

WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

The Department of World Languages and Cultures offers a range of programs exploring globalization and cross-cultural connections. Undergraduate students in the department pursue majors and minors in Arabic, Comparative Literature, French, Global Studies, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Spanish, developing international experiences and perspectives as well as advanced language skills that prepare them to build careers in a wide range of social and professional settings in the United States and abroad. Graduate students may pursue Master of Arts degrees in World Languages & Cultures and in Translation & Interpreting Studies.

Arabic is the primary language of the Middle Eastern and North African region of the globe, with over 430 million speakers, and is designated a “critical language” by the U.S. government. Additionally, its spiritual significance resonates as the liturgical language for over 2 billion Muslims globally. The Arabic program offers six semesters of language instruction along with a minor, integrating Modern Standard Arabic with exposure to the Levantine dialect, enhancing career prospects in fields such as education, international development, diplomacy, security, business, and engineering.

Comparative Literature is the study of literature and other art forms across national and linguistic borders. Students of Comparative Literature explore and analyze writing across history and around the globe while developing a global and cross-cultural perspective on human expression. This cultural dexterity, paired with the critical thinking and interpretive skills developed within the minor, prepares students for the kind of intercultural and transnational work vital to the 21st century workplace.

French is the official language of twenty-nine countries and spoken by more than 300 million people around the globe, the second-most used official language after English. Students in the French program examine French language and culture in a global context. Majors and minors develop advanced linguistic competency while developing the cultural training necessary to work or travel in the Francophone world and explore culture and society in a language that is central to art, business, and international relations.

The Global Studies program offers students a unique blend of courses across disciplines, in preparation for a career abroad or within the U.S. that crosses borders and cultures. Majors choose one of five tracks for the interdisciplinary program, specializing in Global Communications, Global Health, Global Management, Global Security, or Global Sustainability. Each track emphasizes the acquisition of leadership, systems thinking, and communication skills with an emphasis on language skills and experiential learning leading to an in-depth understanding of a particular set of global issues.

Italian is a beautiful language of global communication, business, technology, and the arts. More than 1,000 Italian companies operate in the United States and more than 7,000 American companies operate in Italy; countless artistic masterpieces have also been produced in Italian, so speaking and understanding Italian can be a valuable asset for both your career and for pleasure and enrichment. Majors and minors learn to speak, read, and write Italian while becoming familiar with Italy’s cultural history and Italian influence across the globe.

Japan is a global leader in pop culture, technology, and business, and Japanese majors and minors graduate with the cultural and linguistic fluency to thrive in a Japanese environment. Students develop written and spoken Japanese to a high level while learning both Japanese cultural history and contemporary norms and etiquette. Graduates have gone on to utilize their linguistic and cultural fluency through employment in business, international relations, and education: our alumni are based in Southeast Wisconsin, across the United States, and abroad in Japan.

Spanish is the fourth most widely spoken language in the world; Portuguese has nearly 270 million speakers worldwide. Through effective communicative instruction, we prepare students to read, speak, write, and understand these languages. Our course offerings reflect and respond to the diversity of our students, who include: heritage speakers, non-traditional students, professionals in a variety of fields, as well as traditional students. We encourage students to participate in study abroad programs and second-language activities as a means of improving proficiency. Faculty are actively engaged in advancing knowledge in their respective areas of expertise and striving to link, in the manner most beneficial for students, critical and scholarly work to classroom instruction and advising activities. We assume a leadership role in disseminating Hispanic, U.S. Latino, and Luso-Brazilian culture, not only to the campus community but to the Milwaukee area and the state of Wisconsin as well.

The Translation & Interpreting Studies programs offer professional translator and interpreter training in a dynamic environment. Students collaborate with faculty and classmates from around the world to develop the skills they need to succeed in a thriving international market. Learn how to translate and/or interpret, and how to be a language professional through using leading industry computer-assisted translation tools and completing internships that often lead to employment.

Programs

- Arabic, Minor (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/arabic-minor/>)
- Business Spanish, Minor (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/business-spanish-minor/>)
- Committee Interdisciplinary Major, BA: Japanese Language and Culture (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/japanese-language-culture-ba/>)
- Comparative Literature, BA (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/comparative-literature-ba/>)
- Comparative Literature, Minor (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/comparative-literature-minor/>)
- French, BA (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/french-ba/>)
- French, Minor (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/french-minor/>)
- Global Studies, BA (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/global-studies-ba/>)
- Global Studies, Minor (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/global-studies-minor/>)
- Interpreting, Graduate Certificate (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/interpreting-graduate-certificate/>)
- Italian, BA (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/italian-ba/>)
- Italian, Minor (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/italian-minor/>)

- Japanese, Minor (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/japanese-minor/>)
- Portuguese, Minor (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/portuguese-minor/>)
- Spanish for Health Professionals, Undergraduate Certificate (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/spanish-health-professionals-undergraduate-certificate/>)
- Spanish, BA (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/spanish-ba/>)
- Spanish, MA (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/spanish-ma/>)
- Spanish, Minor (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/spanish-minor/>)
- Translation and Interpreting Studies, MA (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/translation-interpreting-studies-ma/>)
- Translation and Interpreting Studies, MA/Business Administration, MBA (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/translation-interpreting-studies-ma-business-administration-mba/>)
- Translation and Interpreting Studies, MA/Library and Information Science, MLIS (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/translation-interpreting-studies-ma-library-information-science-mlis/>)
- Translation, Graduate Certificate (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/translation-graduate-certificate/>)
- World Languages and Cultures, MA (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/world-languages-cultures-ma/>)
- World Languages and Cultures, MA/Library and Information Science, MLIS (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/world-languages-cultures-ma-library-information-science-mlis/>)
- World Languages and Cultures, MA: French and Francophone Studies (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/world-languages-cultures-french-francophone-ma/>)
- World Languages and Cultures, MA: German Language, Literature, and Culture (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/world-languages-cultures-german-ma/>)
- World Languages and Cultures, MA: Spanish and Hispanophone Language, Literature and Culture (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/world-languages-cultures/world-languages-cultures-spanish-hispanophone-ma/>)

Faculty

Name	Rank	Degree	School	Graduate Faculty	Emeritus Faculty
Anita Alkhas	Associate Professor	PhD	Michigan State University	✓	
Eric Anderson	Teaching Faculty III	MA			
Susana Antunes	Associate Professor, Portuguese Coordinator	PhD	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	✓	
Lawrence Baldassarro	Professor Emeritus	PhD		✓	✓
Viktorija Bilić	Associate Professor	PhD	Heidelberg University	✓	
Nancy Bird-Soto	Professor Emerit	PhD	University of Wisconsin-Madison		✓
Daria Bzeniuk	Teaching Faculty III	MA	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee		
Christopher Celi	Teaching Faculty III	MA	University of Wisconsin-Madison		
Sarah Davies Cordova	Professor	PhD	University of California-Los Angeles	✓	
Santiago Daydi-Tolson	Professor Emerit	PhD			✓
César Ferreira	Professor	PhD	University of Texas-Austin	✓	
Alison Ferrentino	Teaching Faculty III	MA	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee		
Anne O. Fisher	Senior Lecturer	PhD	University of Michigan		
Mary laquinta	Teaching Faculty III	MA	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee		
Khoulood Labanieh	Lecturer (Arabic)	MA	Cardinal Stritch University		
Masako Lackey	Senior Lecturer (Japanese)	MA	University of Wisconsin - Madison		
Simonetta Milli Konewko	Associate Professor	PhD	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	✓	
Larry Kuiper	Associate Professor	PhD	Michigan State University	✓	
Allison Libbey	Teaching Faculty III, First and Second-Year Spanish Coordinator	PhD	University of Virginia		
Fahed Masalki	Lecturer (Arabic)	MA	University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee		
R. John McCaw	Associate Professor	PhD	Princeton University	✓	
James Mileham	Associate Professor Emeritus	PhD	University of Wisconsin-Madison	✓	✓
Drago Momcilovic	Senior Lecturer	PhD	University of Wisconsin-Madison	✓	
Ismael Márquez	Professor Emerit	PhD			✓

Amy Olen	Assistant Professor	PhD	University of Texas	✓	
Robin Pickering-lazzi	Professor	PhD	University of Washington	✓	✓
Kristin Pitt	Associate Professor	PhD	University of Wisconsin-Madison	✓	
Aragorn Quinn	Associate Professor	PhD	Stanford University	✓	
Julio Rodríguez-Luis	Professor Emerit	PhD			✓
Laura Martinez Geijo Roman	Teaching Faculty III	MA	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee		
Nicolas Russell	Associate Professor	PhD	University of Virginia	✓	
Kathryn Scholz	Senior Teaching Faculty	MA	University of Minnesota		
Caroline Seymour-Jorn	Professor	PhD	University of Chicago	✓	
Lucia Soldati	Teaching Faculty III				
M. Estrella Sotomayor	Teaching Faculty III	PhD	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee		
Ester Suárez-Felipe	Teaching Faculty Emerit	MA	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee		✓
Lorena Terando	Professor	PhD and MT	State University of New York	✓	
Katie Vater	Associate Professor, Spanish Coordinator	PhD	Pennsylvania State University	✓	
Madeleine Velguth	Professor Emerita	PhD	University of Wisconsin-Madison	✓	✓
Gabrielle Verdier	Professor Emerita	PhD	Yale University	✓	✓
Yuko Wert (Kojima)	Senior Lecturer (Japanese)	MA	Obirin University, Japan		
Kathleen M. Wheatley	Associate Professor	PhD	University of Michigan	✓	
Demetrius Williams	Associate Professor	ThD	Harvard Divinity School	✓	
Jian Xu	Associate Professor	PhD	University of Iowa	✓	
Magaly Zeise	Teaching Faculty III	MA	Universidad de Los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia		