

# Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

UMKC 2007-08 Graduate and Professional Catalog (1.0)

June 12, 2007



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# Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

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## Department Description

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures offers programs of study leading to the bachelor of arts degree in French, German and Spanish and graduate-level work leading to a master of arts in Romance languages and literatures (French, Spanish). In addition, undergraduate minors are offered in French, German and Spanish.

Language instruction also is offered in Arabic, Chinese, Greek, Hebrew, Italian and Latin.

## Career Implications

Aside from pursuing teaching careers, holders of degrees in foreign languages are in demand by government, the media and international business in growing numbers, as the need for increased sophistication and expertise in international affairs continues to expand. Multinational companies and organizations now view foreign language skills as an asset in a prospective employee. In the past 10 years this notion has become widespread in such areas as business, industry, commerce, civil service, education, law, communications media and the health services. The changing conditions of international economics, politics and communications indicate that this trend will continue.

## Higher Educational Applications

Reading knowledge of a foreign language is a requisite for many graduate degrees. Foreign language proficiency, moreover, is gaining increasing importance on all levels of university instruction as curricula are internationalized. Scholars and professionals in many fields have long recognized the need for, and advantages of, foreign language competency for improved international communication and effective conduct of basic and applied research.

## Special Resources

### *Study Abroad*

UMKC has exchange and study agreements with other institutions in many parts of the world. Students have an opportunity to spend a year of study at the University of Seville in Spain or the University of Lyon II in France. Year or semester programs are possible at the University of Klagenfurt in Austria and the University of Veracruz in Xalapa, Mexico. Summer programs are held at the University of Veracruz, Mexico; the University of Granada, Spain; and the University of Lyon II, France.

The department encourages students to travel and study abroad by participating in any of the summer programs sponsored by accredited American universities. It should be noted, however, that the department must approve in advance any courses taken abroad for major or graduate credit. Interested students should contact the appropriate departmental adviser.

### *Language Resource Center*

A modern facility housing audio, video and computer equipment and software is located in 109 Scofield Hall. The purpose of the lab is to supplement and support in-class foreign language learning. Tutoring services for students of French and Spanish are provided free of charge. Conversation hours are also held in the Language Resource Center. First-year language students are encouraged to use the LRC.

## Student Learning Outcomes

### **M.A. in romance languages, with an emphasis in either French or Spanish**

Students graduating with an M.A. in romance languages will:

- Obtain specialized knowledge of either Hispanic or French and Francophone cultures, especially of their literatures as foundational paradigms for inquiry into language and cultural phenomena.
- Develop skill in reflective inquiry.
- Analyze cultural products, process and perspectives with a variety of interpretive strategies.
- Attain superior reading, writing, listening and speaking proficiency in the primary language studied, and intermediate reading proficiency in the secondary language studied.

## Master of Arts: Romance Languages

The master of arts degree program provides necessary training in French or Spanish language and literature for those who want to teach those languages at the secondary school or junior college level. It also serves students who plan to continue with studies at the doctoral level. Other employment opportunities can be found in government, business and industry, publishing houses, foundations, etc.

## Admission Requirements

A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a 3.0 (B) grade-point average in the subject area and a 2.75 overall GPA is required for admission.

The Graduate Record Examination (Advanced Achievement) is recommended, and two letters of recommendation are required. Students' transcripts with accompanying data are carefully evaluated.

Applicants with inadequate preparation may be required to make up deficiencies by taking more than the standard 30 hours of coursework.

Courses taken prior to admission into a graduate program will not count for graduate credit.

## Requirements for Retention

If students' graduate grade-point averages fall below 3.0 (B), they may take coursework only on the 300 and 400 levels until a 3.0 graduate grade-point average has been achieved. Coursework completed under this condition will not count toward the master's degree.

## Transfer Credit

No more than 9 hours of transfer credit are normally allowed toward degree requirements.

## Advising

Students interested in pursuing a master's degree in Romance languages should meet with the appropriate principal graduate adviser before beginning studies:

French: Kathy M. Krause

(816) 235-1340, krausek@umkc.edu

Spanish: Louis Imperiale

(816) 235-2822, imperialel@umkc.edu

In consultation with the adviser, a course of study will be planned listing the courses that will satisfy requirements for the degree. Prior to registration each semester, candidates must meet with their advisers for approval of their course programs. They also must seek their adviser's endorsement whenever a change in the agreed course of study is necessary.

## M.A. Degree Requirements

1. The program of study consists of 30 hours with a minimum of 18 hours at the 5500 level and a maximum of 12 hours on the 300 and 400 levels. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required in all graduate work. It is highly recommended that students take courses in as many areas, genres and periods as possible in order to achieve both breadth and depth of knowledge. Students must obtain approval of their study programs by the graduate adviser before each term.
2. Students must demonstrate ability to read, speak and write, idiomatically and with accuracy, the language in which the M.A. degree is being pursued.
3. Final Examination: Spanish students must take a final written examination covering the coursework taken for the degree; French students must take a final oral examination.
4. Second Language Proficiency: In addition to the mastery of the target language, students must demonstrate a reading knowledge of a second language in one of the following ways:
  - Taking a reading examination in French, Spanish, Italian, German or Latin administered or approved by the department or given by the Educational Testing Service.
  - Achieving a grade of 3.0 (B) or better in a 3-hour 200-level language course.
  - Achieving a grade of 2.0 (C) or better in each of two 300-level courses or in one 400-level literature or civilization course.

## Foreign Language Courses

5899 Required Graduate Enrollment (1).

## French Courses

**5500CF Courts and Culture in the Middle Ages (3).** This cluster course offers an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the Middle Ages, Focusing on medieval cultures in Europe. Arranged around a series of themes, the cluster will read a variety of documentary and literary texts to investigate not only the "high culture" of the courts but also the interaction of people from various social backgrounds in Western Europe. Prerequisites: admission to the graduate program in Romance Languages or permission of the instructor.

**5512 17th-century French Literature (3).** Selected readings in the literature of the 17th century, with an emphasis on non-dramatic works. Also offered as French 412. Prerequisites: Admission to M.A. in Romance Languages and Literature program or permission of instructor.

**5513 18th-century French Literature (3).** Emphasis on philosophical and social significance. Authors may include Marivaux, Beaumarchais, LeSage, L'Abbe Prevost, Montesquieu, Rousseau, Diderot. Also offered as French 413. Prerequisites: Admission to M.A. in Romance Languages and Literature program or permission of instructor.

**5514 Medieval Literature (3).** Selected readings in various genres including epic, romance, theater and lyric. Emphasis will be placed on the intertextual relations and the cultural and historical context surrounding text production in the Middle Ages. Also offered as French 414. Prerequisites: Admission to M.A. in Romance Languages and Literature program or permission of instructor.

**5517 16th-century French Literature (3).** Selected readings in prose and poetry from Marot through Astree. Authors may include Rabelais, Ronsard, du Bellay, Montaigne, Marguerite de Navarre. Also offered as French 417

**5520 Non-Dramatic 17th-century French Literature (3).** Evaluation and reading of the works of Malherbe and contemporaries, of Descartes and Pascal and contemporaries, and of the great authors at the height of the classical period.

**5524 19th-century French Literature (3).** Selected readings in various genres from Romanticism through symbolism. Also offered as French 424.

**5526 20th-century French Literature (3).** Selected readings from the Belle Epoque to the contemporary period. Also offered as French 426.

**5540 Medieval Romance (3).** The various movements of French medieval romance from the 12th through 15th centuries with an emphasis on the 12th and 13th centuries. Analysis of literary technique and socio-historical context will be stressed. No knowledge of Old French is assumed. Also offered as French 440. Prerequisites: Admission to M.A. in Romance Languages and Literature program or permission of instructor.

**5544 Renaissance Poetry (3).** French Poetry from the Grand Rhetoriqueurs through the Pleiade. Study of poetic forms, major poets and schools, and different approaches to analyzing poetry. Also offered as French 444. Prerequisites: Admission to M.A. in Romance Languages and Literature program or permission of instructor.

**5545 Epistolarity and the Novel (3).** Explorations of the genre through the analysis of 17th- and 18th- century French novels. Introduced by a theoretical review. Also offered as French 445. Prerequisites: Admission to M.A. in Romance Languages and Literature program or permission of instructor.

**5546 17th-century French Drama (3).** The classical period: Emphasis on Corneille, Racine and Moliere. Also offered as French 446. Prerequisites: Admission to M.A. in Romance Languages and Literature program or permission of instructor.

**5547 19th-century French Poetry (3).** The study of the poetry and dominant poetic movements of the 19th century, with special attention given to different approaches to its analysis. Also offered as French 447. Prerequisites: Admission to M.A. in Romance Languages and Literature program or permission of instructor.

**5548 20th century French Theater (3).** Analysis of major currents of French theater of the 20th Century, with emphasis upon the postwar period and its movements. Also offered as French 448.

**5552 Medieval Poetry (3).** A study of medieval poetry including religious and secular poetry, Provençal and Old French lyric, the influence of poetry in other genres such as romance and theater, later medieval poetry of the 14th and 15th centuries, as well as a discussion of the origins of the lyric. Also offered as French 452. Prerequisites: Admission to M.A. in Romance Languages and Literature program or permission of instructor.

**5554 The Intellectual Origins of the French Revolution (3).** Study of philosophical and political texts by Montesquieu, Rousseau, Voltaire, Diderot, etc. on government, society, language, freedom and equality. Critical study of the Enlightenment. Also offered as French 454. Prerequisites: Admission to M.A. in Romance Languages and Literature program or permission of instructor.

**5555 Fin-De-Siecle and Belle Epoque (3).** Study of the literary, cultural and historical context of this time period in French history, for example: Symbolism, Decadence, and the years 1900-1914. Also offered as French 455. Prerequisites: Admission to M.A. in Romance Languages and Literature program or permission of instructor.

**5556 20th-century French Poetry (3).** The study of 20th-century poetry with special consideration given to different approaches to its analysis. Also offered as French 456. Prerequisites: Admission to M.A. in Romance Languages and Literature program or permission of instructor.

**5561 20th century French Narrative (3).** The analysis of major currents in French 20th-century narrative, especially fiction and film. Courses will be organized around narrative themes or historical events and will include social and cultural components. Also offered as French 461. Prerequisites: Admission to M.A. in Romance Languages and Literature program or permission of instructor.

**5563 19th-century French Fiction (3).** Studies in the birth, development, and variation of French Romanticism. Readings include de Stael, Senancour, Constant, Hugo, Stendhal and Merimee. The advent of realism and naturalism in France. Readings include Balzac, Flaubert, Daudet, De Maupassant, and Zola. Also offered as French 463. On demand.

**5570 Studies in Critical Thought (3).** Various currents of 20th-century literary criticism and their political and historical contexts. Also offered as French 470. Prerequisites: Admission to M.A. in Romance Languages and Literature program or permission of instructor.

**5571 Autobiography (3).** Analysis of autobiographies and autobiographical texts such as diaries and memoirs together with theoretical texts on the genre. The concentration of different periods or issues may change from semester to semester, i.e. the art of autobiography as practiced by 20th-century writers, especially women. Also offered as French 471. Prerequisites: Admission to M.A. in Romance Languages and Literature program or permission of instructor.

**5572 Francophone Studies (3).** Study of different national Francophone literatures. Reading may include writers from Quebec, Haiti, Africa, Louisiana, Vietnam, the French Indies, etc. Also offered as French 472. Prerequisites: Admission to M.A. in Romance Languages and Literature program or permission of instructor.

**5580 Special Topics (1-3).** Treatment of a particular genre or area of literature or language normally not offered through regular courses. May be repeated for credit when the topic changes. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor. On demand.

**5590 Directed Studies in French Literature (1-3).** Intensive readings in a field or literary figure to be selected by the student in consultation with the instructor. Available by permission of chairman only when student cannot take regularly scheduled courses.

## Spanish Courses

**5514 The Generation of 1898 (3).** An examination of the intellectual, critical, historical and social problems as reflected in the writings of Ganivet, Unamuno, Valle-Inclan, Baroja, Azorin, and others.

**5516 Medieval Spanish Literature (3).** A study of selected medieval masterpieces in their Old Spanish form, with special emphasis on Romances, the Cantar de Mio Cid La Celestina, El Corbacho, Libro del buen amor, etc. Includes a short history of the Spanish language.

**5519 Federico Garcia Lorca (3).** A study in depth of the poetry and drama of Federico Garcia Lorca.

**5520 Cervantes' Don Quixote, Part I (3).** An intensive reading of the first part of Cervantes' novel, Don Quixote.

**5521 Cervantes' Don Quixote, Part II (3).** An intensive reading of the second part of Cervantes' novel, Don Quixote. Part One is not a prerequisite. Offered: On Demand

**5526 Golden Age Drama (3).** A study in depth of the creation of national theater by Lope de Vega and his followers.

**5527 Pre-Columbian and Spanish Colonial Literature (3).** A study of pre-Columbian works in drama, narrative, and poetry (Popol Vuh, Apu-Ollantay, Incan and Aztec poetry) along with a survey of Spanish-American colonial literature.

**5528 Contemporary Spanish Poetry (3).** A comprehensive and intensive study of 20th-century Spanish poetry. The poets and their poetry will be studied in the light of literary movements, foreign influences, political tendencies and philosophical ideas.

**5529 Novel of the Mexican Revolution (3).** The revolution as the principal focus of 20th-century Mexican fiction. The course will examine both the evolving understanding of the event/process and the sophistication of narrative technique employed in its presentation. Among the writers to be studied are Azuela, Guzman, Lopez y Fuentes, Yanez, Revueltas, Rulfo and Fuentes.

**5530 Spanish Mysticism (3).** An examination of the development of mysticism in Oriental and Occidental civilizations, with emphasis on the great periods of mystic experience as reflected in the literary production of the Spanish Golden Age. Readings could include the works of Fray Luis de Granada, Fray Luis de Leon, Saint John of the Cross and Saint Teresa of Avila. Offered: On demand

**5531 The Golden Age Novel (3).** A study of major prose works of the Golden Age. Possible topics include authorship, innovative narrative techniques, textual strategies and metafiction issues. Readings could include works by Alfonso Martinez de Toledo, Diego de San Pedro, Fernando de Rojas, Francisco Delicado, Cervantes, and Lope de Vega. Offered: On demand

**5532 Pastoral Literature (3).** A study of the development of pastoral literature during the Spanish Golden Age. Possible texts: Juan del Encina's Eclogues, Montemayor's Los siete libros de la Diana and Cervantes' Galatea. These works will be examined within their historical and cultural context. Offered: On demand

**5533 Cervantes' Exemplary Novels (3).** A study of Cervantes' Exemplary Novels within the context of 17th Century Spain. Attention will be paid to interpretive possibilities and how knowledge of historical contexts might influence readings of this rich and varied cultural output.

**5534 The Picaresque Novel (3).** A study of the development of picaresque fiction during the Spanish Golden Age. The course deals with novelists principally active during the Baroque period such as Mateo Aleman, Francisco Lopez de Ubeda, Miguel de Cervantes, and Francisco de Quevedo.

**5550 Modern Classics of Latin American Literature (3).** The goal of the course is to familiarize the student with the principal Latin American writers of the modern period. The focus will be dual: the progressive sophistication of literary technique, and the refinement of social conscience. Among the authors to be studied are: Asturias, Borges, Carpentier, Cortazar, Donoso, Fuentes, Garcia Marques, Paz, Rulfo, and Vargas Llosa. Also offered as Spanish 450.

**5553 Spanish-American Short Story (3).** A study of Spanish-American short stories from Romanticism to the present. On demand.

**5550 Special Topics (1-3).** Treatment of a particular genre or area of literature or language normally not offered through regular courses. May be repeated for credit when the topic changes. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor. On demand.

**5590 Directed Studies in Spanish & Latin American Literature (1-3).** Intensive readings in a field or literary figure to be selected by the student in consultation with the instructor. Available by permission of chairman only when the student cannot regularly scheduled courses.