Proposed Undergraduate Minor in Translation for Global Literacy
Denise Filios, Associate Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese
Aron Aji, Director, MFA in Literary Translation

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

One of the most distinctive characteristics of the current era of globalization is the extensive and rapid exchange of knowledge and information. The development of the so-called digital highway makes it possible for any piece of knowledge to travel virtually anywhere in the world. It is arguable that even the line between oral vs literate cultures has gotten blurred due to the remarkable expansion of the digital highway. Today, more communities across the globe have become not just aware of but also dependent on each other. Co-existence defines the relationships of not just friendly partners but often even the communities in conflict.

To brave this vast geography of co-existence requires a special reserve of knowledge and skills, i.e. Global Literacy. Central to this new literacy is an understanding of translation as both a practice and a mode of inquiry. Today, literally every form of global exchange—from material goods and natural resources to knowledge, values, ideologies, and cultures—depends on translation across languages. Aided by the unprecedented range of human migration, globalization has effected rich syntheses between and among cultures, languages and sensibilities. Borders between countries have become tenuous, as we speak of transnational, multi-cultural, multi-lingual realities. Scholars like Michael Cronin argue that, in this context, translation also becomes the new epistemology—how we know the others, ourselves, and the dynamic diversity that surrounds and shapes us.

The proposed undergraduate minor in Translation for Global Literacy fosters the integration of “translation” in the undergraduate curriculum both as practice and as a method of inquiry into the dynamics of the global society. Highly integrative, Translation for Global Literacy is academic training at the intersection of world languages, creative writing, translation studies, as well as disciplinary programs. Besides its appeal as a core competency—akin to quantitative literacy, writing across the curriculum, etc.—the Translation for Global Literacy minor can be integrated into virtually all the programs in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and fine & performing arts since they often rely on translation and translated re/sources when they are engaged in inter-cultural inquiry, creative expression and exchange.

The concept for this minor grew out of the MFA in Literary Translation, currently located in the Division of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. Various departments in the Division already offer undergraduate translation courses as part of their departmental curriculum, and the recent hire of a full-time director of the MFA in Literary Translation has revitalized that program. Faculty and student interest in the area is evident in current enrollment in undergraduate translation courses. In Fall 2014, 69 students enrolled in 4 undergraduate translation courses (ENGL:3724, FREN:4890, and two sections of SPAN:3030). Total enrollment in Spring 2015 UG translation courses is currently 40 students (TRNS:2179, ENGL:3724 & SPAN:3030). These numbers suggest that the minor may enroll between 20 and 50 students each year.

The purpose of the minor is to introduce UG students to translation as a field and provide some basic coursework and practice in translation from a world language to English. It aims to encourage students to explore both the topic and the practice of translation as a crucial dimension of global literacy. Students interested in careers in translation are encouraged to combine the minor with a major in a world language, to complete a service learning project or internship in translation [arranged through the Pomerantz Career
Center, and, ultimately, to consider graduate study in translation. Service learning projects already integrated into existing translation courses taught by lecturer Pilar Marcé include: translating materials found in the Latina women’s archives from English to Spanish; translating publicity from English into Spanish for the Coralville-Iowa City Transit Service; and translating women’s health materials from English into Spanish for the UIHC.

LIKELY AUDIENCES

The undergraduate minor can be pursued by students majoring in any of the degree programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. A number of specific programs correlate readily with the minor. Included among them are: all world language majors, English/Creative Writing, International Studies, Anthropology, Political Science, History, Area Studies (i.e. Middle East, Latin America, etc.), Communication Studies, Media Arts, and Linguistics. Students who arrive at the University of Iowa with competence in two or more languages (as demonstrated by previous studies or placement out of the GE language requirement on the placement examination), including students whose first language is not English, may find this minor an attractive way to enhance their communication skills and build on their UI studies in English.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students successfully completing the minor will:
- develop practical skills and intellectual sensibilities pertinent to translation
- practice translation as a form of writing and critical thinking
- understand translation as a method for global literacy
- understand the contexts and functions of translation in the age of globalization
- understand the role of translation in culture formation
- understand the history and basic theoretical frameworks of translation

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR

The minor requires a minimum of 18 s.h., including a minimum of 12 s.h. in courses taken at The University of Iowa. Students must maintain a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in UI courses for the minor and a g.p.a. of 2.00 in all courses completed for the minor. Course work in the minor may not be taken pass/nonpass. Students may count a maximum of 6 s.h. coursework taken for another major, minor, or certificate program. Students should declare the minor after having satisfied the GE language requirement in the source language. For students whose first language is not English, any required ESL coursework should be completed before declaring the minor.

Each students’ plan of study must be tailored to their experience and objectives, given the great number of courses that could be used to satisfy program requirements. Translation minors should meet with an advisor (see below) to develop an appropriate plan of study before their second semester of coursework. Approval is required for admission to the capstone course.

CURRICULUM

To complete the minor in Translation for Global Literacy, students select courses from the following five areas as indicated below.

A. (3 s.h.) Introductory Gateway course: TRNS 1999 Translation and the Global Society [to be developed]
B. (6 s.h.) **Translation courses**: 2 courses from the following list:
TRNS:3179 UG Translation workshop
TRNS 4497 Techniques of Translation
TRNS:3202 Workshop in Chinese literary translation
ENGL:3724 Writers’ Seminar: Literary Translation
JPNS:3201 Japanese literary translation
FREN:4890 Techniques of Translation
SPAN:3030 Translation workshop: English to Spanish
SPAN:3050 Translation workshop: Spanish to English

C. (6 s.h.) **Language, Linguistics, Literature and Culture courses**: 2 courses on language, linguistics, literature in translation, comparative literature, national or transnational literature and/or culture. Possible courses include (merely a sampling of eligible courses; a more complete list of eligible courses is provided in the appendix):
CL:2531 Topics in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies
CL:3203/JPNS:3203 Modern Japanese Fiction in Translation
FREN:3060 Introduction to Reading and Writing in Literature
GRMN:3501 Introduction to German Literature
GRMN:3550 The Politics of Remembrance in German Multicultural Literature and Film
JPNS:3204 Topics in Japanese Lit in Translation
SPAN:2300 Introduction to Reading Literature
TRNS:4480 Literature and Translation

D. (3 s.h.) **Capstone**: Either TRNS:3179/3189 UG Translation Seminar 1/2, or a departmental capstone course in which the student completes a capstone project on translation [with the consent of the instructor]. To be taken in final semester of minor.

Concerning the above course requirements, the following rules also apply:

1. At least 6 s.h. of coursework in the source language beyond the GE requirement must be included in the minor. This requirement may be satisfied by translation courses or by courses taught in the source language. Students whose first language is not English must take at least 6 s.h. coursework in language, linguistics, literature, or culture in courses taught in English numbered 2000 or above. Given that the number range of literature courses that count toward majors vary, eligible source language courses are those that count toward an English or a world language major or minor.

2. A maximum of 6 s.h. coursework taken for another major, minor, or certificate can count toward the minor. Students minoring or majoring in a world language must take at least 3 s.h. coursework in the source language beyond that taken for the minor/major.

3. At least 12 s.h. of coursework must be in courses numbered 3000 or higher.

**STAFFING**

With the exception of the new gateway course, Translation and Global Society, courses included in the lists above are drawn from currently existing courses regularly taught in the DWLLC. Interested DWLLC faculty are welcome to develop courses for inclusion in the minor. TRNS courses will be taught by faculty in the MFA in Literary Translation, graduate assistants and by Post-Graduate Fellows in Translation.
ADMINISTRATION AND ADVISING

The undergraduate minor in Translation and Global Literacy will be housed in the Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures, and administered by the director of the MFA in Literary Translation and a four-member Advisory Board of faculty members, representing the departments in the division. The MFA director and the members of the advisory board will be chiefly responsible for advising students throughout the minor. Although advisors for minors are not officially assigned when a student declares a minor, the Advisory Board will work with involved departments and related staff to make sure that students are paired with an appropriate advisor.

Advisory Board:
Chair: Aron Aji, Director, MFA in Literary Translation
Denise K. Filios, Associate Professor, Spanish
Glenn Erhstine, Associate Professor, German
Yasmine Ramadan, Assistant Professor, Arabic
Philip A. Lutgendorf, Professor, Hindi

Appendix
Partial list of eligible courses offered in Asian, Slavic & Spanish

(6 s.h.) Language, Linguistics, Literature and Culture courses: 2 courses from the following list:

Asian Culture and Civilization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASIA:1135</td>
<td>Korean Language in Culture and Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASIA:1704</td>
<td>The Languages of Asia in Cultural and Historical Perspective</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIA:1706</td>
<td>Understanding Korean Culture Wave</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>ASIA:1770</td>
<td>Asian Humanities: Middle East</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>ASIA:2231</td>
<td>Introduction to the Art of China</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIA:2444</td>
<td>Envision India</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASIA:2450</td>
<td>India Beat: The Aesthetics and Politics of India Today</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIA:2602</td>
<td>Civilizations of Asia: China</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASIA:2604</td>
<td>Civilizations of Asia: Japan</td>
<td>3-4 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIA:2606</td>
<td>Civilizations of Asia: South Asia</td>
<td>3-4 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASIA:2887</td>
<td>Perspectives on Korea</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASIA:3120</td>
<td>Autobiography in Islamic Literary Cultures</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIA:3219</td>
<td>Chinese Art and Culture</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIA:3220</td>
<td>Chinese Painting I: Pagodas and Palaces</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASIA:3270</td>
<td>Themes in Asian Art History</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIA:3414</td>
<td>Government and Politics of the Far East</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASIA:3550</td>
<td>Islam, Secularity, Modernity</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASIA:3560</td>
<td>Topics in Asian Religions</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIA:3655</td>
<td>Zen Buddhism</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIA:3700</td>
<td>Topics in Global Cinema</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASIA:3775</td>
<td>East Meets West: The Western Reception of Eastern Religion</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>ASIA:3890</td>
<td>Comparative Ritual</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIA:4166</td>
<td>Topics in Asian History</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASIA:4606</td>
<td>Topics in Asian Cinema</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>ASIA:4655</td>
<td>China Since 1927</td>
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<td>ASIA:4657</td>
<td>Chinese History from 1600 to 1927</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASIA:4660</td>
<td>Buddhist Poetry</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Chinese
CHIN:1070 (039:016) Asian Art and Culture 3 s.h.
CHIN:1504 (039:019) Asian Humanities: China 3 s.h.
CHIN:1702 (039:032) Chinese Popular Culture 3 s.h.
CHIN:1800 (039:080) Chinese Character Writing and Calligraphy 1 s.h.
CHIN:3101 (039:115) Third-Year Chinese: First Semester 3 s.h.
CHIN:3102 (039:116) Third Year Chinese: Second Semester 3 s.h.
CHIN:3103 (039:117) Business Chinese I 3 s.h.
CHIN:3104 (039:118) Business Chinese II 3 s.h.
CHIN:4101 (039:108) Classical Chinese: First Semester 3 s.h.
CHIN:4102 (039:109) Classical Chinese: Second Semester 3 s.h.
CHIN:4103 (039:128) Fourth-Year Chinese: First Semester 3 s.h.
CHIN:4104 (039:129) Fourth-Year Chinese: Second Semester 3 s.h.
CHIN:3201 (039:143) Workshop in Chinese Literary Translation 3 s.h.
CHIN:3202 (039:142) Chinese Literature: Prose 3 s.h.
CHIN:3260 (039:130) Conversational Business Chinese 3 s.h.
CHIN:3301 (039:139) Chinese Historical Phonology 3 s.h.
CHIN:3302 (039:144) Introduction to Chinese Linguistics 3 s.h.
CHIN:3341 (039:141) Chinese Literature: Poetry 3 s.h.
CHIN:4203 (039:180) Modern Chinese Writers 3 s.h.
CHIN:4204 (039:140) The Literature of Daoism 3 s.h.
CHIN:4206 (039:173) Transnational Chinese Cinemas 3 s.h.
CHIN:4301 (039:239) Seminar in Chinese Linguistics: Historical Phonology 3 s.h.

German
GRMN:3103 (013:103) Composition and Conversation I 3 s.h.
GRMN:3104 (013:104) Composition and Conversation II 3 s.h.
GRMN:3199 (013:197) German Readings and Research 1 s.h.
GRMN:3214 (013:114) Business German 3 s.h.
GRMN:3250 (013:135) Brief Texts About Big Events 3 s.h.
GRMN:3405 (013:105) German Cultural History 3 s.h.
GRMN:3540 (013:259) Grammar in Second Language Teaching/Learning 3 s.h.
GRMN:3550 (013:156) The Politics of Remembrance in German Multicultural Literature and Film 3 s.h.
GRMN:3555 (013:155) Image of America in German Literature and Film 3 s.h.
GRMN:3807 (013:107) Introduction to German Linguistics 3 s.h.
GRMN:3855 (013:122) The Sounds of German 3 s.h.
GRMN:3865 (013:165) History of the German Language 3 s.h.
GRMN:4315 (013:115) Contemporary German Civilization 3 s.h.
GRMN:4540 (013:140) Literature in Film 3 s.h.
GRMN:4587 (013:148) Violence and Culture 3 s.h.
GRMN:4589 (013:153) Tyrants and Terror 3 s.h.
GRMN:4630 (013:152) German Culture Before the Third Reich 3 s.h.
GRMN:4643 (013:143) Witch Trials: Fact and Fiction 3 s.h.
GRMN:4730 (013:150) Beautiful Souls and Scandalous Writing 3 s.h.

Czech
SLAV:3145 (041:145) Third-Year Czech I 4 s.h.
SLAV:3146 (041:146) Third-Year Czech II 4 s.h.
SLAV:3221 (041:168) Twentieth-Century Czech Authors 3 s.h.
### Hindi

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<td>SOAS:1502</td>
<td>Asian Humanities: India</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>SOAS:3102</td>
<td>Second-Year Hindi-Urdu: Second Semester</td>
<td>4 s.h.</td>
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<td>SOAS:3448</td>
<td>The Allure of Krishna: Sacred Sexuality in Indian Culture</td>
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<td>SOAS:3500</td>
<td>Queerness in South Asian Literature and Cinema</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>SOAS:3920</td>
<td>Enlightenment: Cross-Cultural Experiments in Religious Realization</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>SOAS:4101</td>
<td>Third-Year Hindi-Urdu: First Semester</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>SOAS:4102</td>
<td>Third-Year Hindi-Urdu: Second Semester</td>
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<td>SOAS:4103</td>
<td>Individual Hindi for Advanced Students</td>
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### Japanese

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<td>JPNS:1115</td>
<td>Japanese Religions</td>
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<td>JPNS:1200</td>
<td>Special Topics in Japanese</td>
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<td>JPNS:1506</td>
<td>Asian Humanities: Japan</td>
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<td>JPNS:2175</td>
<td>Japanese Society and Culture</td>
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<td>JPNS:2250</td>
<td>Introduction to the Art of Japan</td>
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<td>JPNS:3103</td>
<td>Third-Year Japanese I</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>JPNS:3104</td>
<td>Third-Year Japanese II</td>
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<td>JPNS:3105</td>
<td>Fourth-Year Japanese I</td>
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<td>JPNS:3107</td>
<td>Classical Japanese: First Semester</td>
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<td>JPNS:4101</td>
<td>Fifth-Year Japanese I</td>
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<td>JPNS:3128</td>
<td>Introduction to Japanese Linguistics</td>
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<td>JPNS:3135</td>
<td>Postmodern Aesthetics and Japanese Culture</td>
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<td>Workshop in Japanese Literary Translation</td>
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<td>Traditional Japanese Literature in Translation</td>
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<td>Modern Japanese Fiction in Translation</td>
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<td>Topics in Japanese Literature in Translation</td>
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<td>JPNS:3205</td>
<td>Major Authors in Modern Japanese Literature</td>
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<td>JPNS:3206</td>
<td>Warriors Dreams</td>
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<td>JPNS:3208</td>
<td>Introduction to Japanese Film</td>
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<td>JPNS:3210</td>
<td>Japanese Theater</td>
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<td>Japanese Painting</td>
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<td>Language in Japanese Society</td>
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<td>JPNS:3402</td>
<td>Japan: Culture and Communication</td>
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<td>Business Japanese I</td>
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<td>JPNS:3601</td>
<td>Contemporary Japanese Culture</td>
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<td>JPNS:3660</td>
<td>Japanese Religion and Thought</td>
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<td>JPNS:3700</td>
<td>Topics in Global Cinema</td>
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<td>JPNS:4201</td>
<td>The Tale of Genji</td>
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<td>JPNS:4610</td>
<td>Japan—Age of the Samurai</td>
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<td>JPNS:4615</td>
<td>Modern Japan</td>
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<tr>
<td>JPNS:4620</td>
<td>Japan-US Relations</td>
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### Korean

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<tr>
<td>ASIA:3102</td>
<td>Third-Year Korean: Second Semester</td>
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<td>ASIA:4000</td>
<td>Fourth Year Korean: First Semester</td>
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<td>ASIA:4151</td>
<td>Selected Readings in Korean I</td>
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<td>ASIA:4152</td>
<td>Selected Readings in Korean II</td>
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### Russian

- **SLAV:1131 (041:098)** Introduction to Russian Culture
  - 3 s.h.
- **SLAV:1132 (041:099)** Russia Today
  - 3 s.h.
- **SLAV:1450 (041:058)** Diversities of Eastern Europe: Culture, Art, and Politics
  - 3 s.h.
- **SLAV:1500 (041:055)** Ukraine, a Country at the Crossroads: An Interdisciplinary Seminar on Ukrainian History and Culture
  - 3 s.h.
- **SLAV:1531 (041:093)** Slavic Folklore
  - 3 s.h.
- **SLAV:1532 (041:094)** Religion and Culture of Slavs
  - 3 s.h.
- **SLAV:2100 (041:150)** Secrets of Russian Mentality
  - 3 s.h.
- **SLAV:2122 (041:022)** Cult Films of the Last Soviet Generation
  - 3 s.h.
- **SLAV:2131 (041:160)** Women in Russian Society
  - 3 s.h.
- **SLAV:2232 (041:075)** Romani (Gypsy) Cultures of Eastern Europe
  - 3 s.h.
- **SLAV:2531 (041:164)** Topics in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies
  - arr.
- **SLAV:3112 (041:112)** Third-Year Russian II
  - 4 s.h.
- **SLAV:3113 (041:109)** Beginning Composition and Conversation I
  - 4 s.h.
- **SLAV:3114 (041:110)** Beginning Composition and Conversation II
  - 4 s.h.
- **SLAV:3115 (041:119)** Russian for Heritage Learners
  - 3 s.h.
- **SLAV:3116 (041:120)** Russian for Heritage Learners II
  - 3 s.h.
- **SLAV:4111 (041:113)** Fourth-Year Russian I
  - 4 s.h.
- **SLAV:4112 (041:114)** Fourth-Year Russian II
  - 4 s.h.
- **SLAV:3082 (041:082)** Youth Subcultures After Socialism
  - 3 s.h.
- **SLAV:3100 (041:165)** West and East: Women in the Slavic World
  - 3 s.h.
- **SLAV:3122 (041:155)** Tolstoy and Dostoevsky
  - 3-4 s.h.
- **SLAV:3124 (041:157)** Invitation to Nabokov
  - 3 s.h.
- **SLAV:3131 (041:104)** Health Care and Health Reforms in Russia
  - 3 s.h.
- **SLAV:3202 (041:102)** Russian Literature in Translation 1860-1917
  - 3 s.h.
- **SLAV:3250 (041:190)** Readings in Russian Literature
  - 3 s.h.
- **SLAV:3990 (041:108)** Special Readings
  - arr.

### Sanskrit

- **SOAS:3902 (039:113)** Second-Year Sanskrit: Second Semester
  - 3 s.h.
- **SOAS:4201 (039:186)** Third-Year Sanskrit: First Semester
  - 3 s.h.
- **SOAS:4202 (039:187)** Third-Year Sanskrit: Second Semester
  - 3 s.h.

### Spanish

- **SPAN:2000 (035:103)** Spanish Language Skills: Writing
  - 3 s.h.
- **SPAN:2010 (035:106)** Spanish Language Skills: Speaking
  - 3 s.h.
- **SPAN:2020 (035:104)** Hispanic Institute: Language
  - 3 s.h.
- **SPAN:2030 (035:109)** Study of Language: Myths and Concepts
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  - 3 s.h.
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  - 3 s.h.
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  - 3 s.h.
- **SPAN:2300 (035:112)** Introduction to Reading Literature
  - 3 s.h.
- **SPAN:2400 (035:110)** Readings in Spanish Literature
  - 3 s.h.
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  - 3 s.h.
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- **SPAN:3000 (035:139)** Writing Skills for Heritage Speakers
  - 3 s.h.
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  - 3 s.h.
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