Foreign languages are only foreign when a person does not speak the language. After all, one person's foreign language is another person's mother tongue. As our world grows ever smaller, it is more important than ever to increase our awareness of other people and their cultures. Learning new languages will train your mind and expand your world. The mission of the Department of Foreign Language at University of Jamestown is to help prepare liberal arts students as citizens of our global community and to seek to expose students to other languages and cultures, thereby broadening their concepts of language, civilization, culture, philosophy, government, religion, geography, art aesthetics, and literature with a firm anchoring in a Christian perspective and academic excellence.

Major Programs
The Department of Foreign Language offers majors in French, German, and Spanish requiring a combination of on-campus coursework and advanced language study in a study abroad program or US-based language immersion program. Minors are also offered in French, German, and Spanish.

Courses include beginning and intermediate language courses, advanced conversation and composition, culture and civilization, survey of literature, and special topics courses. Recent courses have concentrated on film, short story, contemporary history, literary movements, and linguistics.

The Foreign Language Department works with the UJ Education Department to offer secondary certification in French, German and Spanish to future language teachers. Students major in the target language of their choice and take co-requirements in the Education Department to complete the program.

Students may receive credit for high school language courses and begin foreign language study at 101, 102 or the 200 levels. The advance standing credits count on your transcript, but do not count as part of your semester course load.

As a foreign language major at University of Jamestown, you will benefit from:
- small class sizes
- individualized courses for special topics
- international study and travel options
- advanced placement for credit at no additional tuition expense
- native or near-native fluency of the teaching staff

Additional Languages
In addition to French, German, and Spanish, University of Jamestown offers courses in less commonly taught languages. The Religion Department offers Koine Greek and Hebrew on demand and courses in Portuguese, Italian, Romanian and Latin are offered on demand.

Courses in beginning and intermediate-level Mandarin Chinese are offered every fall semester by a visiting scholar from Huizhou University, UJ’s sister university in China.

Travel and Study Abroad
Students majoring in German or French may participate in the University of Jamestown ISEP (International Student Exchange Program) study abroad program, or they can participate in approved summer study in US-based
immersion programs or Study Abroad programs.

Students majoring in Spanish may enroll in an ISEP-sponsored program for one year or one semester of study beyond the minor or two summers of post-minor study in an MLSA (Modern Language Studies Abroad)-University of Jamestown program.

Foreign Language

There are opportunities to travel to Europe with a number of University of Jamestown departments; many students have extended their trips for further travel and study. The Department of Foreign Languages offers study trips on demand.

University of Jamestown students and faculty study each summer with MLSA at the University of Costa Rica in San Jose or in Madrid, Spain, to receive upper-level course credits.

Sponsored Organizations

Alpha Mu Gamma is the national collegiate foreign language honor society. University of Jamestown was granted a charter for the Mu Rho chapter in 1998. To be eligible for membership, students must have received grades of A in at least two semester courses in the same foreign language at the college level. Alpha Mu Gamma offers summer language scholarships for study abroad.

The International Student Organization offers a chance to experience and learn about other people, cultures, and world affairs. Club members take part in activities, host speakers, attend foreign language film showings and theatre performances, enjoy ethnic dinners, and share travel experiences.

Outreach

Our students are called on to help in the community because of their language skills. Students have served on a part-time basis as translators and interpreters as language tutors, FLES program organizers and teachers, web page translators, and as interpreters for the north Dakota State hospital and other agencies. Our faculty also translates and interprets in the community as needed.

Career Opportunities

- Foreign languages are essential in occupations with communication and international business components.
- Knowledge of languages other than English is important for occupations dealing with the public, particularly in multi-lingual urban areas.
- U.S. companies employ thousands of people abroad.
- Studies show that people who speak more than one language have superior language skills and can organize their learning better.
- The National Academy for Sciences considers knowledge of foreign language vital in order for the United States to effectively compete in technology, science, and trade.
- French and German are key business languages in the European Union, the second largest trade bloc in the world.
- Spanish is an important language for travel and the tourism industry.
- German is complementary to many academic programs, including anatomy, art history, engineering, genetics, music, and philosophy.

Graduate Success

Recent graduates from the Department of Foreign Language have gone on to find success in a wide variety of careers, including:

- Secondary School Educators of German, French and Spanish
- University-level Educators of German, French and Spanish
- U.S. Department of Commerce
- U.S. Department of Education
- Guest Services, Universal Studios
- English teacher abroad

Faculty

Katherine Stevenson, M.A., German, Middlebury College, B.A., French and German, Concordia College; Associate Professor and Department Chair. Stevenson was a fellow in the German Studies Seminar, Indiana University; received a director’s Citation, Concordia Language Villages; studied in the University of North Dakota program in Arecaho, France; participated in the National Endowment for Humanities Summer Seminar for College Teachers, UCLA. She has studied at the Universidad de Costa Rica and has worked in the German, Italian, and Russian programs at Concordia Language Villages.

Alexandru Lefter, Ph.D. (currently ABD), Hispanic Languages and Literatures, University of Pittsburgh (expected May 2016); Master of Public Administration, Clark University; B.A. in Spanish and International Development, Clark University; Assistant Professor of Spanish. Hailing originally from Romania, Professor Lefter has lived in the United States since 2004 and has taught college-level Spanish language and literature since 2009 at the University of Pittsburgh and at the University of South Dakota. Trained as a generalist in contemporary Spanish and Luso-Hispanic literature and cultural studies.

Glauco Ortolano, Ph.D. (currently ABD), Portuguese, University of Texas at Austin; M.A., Applied Linguistics, Brigham Young University; Assistant Professor of Portuguese and ESL, and Director, Jamestown English Language and Culture Institute (JELCI). Formerly director of the Wharton Portuguese program at the University of Pennsylvania, director of the International Center for English at ASU, visiting faculty at Université de Nantes in France and Universidad de Puerto Rico, and ESL lecturer in Brazil, Japan, Taiwan, Oman, and Saudi Arabia. He’s also served as director of Study Abroad, and Contributing Editor, World Literature Today.

Faith McLean Kirchdorfer, M.Ed; B.A in German and Spanish, Macalester College; Adjunct Professor of Spanish. Kirchdorfer began teaching introductory Spanish language courses at Jamestown after teaching Spanish and German in the Minneapolis Public School system for over twenty years. She also taught English for two years in Grazt, Austria, and studied in Bogota as an undergraduate and later on in Madrid as a King Juan Carlos Award Recipient.

Guest Scholars, Huizhou University

Since 2011, Lecturers and Professors of Huizhou University, Guangdong Province, People's Republic of China, visit UJ each fall semester and offer courses in Mandarin Chinese at a variety of levels.