

FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

In today's changing world it is important that students are introduced to major world languages. Unit 5 students have an opportunity to choose from French, German and Spanish language classes. The goal of each of these classes is to expose students to the culture of the respective language, and to supply students with the skills needed to communicate effectively and appropriately to their level of language study.

The department offers its courses beginning at the Middle School level. Students in 7th and 8th grades complete Level I of the language. Students in High School may begin a language at any grade. Students who do not begin at the 7th grade level typically begin at 9th grade to ensure completion of a four-year program. It is not unusual, however, for Sophomores, Juniors and even Seniors to begin language study. (See the course descriptions.)

Why should a student learn a foreign language?

- Foreign language classes can be among the most imaginative and demanding courses offered in high school.
- Many universities have a two to four year foreign language entrance requirement. Most universities require a four semester language sequence for the Bachelor of Arts Degree. Students who have completed four or five years of foreign language in high school have fulfilled a requirement in most cases. At Illinois State University, for example, eight hours of credit may be given for successful completion of a third semester course.
- Foreign language students who choose to take the placement tests at the end of their high school language studies may receive credit and/or advanced standing at the post secondary level. The Advanced Placement Test is available in levels 4 and 5.
- Foreign language students will be able to compete more effectively in the global workplace.
- Speaking a second language can increase job opportunities and salary potential. Several Unit 5 graduates work for multinational firms. Many have returned to express their appreciation for the opportunity to being language study early.
- Studying a foreign language increases an appreciation of other people and their cultures, and enhances one's own.
- Knowing a foreign language improves one's knowledge of English. About 80% of English vocabulary comes from French, German or Spanish. The study of a foreign language also enhances grammar skills. There is statistical support that foreign language students receive higher scores on the SAT and ACT.

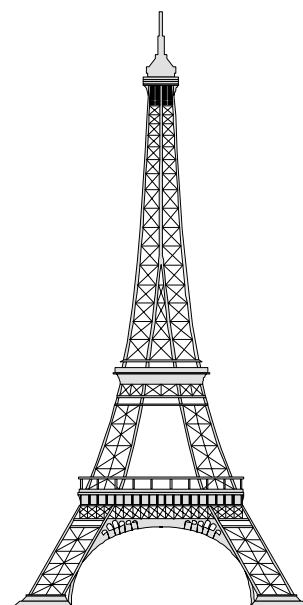
Which Language? French, German or Spanish?

Many times students who are about to take their first foreign language have a difficult time deciding which one to choose. They may ask their parents, guidance counselors or friends for advice, due to a lack of familiarity with other language. There are misconceptions about foreign language study. Students may have heard that foreign language study is difficult. There are common perceptions about the ease and difficulty of French, German and Spanish, but all foreign languages do require a commitment to daily study. Students succeed in foreign language study because they put forth the effort to succeed.

Language-Specific Benefits		
French	German	Spanish
influences art, architecture, cuisine, music, philosophy and literature	influences art, architecture, cuisine, music, philosophy and literature	influences art, architecture, cuisine, music, philosophy and literature
spoken in over 40 countries including Canada in North American	the most spoken language in the European Union	spoken as a first language by numerous Americans
helps with Latin-based vocabulary	a Germanic language like English	helps with Latin-based vocabulary

When choosing a foreign language keep the issues of student interest, career plans and cultural awareness in mind. Students will succeed at any language they choose if they are willing to spend time learning vocabulary, mastering grammar and participating in classroom activities.

Study of the languages offered to Unit 5 students is an excellent foundation for a broad-based humanities education. The foreign language department welcomes you to our classes and to your new experience!



FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Recommendation: Students should achieve a C average or better in language arts classes before enrolling in foreign language classes. A C average in the foreign language class at the semester is recommended for successful progression through the program. Students have the opportunity to register for French, German or Spanish language courses.

FIRST YEAR LANGUAGE

FOR 113 French I

FOR 213 German I

FOR 313 Spanish I

(Yearly 1 Credit) (7/8, 9, 10, 11, 12)

The aim of this course is to provide students with a basis for learning a foreign language as it is spoken and written today. Emphasis is given to developing the student's basic language skills-listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing. Aural and oral proficiency is stressed. A second aim is to increase the student's awareness and understanding of the people and culture of the target language. Evaluation is based upon communicative competence, written and oral, and objective testing in content areas.

SECOND YEAR LANGUAGE

FOR 123 French II

FOR 223 German II

FOR 323 Spanish II

(Yearly 1 Credit) (9, 10, 11, 12)

Prerequisite: Students must have a C average or better in preceding level in order to advance to next level of language study, or with approval of the department.

This course, a continuation of the first-year program provides students with an in-depth explanation of language structure. Listening, writing and speaking skills are expanded and an understanding of the language and culture is further developed. Evaluation is based upon communicative competence, written and oral, and objective testing in content areas.

THIRD YEAR LANGUAGE

FOR 133 French III

FOR 233 German III

FOR 333 Spanish III

(Yearly 1 Credit) (10, 11, 12)

Prerequisite: Students must have a C average or better in preceding level in order to advance to next level of language study, or with approval of the department.

This course is directed at developing the student's communicative skills. The students review major principles and learn fine points of structure. Students develop the necessary skills for reading in the target language. Practical application of the language is emphasized through the use of written, audio and video texts. Evaluation is based upon

communicative competence, written and oral, and objective testing in content areas.

Fourth and Fifth levels of Foreign Language study are offered in a four semester sequence. Questions about this sequence may be directed to Foreign Language Department staff or building counselors.

FOURTH YEAR LANGUAGE

FOR 143 French IV

FOR 243 German IV

FOR 343 Spanish IV

(Yearly 1 Credit) (11, 12)

Prerequisite: Students must have a C average or better in preceding level in order to advance to next level of language study, or with approval of the department.

Communication and grammar are emphasized through the culture, literature, and history of the target population. Students' understanding of native speech is enhanced through the use of video and audio texts. Evaluation is based upon written and oral communicative competence, as well as objective testing in content areas. AP testing is available upon request.

FIFTH YEAR LANGUAGE

FOR 153 French V

FOR 253 German V

FOR 353 Spanish V

(Yearly 1 Credit) (12)

Prerequisite: Students must have a C average or better in preceding level in order to advance to next level of language study, or with approval of the department.

Communication and grammar are emphasized through the culture, literature, and history of the target population. Students' understanding of native speech is enhanced through the use of video and audio texts. Evaluation is based upon written and oral communicative competence, as well as object testing in content areas. AP testing is available upon request.

