



# Modern Languages & Literature

In today's increasingly global society, a well-rounded education should include foreign language skill and cross-cultural understanding. The international nature of business and politics, as well as changing demographics within the United States, have dramatically increased the demand for individuals who can navigate around 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 two-year programs in Chinese and Japanese. The department also offers one to two years of Arabic, depending on demand. 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. Gonzaga's 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.

Gonzaga's Modern Languages faculty believe that by encountering new cultures, students develop tolerance for difference, an understanding of other cultures and languages, and greater insight into themselves and their own cultures.

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 French minor. 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 also 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 the global economy. Gonzaga's German program develops and perfects the German language skills that help students succeed in these environments. Language, literature, and culture classes focus on interactive acquisition of German. German students may experience Austrian life and culture while studying abroad for one semester or academic year at Karl-Franzens University in Graz, Austria. Students may also participate in a five-week summer immersion program in Graz.

The **Italian Studies major and minor** are interdisciplinary programs designed to foster understanding and appreciation of Italian culture. A **language-intensive minor in Italian** is also available. 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 summer, a semester, or a full year.

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. Both immersion programs include coursework in Spanish (Spanish/Latin American literature and films), cultural trips, and a home-stay with a local family. In South America, Gonzaga has also begun offering study abroad programs for Spanish students in Valparaíso, Chile, and in both Buenos Aires and Córdoba, Argentina.

Students can get a limited number of elective credits through these programs. A select group of students may also study in El Salvador through a program that focuses on issues of poverty and social justice. 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 International Studies, with an Asian Studies concentration**, is available through the International Studies program. This concentration requires proficiency in either Japanese or Chinese. At Gonzaga, students can take 100- to 300-level Japanese and Chinese language courses and then pursue additional language studies through a study abroad experience. Japanese language students may study for a semester or a year at Sophia University in Tokyo or at Akita International University in Akita, Japan. Akita International University also offers a summer program. Chinese language students may participate in Gonzaga-approved programs in the Chinese cities of Beijing, Nanjing, and Shanghai, or also in Taipei, Taiwan. 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.

Language students may also **major in International Studies with concentrations in European or Latin American Studies**—multidisciplinary programs that combine advanced language classes with courses on history, politics, and society related to these specific 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.

### OUTCOMES

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.

Since many 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.

Below is 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 teach beginning and intermediate language classes.

### Faculty Publications

#### Gabriella Brooke

- The Words of Bernfrieda. Eastern Washington University Press. (1999).
- Gendering Italian Fiction. Co-authored with Maria Marotti. (1999). Associated University Press.
- Le Parole di Bernfrieda. (2001). Sellerio editore. Translated in Italian by the author.

#### Luis Garcia-Torvisco

- Several articles on the literature, culture, and film of the democratic period in Spain.

#### Martha Gonzales

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

#### Rebecca Marquis

- "(De)Constructing Confession: Transgressing Borders in Yanitzia Canetti's *Al otro lado*." *Chasqui*. 41.2. 79-94. (2012).
- "From the Convent to the Back Room: Confessional Writing in Carmen Martín Gaité's *El cuarto de atrás*." *Letras Femeninas*. 36.2. 83-108. (2010).

#### Torunn Haaland

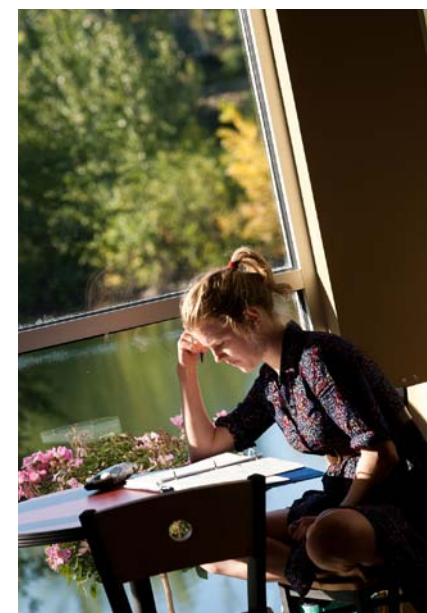
- Italian Neorealist Cinema. (2012). Edinburgh University Press.

#### Benjamin Semple

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

#### Rebecca Stephanis

- "Exploring Space/Excavating Place: Alejo Peyret, the Misiones Territory, and the Argentine State." *L'Erudit franco-espagnol*. (2013).
- "El mensú como héroe nacional: Cuestiones de pertinencia en la obra periodística de Alfredo Varela." *La Revolución en Tiempos del Bicentenario: América Latina entre la Liberación y la Dependencia*. Ed. Maximiliano. Posadas (Misiones): EdUNaM. (2011).



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### Stefania Nedderman

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### David Nielson

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