching, sociology, and political science.

Because many of our students have a strong interest in social justice and a desire to serve others, some language graduates will spend a year or two volunteering prior to attending graduate school or entering the job market. Through programs such as the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, AmeriCorps, and the Peace Corps, students find their secondary language skills indispensable. Additionally, many students have goals to pursue careers in law, government, and academia; thus, they attend a variety of graduate programs at diverse universities.

A Sample of Schools Recent Gonzaga Graduates Have Attended or Are Attending:

American Graduate School of International Management (Thunderbird)
 Boston College
 Duke University
 Georgetown University
 Monterey Institute
 Sophia University (Tokyo, Japan)
 Stanford University
 University of California-Berkeley
 University of California-Los Angeles
 University of California-San Diego
 University of Oregon
 University of Washington
 Washington State University

The People

Gonzaga's Modern Language Department faculty members offer personalized attention and academic mentoring in the classroom and during individual advising sessions. In addition, all faculty, regardless of rank, teach beginning and intermediate language classes.

Publications in the Department include:

Brooke, Gabriella

- *The Words of Bernfrieda*. Spokane: EWU Press, April 1999.
- *Gendering Italian Fiction*. (Co-authored with Maria Marotti) Associated University Press, 1999.
- *Le Parole di Bern Frieda*. Sellerio editore, 2001. (Translated in Italian by the author).

Gonzales, Martha

- *El desarrollo de la conciencia femenina a través de las novelas de Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda, Soledad Acosta de Samper y Mercedes Cabello de Carbonera*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing, Inc., 1997.
- Several articles on Latin American women authors.

Semple, Ben

- Several articles on 14th century writer Christine De Pizan.

Faculty Contacts and Specialties:

Diane Birginal, M.A., Arizona State University, specializes in Spanish language and culture. (birginal@gem.gonzaga.edu)

Barbara Boyer, Ph.D., University of Southern California; specializes in French language and French and Francophone literature. (boyerb@gonzaga.edu)

Gabriella Brooke, M.A., University of Washington; M.F.A., Eastern Washington University; M.A., Gonzaga University; specializes in Italian language, culture, and literature. (brooke@gonzaga.edu)

Luis Garcia-Torvisco, Ph.D., Georgetown University; specializes in Spanish language, contemporary Spanish culture, film, and literature. (garcia-torvisco@gonzaga.edu)

Martha Gonzales, Ph.D., University of Kansas; specializes in Spanish language, Latin American literature, advanced conversation, and Iberian literature. (gonzales@gonzaga.edu)

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Seiko Katsushima, M.A., University of Arizona; M.A., Mukogawa Women's University; specializes in Japanese language and culture. (katsushima@gonzaga.edu)

Rebecca Marquis, Ph.D., Indiana University at Bloomington; specializes in 20th century Spanish and Latin American literature. (marquis@gonzaga.edu)

Stefania Nedderman, Ph.D., University of Oregon; specializes in Italian and Spanish language and culture, Italian, and Iberian literature. (nedderman@gonzaga.edu)

Ute Perz-Owens, M.A., Graz University, Austria; specializes in German language, culture, and literature. (perz-owens@gonzaga.edu)

Benjamin Semple, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania; specializes in French language and literature. (semple@gonzaga.edu)

Rebecca Stephanis, Ph.D., Princeton University; specializes in late 19th and early 20th century Latin American literature and film/photographic images. (stephanis@gonzaga.edu)