LESS COMMONLY TAUGHT LANGUAGES

Instruction in the less commonly taught languages is offered at Wesleyan through coursework and through the Self-Instructional Language Program (SILP), which allows students to work independently with the assistance of a native speaker and use of texts and technological resources.

Courses in languages such as American Sign Language or Hindi are offered periodically, when student academic interests and/or when courses in various departments support the study of such languages. Such courses are offered under the LANG (Language) designation, are usually yearlong courses, and may be used in preparation for study abroad and in support of academic interests.

Through SILP, students can petition to continue the study of a language offered through the Less Commonly Taught Language Program. If relevant to their academic endeavors, students can petition to study a language not in the curriculum. The application process is competitive, and priority is given to SILPs that are continuations of languages already offered at Wesleyan.

FACULTY

Emmanuel Paris-Bouvret
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VISITING FACULTY

Joseph M. Basile
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Visiting Instructor in American Sign Language

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Visiting Instructor in American Sign Language

Leslie A. Warren
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Visiting Instructor in American Sign Language

LANG101A Beginning Danish I
Learn Danish before you go abroad! This quarter credit, online course is intended to prepare students with fundamental language skills before they study abroad. This course will help students acquire basic speaking and listening skills in Danish through an online language learning platform. By the end of the quarter, students will be able to converse in Danish at an elementary level of proficiency.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.25
Gen Ed Area: None
Prereq: None

LANG101B Beginning Hindi
This quarter credit, online course is intended to prepare students with fundamental language skills before they study abroad. This course will help students acquire basic speaking and listening skills in Hindi through an online language learning platform. By the end of the semester, students will be able to converse in Hindi at an elementary level of proficiency.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.25
Gen Ed Area: None
Prereq: None

LANG101C Beginning Farsi
This quarter credit, online course is intended to prepare students with fundamental language skills before they study abroad. This course will help students acquire basic speaking and listening skills in Farsi through an online language learning platform. By the end of the semester, students will be able to converse in Farsi at an elementary level of proficiency.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.25
Gen Ed Area: None
Prereq: None

LANG101D Beginning Romanian
This quarter credit, online course is intended to prepare students with fundamental language skills before they study abroad. This course will help students acquire basic speaking and listening skills in Romanian through an online language learning platform. By the end of the semester, students will be able to converse in Romanian at an elementary level of proficiency.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.25
Gen Ed Area: None
Prereq: None

LANG101E Beginning Urdu 1
Learn Urdu before you go abroad! This .25-credit, online course is intended to prepare students with fundamental language skills before they study abroad. This course will help students acquire basic speaking and listening skills in Urdu through an online language learning platform. By the end of the quarter, students will be able to discuss topics about people and travel in Urdu at an elementary level of proficiency.
Offering: Host
LANG105A Beginning Danish I
Learn Danish before you go abroad! This quarter credit, online course is intended to prepare students with fundamental language skills before they study abroad. This course will help students acquire basic speaking and listening skills in Danish through an online language learning platform. By the end of the quarter, students will be able to discuss topics about people and travel in Danish at an elementary level of proficiency.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.25
Gen Ed Area: None
Prereq: None

LANG190 American Sign Language I
This course introduces students to the fundamentals of American Sign Language (ASL), the principal system of manual communication among American deaf people. Not to be confused with Signed English (to which a certain amount of comparative attention is given) or with other artificially developed systems, ASL is a conceptual language and not merely encoded or fingerspelled English. As such, while to some extent influenced by English, depending on the individual signer, it presents its own grammar and structure, involving such elements as topicalization, spatial indexing, directionality, classification, and syntactic body language. By the end of the semester, students should have learned between 700 and 800 conceptual signs and their use. They will also have been introduced to aspects of American deaf culture--sociology, psychology, education, and theater--through a variety of readings and discussions.
Offering: Host
Grading: BMS
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-LANG
Prereq: None

LANG191 Beginning American Sign Language II
Beginning American Sign Language II will provide a continuation of the work done in LANG190. The course will cover grammatical and linguistic material in some depth, as well as teach additional vocabulary. There will also be a focus on students’ use of the language in class to improve their conversational abilities. The course will also introduce students to deaf culture and the signing community and will include ethnographic and analytical readings related to culture, linguistics, and interpretation.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-LANG
Prereq: LANG190

LANG290 American Sign Language and Current Issues
During this third semester of American Sign Language (ASL) study, students will continue to focus on language acquisition while also examining the related ethics and controversies surrounding ASL, deaf culture, and disability issues in America. Several key questions will be considered: How are advances in genetic testing impacting the deaf community? What is the cause of a recent emergence of ASL in popular culture and the huge increase in university course offerings and enrollments? What is the “least restrictive environment” according to the Americans with Disabilities Act compared to day-to-day reality? Is the deaf community a cultural-linguistic minority group or a disabled population? Are cochlear implants a miracle cure, or are they a tool that is misrepresented in the media and/or an attempt at a form of cultural genocide? Why are many parents of deaf children forced to choose a faction of the ongoing oral vs. signing debate,