World Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics

Degree Offered

- Master of Arts, with five possible areas of emphasis

AREAS OF EMPHASIS

- Spanish
- Linguistics
- Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL)
- Combined Areas

Nature of Program

The M.A. program in World Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics offers courses in literature, culture, and literary criticism as well as in theoretical and applied linguistics, and language-teaching methodology. Students also have the opportunity to engage in research projects that reflect their interests within a given subject and that serve to complement and augment the information imparted through in-class activities. The master’s degree is intended for those students who seek more specialized knowledge in order to teach in their chosen area, as well as for students who plan to prepare for doctoral studies or other professional employment.

Available Financial Aid

Graduate teaching assistantships are available for different languages, including Arabic, Chinese, French, German, English as a Second Language, Italian, Japanese, Russian, Portuguese, and Spanish. The assistantships carry full tuition remission and a nine-month stipend (August–May); there are also limited opportunities to teach during the university’s summer session. Assistantships are awarded annually to those students who have demonstrated potential to become effective teachers. In order to be considered for a teaching assistantship, students must fill out the department application and submit a writing sample as well as a recorded sample of their speech in the language they are applying to teach.

In addition to the graduate teaching assistantships, a limited number of meritorious tuition waiver awards are sometimes available from the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences through the department. These awards are based on academic performance and financial need.

Graduate Teaching Assistants

The department values the contributions made by our graduate assistants and strives to help them become effective teachers. Graduate assistants normally teach two courses (six class-hours per week). They work under the direct supervision of the course coordinator in the language area, but they are fully responsible for their courses (including evaluating their students’ work). The coordinator will conduct orientations and organizational meetings with graduate assistants and provide course materials (such as syllabi). In addition, the coordinator will periodically observe individual classes in order to assess the graduate assistants’ performance and to provide encouragement and assistance.

All graduate teaching assistants teaching Arabic, French, Italian, and Spanish must register for LANG 621 during their first semester. Graduate assistants teaching any other language must register for LANG 521 in their first semester. In addition, graduate assistants must register for LANG 690 each semester of employment. Students who have already received an M.A. in World Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics from West Virginia University may be ineligible for an assistantship in this department.

Additional Points of Information

ADVISING

All graduate students will have a primary advisor (to be assigned by the chairperson). Students should consult with their advisor when they register for courses or add and/or drop courses. In addition, the Graduate Program Coordinator is available to answer questions regarding the degree program, requirements, comprehensive examinations, graduation, etc. Students may consult with the chairperson regarding departmental matters.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

An F-1 student visa is required for study in the U.S. The visa must be obtained in the student’s home country with an I-20 Form from the WVU Office of Admissions. The I-20 will be sent by the Office of Admissions to the student’s home address once all academic, English proficiency, and financial requirements have been satisfied.

International students studying in the department on an F-1 Visa should remember that they are required to carry a minimum course load of nine hours each semester (excluding the summer) in order to maintain their legal status for their visa. International students, who may be forced to withdraw from a course and thus fall below nine hours in any semester, must first check with the department chair and the Office of International Students and Scholars in E. Moore Hall. Exceptions may be possible in the student’s final semester of study.
STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Qualified graduate students in French may compete for the Marguerite Eynard McBride Award, which funds an academic year in France. Year-long exchange programs for graduate students are also in place for France and Spain. The department also sponsors study abroad during the summers in Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Spain, and Taiwan that graduate students may participate in if they meet the program’s requirements. Grants are available on a competitive basis through the department, the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, and through the Office of International Programs to assist students who wish to study abroad.

FACULTY

CHAIR
• Ángel T. Tuninetti - Ph.D. (Washington University)
  Latin American Literature and Culture

ASSOCIATE CHAIR
• Susan Braidi - Ph.D. (University of Delaware)
  ESL/Linguistics, Applied Linguistics, Second Language Acquisition, Syntax

GRADUATE COORDINATOR
• Sandra Stjepanovic - Ph.D. (University of Connecticut)
  Linguistics, Syntax, Psycholinguistics

PROFESSORS EMERITI
• Ahmed Fakhri - Ph.D. (University of Michigan)
  ESL/Linguistics, Second Language Acquisition, Applied Linguistics, Discourse Analysis
• Pablo González - Ph.D. (University Complutense de Madrid)
  Spanish American Literature and Culture
• Kathleen McNerney - Ph.D. (Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico)
  Spanish, Catalan Language and Literature, Spanish Literature and Culture, Women Writers

PROFESSORS
• Daniel Ferreras - Ph.D. (Michigan State University)
  French and Spanish, Comparative Romance Literature, French/Spanish 19th and 20th Century Novel, Theory of the Fantastic
• Valérie Lastinger - Ph.D. (University of Georgia)
  French, 18th-century French Literature, French Women Writers
• Janice Spleth - Ph.D. (Rice University)
  French and Francophone Literature and Culture

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS
• María Amores - Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State University)
  Spanish, Foreign Language Acquisition
• Susan Braidi - Ph.D. (University of Delaware)
  ESL/Linguistics, Applied Linguistics, Second Language Acquisition, Syntax
• Cynthia Chalupa - Ph.D. (Ohio State University)
  Fin de Siècle German and Austrian Literature, Poetry, Foreign Language Pedagogy
• Tania de Miguel Magro - Ph.D. (The State University of New York, Stony Brook)
  Spanish Literature and Culture, Spanish Language, Spanish Golden Age Literature
• Pablo García Loaeza - Ph.D. (Indiana University Bloomington)
  Spanish Language, Latin American Colonial Literature
• Deborah Janson - Ph.D. (University of California)
  German, 18th-21st-century German Literature, Enlightenment, Romanticism, GDR and Post-Wende Literature, Ecofeminism
• Xiangying Jiang - Ph.D. (Northern Arizona University)
  ESL/Linguistics, Second Language Acquisition
• Twyla Meding - Ph.D. (University of Virginia)
  French, 16th and 17th-century French Literature, The Pastoral Novel
• Sandra Stjepanovic - Ph.D. (University of Connecticut)
  Linguistics, Syntax, Psycholinguistics, Semantics
ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

- Manal AlNatour - Ph.D. (University of Arkansas)
  Arabic Studies, Comparative Literature, Cultural Studies
- Sandra Dixon - Ph.D. (Brown University)
  Spanish, Spanish American Literature, Brazilian Literature
- Jonah Katz - Ph.D. (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
  Phonetics, Phonology, Theoretocal and Experimental Linguistics, Music Cognition
- Sergio Robles-Puente - Ph.D. (University of Southern California)
  Spanish Phonetics, Phonology, and Sociolinguistics
- Elena Shimanskaya - Ph.D. (University of Iowa)
  French, Second Language Acquisition

TEACHING PROFESSOR

- Lisa Di Bartolomeo - Ph.D. (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)
  Russian and Polish Language and Literature, Slavic Folklore, Culture and Cinema, Science Fiction, the Holocaust

TEACHING ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

- Hannah Lin - Ph.D. (Ohio State University)
  Chinese Studies
- Jennifer Orlikoff - Ph.D. (Rutgers University)
  French, 16th, 18th, 19th Century French Literature, Second Language Acquisition and Methodology, Art History, and Feminist Criticism
- Annastella Vester - Ph.D. (University of California, Los Angeles)
  Italian, Contemporary Italian Literature, 18th and 19th-century Italian

TEACHING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

- Rafael Osuna Montanez - Ph.D. (University of Connecticut)
  Spanish

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

- Yilin Liao-Carlson - Ph.D. (Purdue University)
  Chinese Studies
- Sonia Zarco-Real - Ph.D. (University of Connecticut)
  Peninsular literature and Hispanic transatlantic studies

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be admitted to the program, a student is expected to have an undergraduate degree in the desired area of study (or an acceptable related-area) with a GPA of 3.0 (overall as well as within the major). The student must complete the university admission application, including payment of the required fee and completion of the supplemental departmental application form, which requires a 300-word statement of purpose, an extended writing sample in the language of the area to which the student is applying, and three letters of recommendation. International students must also submit an acceptable TOEFL or IELTS score. For more information about the admission requirements and application guidelines, please visit our website (http://worldlang.wvu.edu/graduate_programs/graduate/graduate_programs_how_to_apply).

In this section:

- Degree Requirements (p. 3)
- Spanish Area of Emphasis (p. 4)
- Linguistics Area of Emphasis (p. 5)
- TESOL Area of Emphasis (p. 5)
- Combined Areas (p. 6)

Degree Requirements

Students may select from five areas of emphasis (French, Spanish, Linguistics, TESOL, or a combined area that allows them to combine two areas for their degree) to complete a Master of Arts in World Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics. Students must meet all university and college requirements as outlined in the WVU Graduate Catalog as well as the specific departmental requirements described below:
GENERAL

- A minimum of thirty-six credit hours at the graduate level, of which thirty hours of coursework must be taken within the department. (No more than twelve hours of coursework done at the 400 level will be counted toward the degree.)
- No more than three hours of independent study will apply to the degree (unless approved by the departmental chairperson). Note: Independent studies will be permitted only in special circumstances; in most instances, students must enroll in the regularly-scheduled courses.
- No more than twelve hours can be transferred to our program from another accredited institution. (In the case of combination concentrations, no more than six hours can be transferred to any of the combined areas, for a total of twelve hours.)
- No courses for the degree may be taken pass/fail.
- No more than six hours of thesis credits (697/698) can be applied to the degree.
- A 3.0 GPA is required for graduation. Note: No course for which the grade of D or below is recorded can be counted for graduation credit.
- Students must satisfy the foreign language requirement.
- Students must pass comprehensive examinations or successfully defend a thesis.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

Native speakers of English in TESOL, Linguistics, or a combination of the two, must demonstrate proficiency in a second language prior to graduation by completing one language course of level 204 or above, with a grade of B or better, or by taking the departmental placement examination in one language and placing above the 204-level.

International students whose native language is not English are considered to have satisfied this requirement by virtue of their TOEFL score.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS

The comprehensive examinations are intended to evaluate students' knowledge, including the ability to synthesize and evaluate ideas in their area of emphasis. The examinations are based on standardized reading lists and coursework. Although many of the works on the reading lists will be included in coursework, independent reading will be necessary. Students must take the comprehensive examinations the semester they intend to graduate.

THESIS

A student may request to write a thesis and prepare an oral defense. The feasibility of writing a thesis may be limited due to faculty availability, the student's academic performance, or other factors (to see the qualifying requirements for writing a thesis, consult the Graduate Program Handbook).

Under this option, the student is not required to take the written comprehensive examinations but may be asked to comment on coursework and the reading lists, particularly as they relate to the thesis. For more information about this option, see the document “Thesis Guidelines.”

Spanish Area of Emphasis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research and Theoretical Bases</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIBY 615</td>
<td>Methods of Research</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge/Applications: Spanish Literature</th>
<th>9</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 643</td>
<td>Contemporary Spanish Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 651</td>
<td>Medieval and Golden Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 653</td>
<td>Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Literature</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge/Application: Latin American Literature</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 637</td>
<td>Early Spanish-American Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 640</td>
<td>19th Century Latin American Literature</td>
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<td>SPAN 641</td>
<td>20th- and 21st-Century Latin American Literature</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language Structures:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 501</td>
<td>Structure of Spanish</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Extensions:</th>
<th>12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thesis Option:</td>
<td>6 hours from the Extension list*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 hours of SPAN 697 Thesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Examination Option:</td>
<td>12 hours from the Extension list*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 36
**Linguistics Area of Emphasis**

Minimum grade of B must be earned in all required courses.

**Research and Theoretical Bases:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIBY 615</td>
<td>Methods of Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 513</td>
<td>History of Linguistics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Knowledge/Applications:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 411</td>
<td>Phonology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 412</td>
<td>Syntax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 611</td>
<td>Advanced Phonology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 612</td>
<td>Advanced Syntax</td>
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**Cultural/Social/Historical Context:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 514</td>
<td>Sociolinguistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>or LING 516</td>
<td>Discourse Analysis</td>
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</table>

**Language Structures: Choose 1 course**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 402</td>
<td>Structure of Modern French</td>
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<tr>
<td>LING 501</td>
<td>Structure of Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 511</td>
<td>English as a Second Language Linguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 616</td>
<td>Language Typology</td>
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**Language Structures:**

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<tr>
<td>LING 611</td>
<td>English as a Second Language Linguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or LING 411</td>
<td>Phonology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thesis Option:**

- 6 hours from the Extension list*
- 6 hours of Ling 697

**Comprehensive Examination Option:**

- 12 hours from the Extension list*

**Total Hours**

36

* For a list of approved courses, see page two of the Linguistics Plan of Study (http://worldlang.wvu.edu/graduate_programs/plans_of_study)

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**Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Area of Emphasis**

**Research and Theoretical Bases:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIBY 615</td>
<td>Methods of Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANG 622</td>
<td>English as a Second Language Theory</td>
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</table>

**Knowledge/Application**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LANG 521</td>
<td>English as a Second Language Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANG 422</td>
<td>Second Language Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANG 522</td>
<td>Computer Assisted Language Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANG 623</td>
<td>English as a Second Language Materials and Syllabus Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANG 624</td>
<td>Second Language Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANG 625</td>
<td>Language Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANG 626</td>
<td>Literacy in a Second Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 512</td>
<td>Applied Linguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 516</td>
<td>Discourse Analysis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cultural/Social/Historical Context:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESL 630</td>
<td>American Culture</td>
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**Language Structures:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 511</td>
<td>English as a Second Language Linguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 613</td>
<td>English as a Second Language Phonetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or LING 411</td>
<td>Phonology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Extensions:**

6

* For a list of approved courses, see page two of the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages Plan of Study (http://worldlang.wvu.edu/graduate_programs/plans_of_study)
Thesis Option:
6 hours of Lang 697

Comprehensive Examination Option:
6 hours from the Extension list

Total Hours 36

* For a list of approved courses, see page two of the TESOL Plan of Study (http://worldlang.wvu.edu/graduate_programs/plans_of_study)

Combined Areas of Emphases

RESEARCH AND THEORETICAL BASES

BIBY 615 Methods of Research

PRIMAR Y AREA

A. Theoretical Bases and Knowledge/Applications: 12 hours
4 courses from the Knowledge and Application list*

B. Cultural/Social/Historical Context: (3 hours)
1 course from the Cultural/Social/Historical list*

C. Language Structures: 3 hours
1 course from the Language Structure list*

SECONDARY AREA

a. Theoretical Bases and Knowledge/Applications: 9 hours
3 courses from the Theoretical Bases list*

b. Cultural/Social/Historical Context: 3 hours
1 course from the Cultural list*

c. Approved Elective: 3 hours
1 course from the Approved elective list*

Total Hours 36

* For a list of approved courses, see page two of the Combination Plan of Study (http://worldlang.wvu.edu/graduate_programs/plans_of_study)

Major Learning Outcomes

WORLD LANGUAGES, LITERATURE, AND LINGUISTICS

Upon completion of M.A. in World Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate in-depth foundational knowledge in their areas of emphasis (Spanish language and literature, Linguistics, and/or TESOL).
2. Demonstrate the knowledge of the cultural, social, and/or historical developments pertinent to their areas of emphasis.
3. Proficiently communicate subject matter in their areas of emphasis both orally and in writing.
4. Demonstrate research and analytical skills relevant to their areas of emphasis, and clearly communicate outcomes of their research and analyses both orally and in writing.
5. Use professional skills that correspond to their goals, which may be attending a PhD program in, or acquiring a job related to, their areas of emphasis.